

# Fall Bridal Showcase

## GROOM GARB: Stylish men choose altar couture

By Mike Dale  
Copley News Service

Many men aren't sure what to wear for work and play each day, let alone planning a smashing ensemble for their wedding day.

But the choosing becomes easier, say the experts, when you narrow your thoughts to these parameters:

When is the wedding — spring, summer, fall, winter? What time of day will the ceremony and reception occur? Will you include a wedding party? How big? What kind of wedding will it be — traditional, eccentric or simple?

### FORMAL WEDDINGS

Very formal daytime weddings should see the groom festooned in a cutaway, long jacket in black or gray, trousers with a classic side stripe, a white shirt with wing collar, French cuffs and studs, a vest, a cummerbund, an ascot or four-in-one hand tie, black dress shoes (white: May-September) and matching hat/gloves and overcoat.

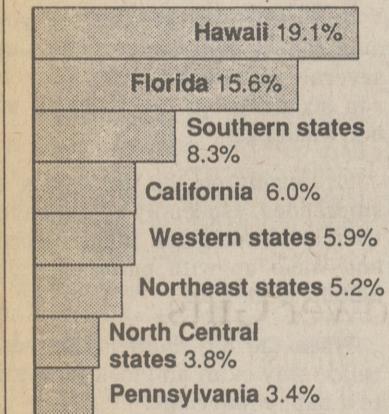
Grooms with formal evening weddings (ceremony after 6 p.m.) should sport black trousers and coat with a white vest, cummerbund and tie. Also think about donning a black top hat and white gloves tied together by a black or gray overcoat.

### SEMIFORMAL WEDDINGS

### WEDFACTS

The average honeymoon lasts 9 days and costs \$3,200

Popular honeymoon destinations from a recent survey



International trips 32.7%  
SOURCE: Bride's magazine

Copley News Service

There's one big difference between formal weddings and semi-formal ceremonies: Eliminate the hat/glove/overcoat combination, as well as the ascot.

All else remains the same. Wear a matching or contrasting jacket, trousers, shirt, cummerbund, vest and tie.

### INFORMAL WEDDINGS

Day or night, a business suit will suffice for informal weddings. Choose black, gray, navy, dark blue or white, with coordinating tie. As for eccentric wedding bashes, you're limited only by your imagination.

### TUXEDO HUNTING

How can the groom be sure he's making the right choice?

Start by seeking the advice of a professional at a formal-wear shop. Ask about single-breasted vs. double-breasted jackets. There's a difference between shawl, peaked and notched collars. Bow ties, ascots and four-in-hand neckwear give certain feels. And cuff links, studs, pocket squares and suspenders add the *coup de grace* in any ensemble.

Look for a clean, well-maintained and professional formal-wear shop. Be sure it offers national labels. Grooms-to-be should visit several shops and try on different styles.

Do your initial shopping three to six months before the wedding, which is especially important during the spring and summer.

The final look of your ensemble is determined by the cut of the coat and its lapels, the type of shirt, vest or cummerbund, fabric of the clothing and the colors of the outfit.

When picking up the suit — two to three days in advance of the Day — make sure there are no stains, fabric snags or cigarette burns, and count buttons on the jacket. Don't take anything for granted on one of the most important days of your life.

### GROOMING A FASHION PLATE

For this season, grooms are opting for a more contemporary look. "Formal wear is following the fashion world," says Susan Dionne of The Grief Companies, the New York-based men's tailoring outfit.

Shoulders are softer, fabrics are sensual to the touch, the lines are easy on the eye, the fit is less stuffy than traditional English formal



Dapper grooms want distinctive details for their wedding day clothes. Shown, tuxedo with plaid vest and bow tie.

wear, and the look is elegant.

Some of the unusual entries in the formal-wear race include:

- Michael Jordan Jam 23 Night. Yes, that Michael Jordan. The tux is pleated in front; the cut is somewhere between a traditional tuxedo cut and waist cut, with a shawl lapel.

- The Grief Companies offer a houndstooth dinner jacket, complete with black-and-white checks.

### ACCESSORIES

Cummerbunds, bow ties and vests continue to take the hint from other fashion sectors. Namely, embroidered and tapestry looks add contrast and "punch" to basic black tuxedos and white formal shirts.

The Fireworks series cummerbunds, for example, boast purple-silver and red-silver lame stripes. Others are woven royal blue, beige, teal and dusty-rose tapes. Also floral patterns, almost like a brocade tapestry in a museum, continue the "in" look.

## Flowers and love songs create aura of beauty

By Sharon Williams  
Copley News Service

Together, the sweet scent of flowers and the sound music in the air are enough to put any wedding guest in a festive spirit.

Centerpieces and bouquets made with dried or silk flowers that can be displayed long after

the wedding is over are especially popular with environmentally conscious brides and grooms.

Today's weddings often feature more than just an organist. Consider hiring a community or college chorale group, instrumental or vocal soloists, a string quartet or brass ensemble for a truly unique ceremony.

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