

# Get your photo needs in focus

By Sharon Achatz  
Copley News Service

From engagement through to wedding day, pictures — both still and video — play an important part in your wedding and all the festivities surrounding it.

Even though amateurs can help capture the events surrounding your wedding, don't trust the photos of your big day to anyone other than a professional who specializes in weddings.

Begin to search for a pro by asking for recommendations from recently married friends or from another wedding professional whose opinion you trust.

Once you've got a few names, make appointments to meet the photographers and look at wedding albums they've put together.

Some photographers offer packages that include their shooting time and prints in one price. Others charge for their shooting time and allow you to purchase prints and albums ala carte.

When you finally decide on a photographer, sign a contract that includes the name of your photographer, all times and places he will be shooting, the total amount charged, the delivery date for proofs and finished prints, who owns the negatives and the cancellation policy.

Videos are a standard part of wedding photography today as well, and a videographer should be chosen with the same care used to choose a photographer.

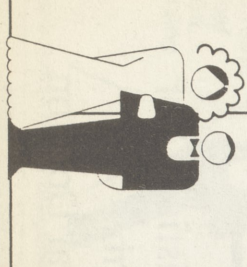
Starting by looking for a company that specializes in wedding videos and does everything in-house rather than one that sends tapes out for editing. View sample tapes.

Ask how the videographer will personalize your tape. Most companies offer a variety of packages, from completely unedited tapes you can receive on the wedding day to more complex edited versions that include still photos of you and your husband growing up.

## BRIDEFACTS

**Sharing the Costs**  
Wedding expenses are now shared:

The Bride's Family	The Groom's Family
-Ceremony Site Fee	-Beverages
-Ceremonial Music	-Limousines
-Food	-Reception Music
-The Cake	-Photography



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They can snap away during the party and then return the camera to you for processing as they leave.

• It's a nice touch to include a photo or two in each thank-you note.

• If you'll be asking a friend or relative to videotape a shower, the engagement party or other pre-wedding event, be sure to select a good-quality tape and bring enough battery power. Have backups if the camcorder's battery pack won't last for several hours of taping.

• An easy way to make taking pictures an integral part of an event is by passing out disposable cameras to guests as they arrive.

music, split-screen shots, computer graphics, dissolving pictures, titles and more.

Here, from *Bridal Guide* magazine, are tips for keeping wedding photography in focus.

• Document all the parties, showers and special days leading up to your wedding by asking friends or family members to act as photographers at each event.

• An easy way to make taking pictures an integral part of an event is by passing out disposable cameras to guests as they arrive.

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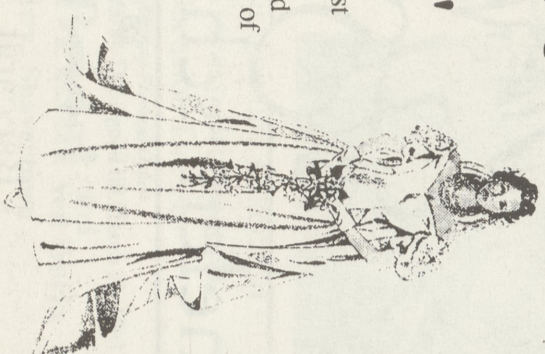
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# Grooms still walk the aisle in traditional style

By Mike Dale  
Copley News Service

Styles of suits come and go with each passing era. Lapels grow smaller or get wider. Vests are in, vests are out. Pants look better in pleats, which then become passe. Ties get fat, then thin. Should you wear a single-breasted or a double-breasted?

Grooms can count on the classics when it comes to tuxedos. Like the nuptial ceremony itself, formal wear can be traditional, elegant and serene despite the ruffling of feathers before the big day.

Today's tuxedos are more relaxed with softer shoulders, sensual fabrics and easy lines. The fit is less snug than traditional English wear but the look is always elegant.

The shawl tuxedo was popular in the 1920s and 1930s. It's casual ambience is made for today's softer styles: rounded, shouldered jackets, fabric draped around the chest, and full cut trousers.

Accessorize with authority. A navy "St. Tropez" tux in full dress tails with a subtle stripe and notch satin lapels looks fine with a paisley tie and cummerbund. A shawl-collared, double-breasted jacket in slate with black trousers can be polished off with a plaid bow tie.

A tuxedo for all seasons and time of day is always correct. Is the wedding in spring, summer, winter or fall? What time of day will the ceremony be held? Will you include a wedding party? How big? What kind of wedding will it be — traditional, eccentric or simple?

**FORMAL WEDDINGS**  
For very formal daytime weddings, grooms could wear a long jacket, cutaway-style, in black or gray. A classic side-striped trouser, a white shirt with wing collars and French cuffs, studs, a vest, cummerbund, an ascot or four-in-one hand the black dress shoes and matching hat, gloves and overcoat make a handsome photo.

Formal evening weddings deserve black trousers and coat with a white vest, cummerbund and tie. A black top hat and white gloves to accompany a black or gray overcoat add drama to the event.

**SEMI-FORMAL WEDDINGS**  
Matching or contrasting jackets, trousers, shirts, cummerbunds, vests and ties are standard semi-formal wedding fare, minus the haute couture accessories such as hats, gloves, overcoats, ascots, etc.

**INFORMAL WEDDINGS**  
An elegant business suit for the conservative set or an unusual and memorable alternative are the right touch here.

A simple back yard wedding or a civil ceremony at the country courthouse deserves a suit, black, gray, navy, dark blue or white sports jacket, with a tie to match. Eccentric gear should

the party. A skydiver tying the knot could wear a tux under his jumping regalia. surfers could wear sandals and shorts, with a white shirt and long, cutaway jacket. Be sure to involve the bride in the selection; a surprise in this area is always disquieting.

**TUXEDO HUNTING**  
Patience and the help of a professional comes in handy when it's time to rent or buy your wedding day attire.

Learn the difference between single-breasted vs. double-breasted jackets. Collars come in various flavors: shawl, peaked and notched. Bow ties, ascots and four-in-hand neck wear purvey certain feels. Cuff links, studs, pocket squares, cummerbunds and suspenders add the spice to your ensemble.

When hunting for a formal wear shop, make sure it offers national labels. Visit several shops and try on different styles. Ask plenty of questions. Gather information three to six months before the

wedding day.

Fit is as important as aesthetics. The jackets should feel comfortable at the neck and shoulders. Be sure to stand and sit with the jacket buttoned.

**FORMAL DOS AND DON'TS**  
Look in the mirror before you head for the altar. Cummerbunds should be worn with pleats facing up. The wing collar is worn behind the bow tie rather than in front. Pleated white shirts are preferred to yesterday's ruffled or pastel shirts.

**THE GROOM'S GROOM**  
Want to look your best for the first day of the rest of your life? Get a haircut a few days to one week before the wedding. Hair should look controlled but not shiny.

Leave shaving for the last possible minute. Take it slow and steady when shaving to avoid nicks.

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