

### Attendants continued from page 1

sleeve and bodice treatments. Favored fabrics range from those with texture, such as brocade, to the sheer and airy tulle and chiffons so prominent in today's bridal collections.

Colors run the spectrum, ranging from brights, such as purple, electric blue, bubble gum and fuchsia to beautifully muted pastels. There's also a renewed interest in florals and plaids.

Another new trend: smashing shoes that contrast with the dress. While yesterday's bridesmaids stood their ground in ho-hum, dyed-to-match pumps, today's attendants can slip into styles ranging from mules to sexy, strappy sandals.

#### MOTHERS OF THE BRIDE, GROOM

Mothers of the bride and groom look anything but matronly, thanks to the full range of fashions designed for now as well as later. Clean and simple, such dresses could easily fit into a number of social settings.

Sophisticated two-piece suits with shorter hemlines, for instance, are the elegant choice for many of today's mothers. The color palette ranges from crisp black and white combinations and

creamy ivory to soft pastels. Sequins or beading at the shoulders, cuffs and neckline carry these looks from afternoon to evening weddings with ease. Favorite fabrications include crepe, ruche and satin, often pleated for optimal drama.

While many mothers are opting for suits, others favor the glamour of the full-skirted ball gown. Lacy bodices accented with sequins or pearls combine with full skirts of taffeta or shantung. Beautiful brocades in soft spring hues are another elegant formal favorite.

#### FLOWER GIRLS, RING BEARERS

These pint-size bottles of charm will steal the show, especially when decked out in traditional frocks that rise to the happy occasion.

Their parents will be happy, too, knowing that wedding wear for children usually can serve double-duty, turning up at birthday parties, Sunday school and piano recitals long after the final bag of rice is thrown.

Traditionally, flower girls wear long or short dresses that complement the attire of the rest of the wedding party.

Among the most popular choices: white dresses with pastel silk sashes; floral-print frocks that follow the same pattern as the

bridesmaids' dresses; or white pinnafores over satin or velvet dresses.

Accessories might include ballet slippers or patent-leather shoes and wreaths of fresh flowers and ribbons for the head or even to be worn as a blooming necklace.

#### BRIDE FACTS

The newlywed year is seldom as romantic as couples expect it to be

Four in 10 couples report having "big fights" at least once a week within the first six months of their marriages.

Four percent have separated for at least a night by the middle of their first year of marriage.



SOURCE: Cornell University Medical College

Copley News Service

### Attendant attire savvy

By Sharon Williams  
Copley News Service

You've found dreamy dresses for your bridesmaids and know that your mother will look wonderful wearing your colors.

Now, if only the members of the wedding party would feel the same way.

Yes, it is your wedding, and you — the bride — get the honor of ultimately deciding what everyone will wear. But, that doesn't mean they have to like it.

A little sartorial savvy, however, can work miracles. The following tips can help you get everyone to wear their assigned outfits — and with smiles to boot.

• Don't just worry about your colors and theme when picking out dresses for your bridesmaids. Instead, think about the tastes and figures of the women who will ultimately wear — and pay for — the dresses.

• Concerned that your faraway bridesmaids will feel left out of the selection process? Get vital feedback by sharing ideas over the phone and exchanging clippings

and snapshots of prospective dresses through the mail.

• Your bridesmaids may love the dresses you pick, and then again, they may loathe them. Thus, offering to pay for the dresses, or perhaps alterations or shoes, always is a welcome gesture.

• If you're including junior bridesmaids in your wedding party, be sure to accommodate them if your bridesmaids will be wearing off-the-shoulder or plunging styles. The younger girls should wear more youthful, modest versions of the same dress.

