

The perfect bridal ensemble is in the details

By Sharon Achatz
Copley News Service

In her quest for best-dressed success, the savvy bride will set her sights on details.

Design details make the difference from head to toe, in the form of accessories such as headpieces, lingerie, hosiery and shoes.

BEAUTY BAGS

The bride should not carry a purse at the ceremony. Afterward, however, she may carry a small, delicate bag — usually a clutch — to hold lipstick and powder. Some winning styles: ivory satin clutch with sequins and lace, grosgrain drawstring pouch with tassels, white satin accented with rhinestones, pink linen accented with roses and bows.

To safeguard monetary gifts, entrust them to the maid of honor or the best man rather than the bridal bag, or give them to the groom to put in his pocket.

FANCY FOOTWEAR

Basic white satin pumps have been joined with options such as mule, fable and brocade pumps, as well as sling-backs, sandals, ballet slippers — even canvas tennis with lace laces.

Some shoes come ready-made with lace, beads and bows similar to the adornment found on bridal gowns, or you can get the materials and have shoes custom designed to match. You also may purchase shoe clips to dress up a plain pump.

Choose a style that flatters your leg and complements your gown. High heels or sling-backs work well with short dresses, muleheel pumps or flats with floor-length ball gowns.

Order shoes in advance of your wedding gown fitting, and either buy them about a half-size larger since you won't have a chance to break them in or wear them around the house with heavy socks to stretch them.

About the cover

Francesca Stuppino of Dallas models a gown from Bridal Creations.

Francesca is a student at Dallas High School, has studied modeling for three years with the Gail Barbie Modeling Co., and studied classical ballet with the Civic Ballet Company of Scranton for 12 years.

She modeled gowns in the Magic 93 bridal show last weekend and will be a contestant in the Miss Sweetheart pageant at Montage Manor in Moosic in February.
Photo by Charlotte Bartizek

BEYOND BASIC BRAS

The undergarments worn with a bridal gown have a dramatic effect on overall appearance. They can totally alter the way the gown fits a bride, making the most of the best bet is to select a bridal salon that carries an assortment of bras, providing you the opportunity to try on several different types with your gown at the salon.

In general, off-the-shoulder dresses call for strapless bras or bustiers, which offer a flattering form and come in a variety of fabrics, from satin to stretch lace. Strapless bras have low backs and long lines to lend support without the torso constraint of a bustier.

To help trim the tummy and avoid telltale lines along the torso in a tight-fitting bodice, the bride-to-be might try combination styles such as body suits, bustiers and

bra-slips. Torsolettes, suggested for the fuller figure, come down lower on the hip and cover the entire tummy for a slimming effect.

For brides who want to augment their bustline, there are theater-shaped and fully padded bandeau bras and push-up bandeaus for a decollete neckline.

Many bra lines offer matching panties or matrimonial sets that include bustier, garter belt and

panties.

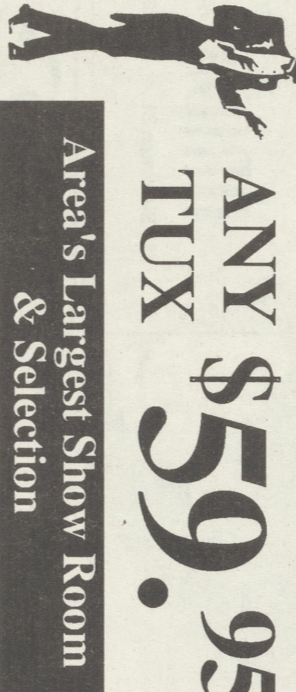
LUXURIOUS LEGS

Elegant hosiery is a bridal essential even for brides with floor-length gowns. There will be times when you will lift your skirt, getting in and out of vehicles, perhaps dancing, certainly when the groom removes your garter.

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LUTHERAN BROTHERHOOD

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Whether intended as a showcase with a short dress or as a flash under a full skirt, there is a wonderful array of hosiery from which to select. High-heels and pantyhose alike come in a wide range of textures, patterns and prints, including sheer hosiery highlighted with rhinestones and rosettes.

HEAD-TURNING ADORNMENT

It is best to try on headpiece and veil possibilities with your gown before making a decision. Not only will the style of the dress dictate what type of headpiece shines as a crowning glory, but also the bride's facial features and hairstyle must be considered, as well.

From floral-and-ribbon wreaths to bejeweled tiaras and from pillbox caps to wide-brim hats, there is a headpiece look for every bridal desire. And many designers specialize in sewing custom creations by using extra dress fabric to create coordinated bows and flowers that then are incorporated into a headpiece.

In general, headpieces are much more elaborate than they have been in the past. However, depending on the cut of your hair and formality of your wedding, simple alternatives to headpieces also are in style — including the likes of a veil on its own, silk or fresh flowers and specially decorated barrettes or clips.

While the length of veils, that bridal trademark, traditionally has been governed by the length of the gown's train — a floor-length dress with a floor-length veil, an ankle-length dress with a ballet veil, a short dress with a flyaway veil — many veils are being made longer, some even falling over the train or creating the illusion of a train for floor-length gowns that do not have a train.

One winning design is a cathedral-length train of tulle veiling that extends from the headpiece in layers attached to each other with adhesive fasteners. Once the bride has made her grand entrance into the reception, the veil can be easily detached for dancing.

The Dallas Post

From This Day Forward

Wednesday, January 26, 1994

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The bridal ensemble is more than a dress: hair, makeup and accessories complete the look.

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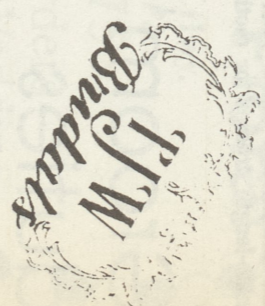
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