

Blushing bridal beauty tips

By Sharon Williams
Copley News Service

Every bride knows that wedding-day beauty is something that's best not left to chance. Rather, months of planning and preparation go into acquiring that head-to-toe nuptial glow. Following is a beauty countdown:

MAKEUP AND SKIN CARE

Indulge in a skin consultation at your favorite styling salon, skin care and makeup counter or day spa at least three months before the weddings. This way, you'll have plenty of time to get skin in to top-notch shape.

Once you've gathered your wedding attire, make an appointment for a makeover. Your makeup artist will choose the best colors and products for you based on the style and colors of your dress, your natural coloring, your skin type and the setting of your wedding, and will offer advice regarding application techniques.

If you'll be wearing your favorite scent on your wedding day, experiment with fragrance layering. Try bathing with scented soaps, oils and bubbles, conditioning with scented lotions and powders and washing your hair with scented shampoos and rinses.

HAIR AND NAILS

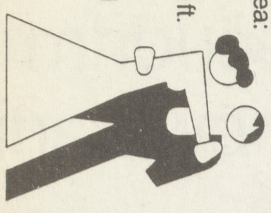
If you're pondering a perm or change in hair color, make your move well before the wedding. First-time waves should be done about one month in advance, say experts, and changes in hair color at least three weeks before the big day.

Consult your hairdresser about styling options at around the two-month mark. Take along a picture of your dress, your veil and any clippings of hairstyles that you like. Make arrangements well in advance if you want him or her to do a command performance on

BRIDEFACTS

Wedding Space

- Make sure that when you plan your reception you rent enough space. Try these guidelines:
- Standing cocktail reception: 5 to 6 ft. per guest
- Seated cocktail reception: 8 ft. per guest
- Seated dinner: 8 to 12 ft. per guest
- Dance Area: 2 to 4 ft. per guest
- Allow 100 ft. for a bar & 100 ft. for a band



Source: *Bride's & Your Home Magazine*
Copley News Service

FITNESS

To achieve peak fitness, many brides-to-be head to a spa, join a health club, consult a personal trainer or enroll in a nutritional program in the months before their weddings.

Other pampering services to consider before the big day include hair removal through waxing or electrolysis, and soothing massage and aromatherapy to calm the pre-wedding jitters.

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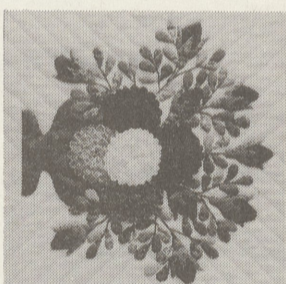
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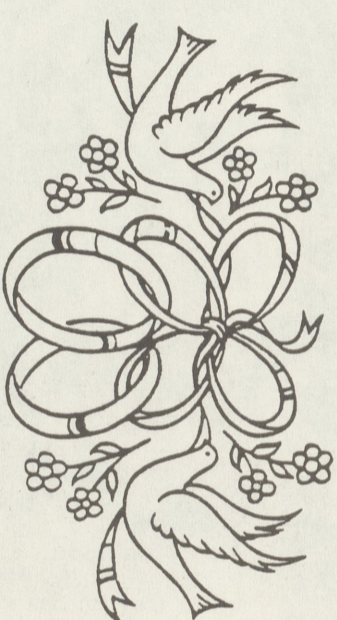
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Celebrations

(continued from page 6)

by the best man for the groom's closest male friends and relatives as a much-ballyhooed boys night out. Ideally, it should be held at least several nights before the wedding to give celebrants adequate time to recover. Popular ways to celebrate include a night on the town, a sports outing or a weekend camping trip.

The bachelor/party is the female equivalent of a bachelor party and usually is hosted by the maid or honor for the bride's closest friends. The party may take the form of an adult slumber party, a dinner out or a last night on the town touring old singles haunts.

