

FALL BRIDAL SHOWCASE

Accessories that fit from head to toe

By Sharon Williams
Copley News Service

From the tip of her tiara to the squared-off satin toes of her wedding slippers, the bride was a radiant vision.

Her cheeks carried the perfect blush and her lips the dewiest stain, while her dress floated over clouds of frothy tulle and tasteful pearl drops and diamonds gleamed at her earlobes.

And, nary a strand fell from her magical pulled-back hairstyle. The guests chalked it all up to true love.

But, the bride knew better. After all, visible underpinnings, precariously-positioned buns and headpieces, smeared makeup, wedding-day breakouts and over-

powering jewelry are just a few of the nuptial nightmares that can befall a bride who has failed to see beyond her wedding dress.

Wedding-day beauty and proper accessories aren't best left to chance. Experts insist every facet of one's overall look should be analyzed and then executed several times before the actual walk down the aisle.

In fact, there are so many choices in everything from hats to hosiery, gloves to garters and bras to blush that a bride should start her search for the right trappings as soon as she gets engaged.

HEADPIECES AND VEILS

Whether it's a simple bow or an elaborate cathedral-length veil, bridal headpieces are always dramatic. And today, you can have

your drama dozens of different ways.

The crowning touch to your wedding-day look might lie in a tiara — one of the hottest headpieces going. Sparkling with radiant crystals and pearls, tiaras work well with a variety of hairstyles and add a regal touch to even the most simple dresses.

The snugly-fitting Juliet cap and pillbox hat, oftentimes trimmed with jewels or porcelain flowers, also have returned to favor. Backpieces are striking a stylish note with trims that include bows, crystals and flowers.

In terms of the veil — perhaps the quintessential wedding-day accessory — ribbon-edged versions are among those making headlines.

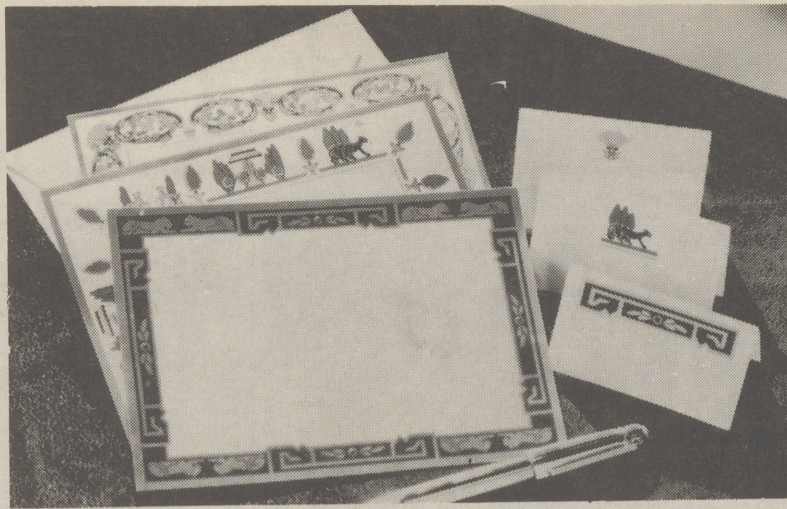
Another trend: Many practical brides are opting for the drama of a long, detachable veil at their ceremonies, and then donning shorter versions for their receptions.

SHOES

Today's wedding shoes are pretty enough to be seen, even if they only peek out occasionally from the billowing layers of your wedding dress.

To trip fashionably down the aisle, slip on a pair of slingbacks, mules or pumps with just the right details: squared-off toes, court heels, elongated fronts and sexy straps.

Favored materials and trims include pearlized leather, delicate mesh, big bows, sequins, floral appliques and jewelery.



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LINGERIE

One can't depend on just any old slip to get her through the wedding day. Today's underpinnings have a purpose: To play up the wedding gown smartly and subtly.

Some examples: strapless bras lend invisible support under today's off-the-shoulder styles; camisoles offer just the right amount of coverage under the sheerest fabrics; beautiful bustiers help create a smooth line for fitted bodices; and slips barely peek out from underneath tea- or ballerina-length wedding gowns.

That's not to say form takes a back seat to function. Lacy tap pants, romantic teddies, delicate garter belts and matching bra/panty ensembles are just a few of the must-haves for the trousseau.

The hottest offerings in hosiery include stockings with interesting textures, patterns and details — such as ribbons or braids running down the side, and satin and tulle

rosettes, rhinestones or bows at the ankles. Lace-topped thigh-highs are a romantic choice for many brides.

And, don't forget the garter. Look for one that's appliqued or embroidered, or customize it with your own trims, such as a bit of blue ribbon or lace from your mother's wedding gown.

JEWELRY

Whether it's costume or the real McCoy, a family heirloom or an antique-shop find, jewelry is an essential accessory because of the trend toward simplicity in today's dresses.

As a result, bold jewelry that makes a statement has moved to the forefront, leading the way for more dramatic pieces.

Pearls, as always, are a natural for the bride. However, today's open and off-the-shoulder necklines invite longer drop earrings, shoulder dusters and multi-strand necklaces with inter-

esting clasps.

Crystal is another trend surfacing in bridal jewelry. Brilliant Austrian crystal earrings and necklaces reflect the bride's good taste.

ACCESSORIES

Gloves are receiving rounds of applause as the favored bridal accessory of the day.

Short lace and crochet cotton gloves are traced with bows, pearls, flowers and tulle. Other interesting glove treatments include floral embroidery, decorative buttons and organza cuffs. Long or short gloves add the most feminine finishing touch.

Another important accessory lies in the wedding purses. Small, smart and structured, the hottest are constructed from multicolored silks in the softest pastel stains. Eye-catching details include dressy pearl handles and jeweled clasps.

BRIDAL BEAUTY

Few brides would opt for a one-size-fits-all wedding gown. So, why should they settle for the same approach in their bridal beauty regimens?

Today, it's hardly necessary — thanks to the custom approach in makeup and skin care.

Everything starts with the consultation, which takes place at your favorite styling salon, department store skin care and makeup counter or day spa.

The expert — who might be a cosmetologist, skin-care professional or even computer — will conduct an analysis, then suggest beauty routines, colors and products.

A skin-care consultation should take place at least three months before the wedding day, so there's ample time to get skin in top-notch shape. Weekly facials can

supplement daily regimens.

A makeover, meanwhile, conducted a month or so before the wedding, will reveal the best colors and products for the bride-to-be in light of her wedding-day attire, natural coloring, skin type and the anticipated wedding-day activities.

Most makeup professionals emphasize cosmetics with staying power for brides-to-be, since makeup will have to hold its own through the tears, kisses and smiles. Some counters will go so far as custom-mixing colors for the perfect nuptial face.

A written description or videotape of the entire process offered by many cosmetologists and counters will help you re-create the look once you get home.

FRAGRANCE

Perhaps you've selected and tested a brand-new perfume just for the occasion. Or, maybe you're sticking with a timeless favorite.

Whatever your choice, experts suggest that you make the scent last by layering your fragrance.

Start with sweet-smelling bath concoctions, shampoos and soap, body powders and lotions, then move on to strategically-placed dabs of perfume. Potpourri, candles and sachets ensure that even your wedding-day attire will smell lovely.

And, don't forget the pocket-size spray bottle of cologne you'll need for touch-ups at the wedding and reception.

Plagued by wedding-day jitters? Many experts feel that aroma therapy fragrances can help alter a person's mood and bring on a sense of well-being.

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