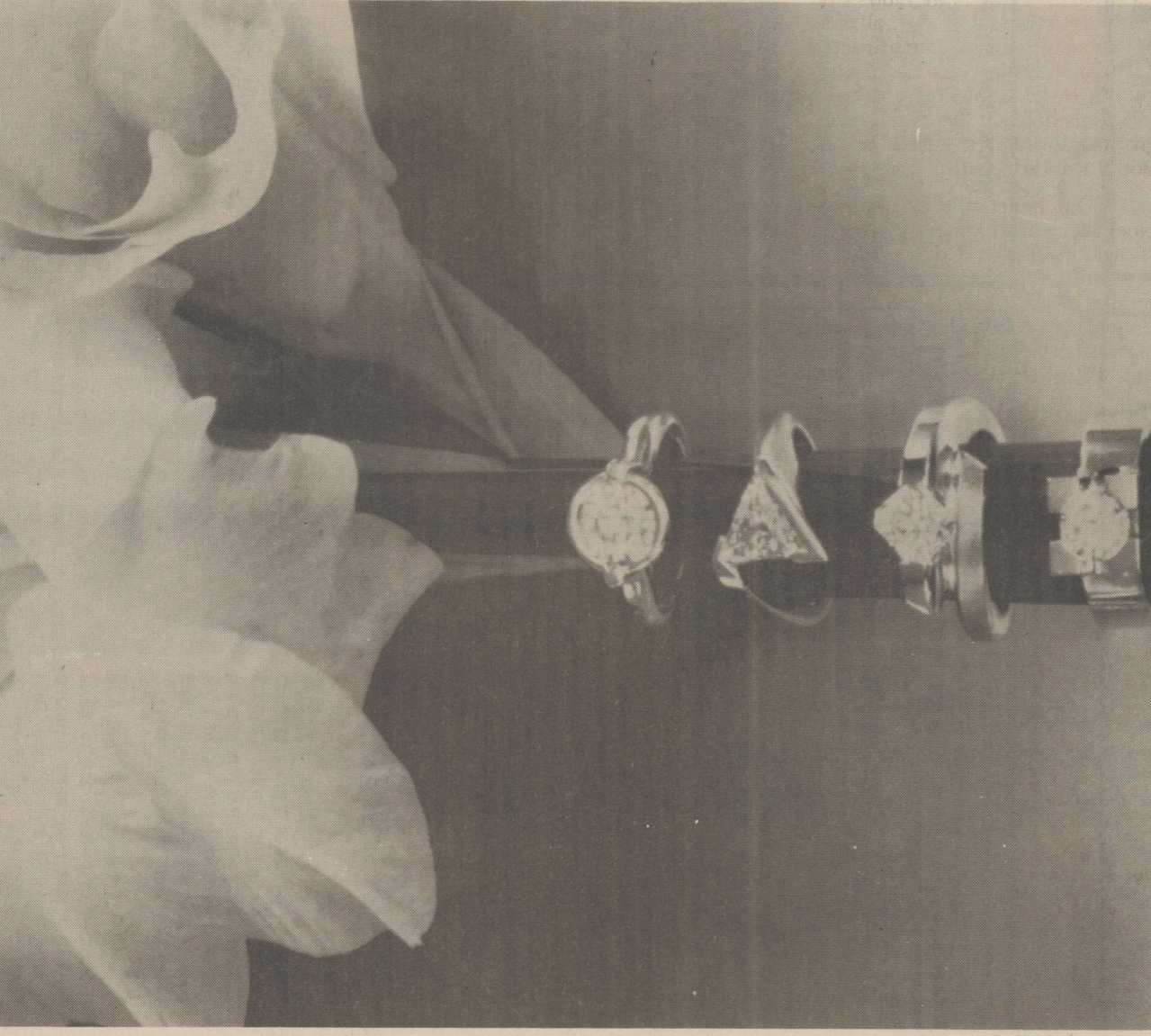
• Dresses for the mother of the bride and the mother of the groom don't have to match but should complement the rest of the wedding party. Etiquette says that the bride's mother should select her outfit first, then describe it to the groom's mother, who then should be allowed ample time to find something that suits her.

• Make sure the children in your wedding party are comfortable in their wedding attire. You'll never get Sissy into her petticoats if the tulle is too scratchy, and Johnny won't wear his bow tie if it chokes him.

# PERFECT WEDDING '92

Supplement to The Dallas Post

January 29, 1992



## Choose keepsake jewelry for brides and grooms

By Allison Ashton  
Copley News Service

When Maximilian, Archduke of Austria, slipped a diamond engagement ring on Mary of Burgundy's finger in 1477, he had no idea what a trend he was starting.

Until then, a man gave his betrothed a plain gold band (or some other metal, depending on his wealth) that also served as a wedding band. In ancient times, Jewish grooms gave their brides a coin to demonstrate their financial worth, and the Egyptians believed that a ring's circular shape symbolized eternal love.

Today, brides often get two rings. More than 70 percent of all brides receive a gem-studded ring for their engagement and nearly all get a band on their wedding day.

What's more, 90 percent of grooms choose to wear a wedding band, and nearly 20 percent of those want one with diamonds.

Although it's mired in legend, like all things, nuptial jewelry follows trends. These days your options are myriad, and prices run from modest to astronomical.

Some jewelers' associations say that two months' salary is about

right for grooms to spend on engagement rings. Your own financial standing and goals, however, should be the real guidelines.

#### DIAMOND DESIGNS

Only about a third of grooms have the engagement ring in hand when they pop the big question, and many couples shop for the ring together. That makes sense, since more than 70 percent of brides wear a diamond ring and the ring represents a sizable investment.

If you have your heart set on a diamond, it pays to be a knowledgeable shopper. There are four factors that determine a diamond's value.

• **Cut.** A well-cut diamond is worth more than a poorly cut one because cut reveals the stone's natural fire and brilliance. Cut is also the only factor determined by man, so bad cutting can ruin an otherwise perfect stone. If a stone's cut is too deep or too shallow, it won't reflect light and sparkle.

• **Color.** A diamond's color is actually determined by the degree to which it approaches colorlessness.

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### Attire for attendants

Sharon Williams  
Copley News Service

The woman deemed always a bridesmaid — never a bride — probably isn't worried about her marital status.

It's that collection of useless bridal attendant dresses that has her crying her eyes out.

At least, until now. As thousands of brides and grooms pledge their love to one another, wedding wear designers are making some promises of their own.

Simply put, they're vowing to create fashions for the faithful bridesmaids, mothers of the bride and groom and even the youthful attendants that will have a life after the wedding.

These are fashions that, depending on how formal or casual, could go to a cocktail party, a holiday

gala or even a religious service without raising eyebrows, that flatter a variety of different figures, that one might actually enjoy wearing.

Sound too good to be true? Then read on for a rundown of the latest in fashions for the women and children of the wedding party.

#### BRIDESMAIDS

While they wouldn't want to outshine the bride, today's bridesmaids certainly can hold their own in terms of fashion.

It seems that designers have packed yesterday's ruffles and frills in the attic, and instead are taking their inspiration from ready-to-wear with both long and short dresses.

And there's also a renewed commitment to detail, exhibited in a variety of neckline, shoulder,

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