The groom's parents traditionally host the rehearsal dinner the day or evening before the wedding and after the wedding rehearsal, inviting all members of the wedding party and their spouses as well as clergy, parents and grandparents.

Whether for an engagement party, rehearsal dinner or some celebration in between, a twist on tradition is to give the party a festive theme. Suggest that all guests come as famous partners or lovers: Blondie and Dagwood, Adam and Eve, Lucy and Ricky Ricardo. Or make it an international night that celebrates both of the couple's ethnic roots. Or have some sporting good fun by setting up a formal croquet course and serving a sumptuous tea.

If the party includes many guests who do not know one another, games are good icebreakers that encourage all to participate. Some suggestions: Give each person a colored tag when they arrive, then tell them to find others with the same-color tag. Or, think of famous couples and give each guest a name when they arrive and tell them to find their "other half."

Import talent for the affair as well. Popular options include magicians, fortune tellers, comics and dance instructors who can help all guests brush up on the latest dance steps.

While most of above suggestions work for any type of pre-wedding party, some themes are strictly for showers. Among them:

- **Around The Clock.** The bride and groom are showered with gifts designed to be used during specific hours of the day. Each guest is given a time of the day and asked to enclose a card telling how the giver sees the gift being used.

- **Garden Shower.** For a bridal couple with a terrace or yard, guests are requested to bring a variety of gardening tools as well as bulbs, seeds and plants.

- **You're Never Too Rich or Too Thin.** For the bride and groom who have everything, guests are asked to bring a gift certificate to a favorite restaurant, beauty or fitness salon, fashion store or hobby shop.

- **Labor of Love Shower.** Instead of bringing gifts, guests come prepared to paint, wallpaper or otherwise help the couple spruce up their new home.

Great gift ideas for wedding attendants

By Debra Lee Baldwin
Copley News Service

It's appropriate to give gifts to the people who helped make your wedding wonderful. These gifts show your friends and relatives how much you appreciate them, and give you an opportunity to say "thank you." Some suggestions:

- For bridesmaids: pearl jewelry (necklaces, stud earrings, bracelets, teardrop earrings, button earrings) and/or gold chains with pendants. You might order jewelry with colored stones that match your wedding colors (ask at bridal boutiques).

- Also bud vases, cameo picture frames, jewelry boxes, fresh or silk flowers, plants, goblets or mugs, pens and desk accessories.
- For groomsmen: Anything inscribed or monogrammed, jewelry (cuff links, tie racks, key chains, pen sets, business card holders), luggage, desk sets, books, cameras, anything related to a hobby.

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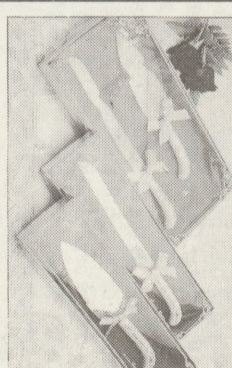
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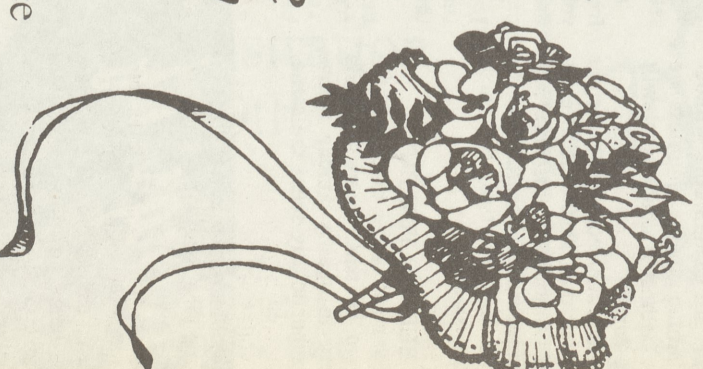


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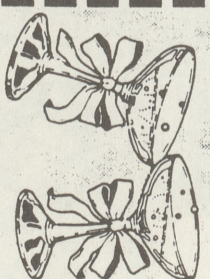
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