

Dos and don'ts for headpieces

It's a personal decision. Do you go with the sweeping veil anchored with a headband studded with beads? Or do you choose something, let's say, a little more daring like the satin cocktail hat with the silk roses? Or do you just forget the whole head thing?

Well, it's easier than you think. Say goodbye to all the rules and let your heart — no, that's head — tell you what's right to top it all off. Here are a dos and don'ts when it comes to choosing a headpiece for your gown:

- Do choose a headpiece after you've picked out a dress. Many gowns have matching headpieces; however, do not feel like you have to buy anything unless it's exactly what you want and you've shopped around for other alternatives.
- Don't be afraid to be creative. There are no hard and fast rules when it comes to veils and headpieces anymore. Think about the way you'll be wearing your hair, the shape of your face and what will complement the design of

- Do keep it simple. Chic and elegant is best. A simple satin bow or garland of fresh flowers may be the most charming solution to getting ahead with your wedding plans.

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
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Dresses

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lace, the form-fitting silhouette is enhanced even more with rolled collars, draping cowl necks and back details. Vera Wang uses sheer chiffon to give her new spring gown the illusion of a backless dress.

And that's where it often counts the most. Every bride knows that it's the back of the dress people will see for most of the ceremony. That's why many bridal designers this spring are conjuring up tiny rows of buttons, lacing up gown backs like corsets and adding interesting cut-outs, lattice designs and keyholes. That ought to make the rear view a little more interesting.

As the weather warms up, so will halter-style silhouettes. Halter bodices in ruffled taffeta or slinky satin turn bridal dresses in to not-so-traditional gowns.

But for those brides who prefer to be a little more covered up, the jacket has made a comeback in elegant brocades or extraordinary bead designs. Styled as matching boleros or waistcoats, the jacket is perfect for brides who want a more sophisticated look, especially if it's a second wedding.

Another versatile alternative now offered by many bridal manufacturers is the detachable train that can easily be removed from the dress after the wedding ceremony, just in time for the reception — without worrying about little cousin Joey and his two left feet.

Once you've picked a dress, don't overlook other details. It's true that your wedding day is not the time to experiment with blue eye shadow or a new curling iron. However, several weeks before the

big event is the perfect time to test out a shimmering lipstick shade or have your hair twisted into a new undo. Plan a visit to your favorite cosmetic counter and your hairstylist for a consultation weeks in advance of the wedding date.

Don't wait until the last minute to pick out shoes and accessories, either. After you've chosen your dress, you'll want to start picking out all those finishing touches that will complement the gown. There is now a wide variety of shoe styles to choose from in satin, velvet and silk, and they're stepping out in wedges again and again. How about a pair of sling backs decked with roses or slippers swathed in lace and pearls?

Pearls are still a classic accessory for brides.

Perfect Wedding

