

## Sleek

(continued from page 3)  
bridesmaid's satin princess dress features a cowl drape neckline - another popular detail on dresses this spring.

While most brides still want their wedding party to wear matching dresses, there is room for change. Don't be afraid to set your best friend apart.

"Many brides will want their maid of honor to wear a different dress that coordinates with the other maids," says Prince.

Bianchi's Tianno collection features "Mix & Match Maids," an interchangeable array of dresses for the bridal party that color coordinate, but feature different silhouettes and shapes, "because no two bridesmaids are exactly alike."

At Vera Wang Maids, the bridal party can choose from dresses in a variety of silhouettes - from halters to strapless to off-the-shoulder shapes - all in the same color tones. Buttery mellow-yellow golds are one of the most popular color combinations for bridesmaids.

The rest of the bridal party - junior bridesmaids and flower girls - follow suit with the bridesmaids, coordinating colors and flowers. But let's face it, the ring bearer and the flowers girls can wear almost anything and upstage the bride.

While the junior bridesmaids often wear dresses that are miniature replicas of the other bridal attendants, the flower girls usually wear more traditional full-skirted dresses that fall to midcalf in creamy white organza or tulle, perhaps smocked and trimmed with ribboned sashes and flowers. These dresses are appropriate any time of year, complete with ballet slippers or Mary Janes, white tights and anklets.

When it comes to Mom's wedding attire, there is an incredible selection of evening clothes available in specialty stores or bridal boutiques. However, the mother of the bride or groom does not have to vanish into the background of the bridal party. Instead, an elegant evening dress or cocktail suit, that can be worn again, can express individual personality, as well as complement the fashions of the rest of the wedding party.

With the wide variety of clothing options for the members of the wedding, in both styles and sizes available, there's no reason your wedding can't be picture perfect.

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or at the entrance to the reception.

• Special entrance for bride and groom at reception. This may take place after formal photographs of the wedding party have been taken, and guests are gathered at reception site.

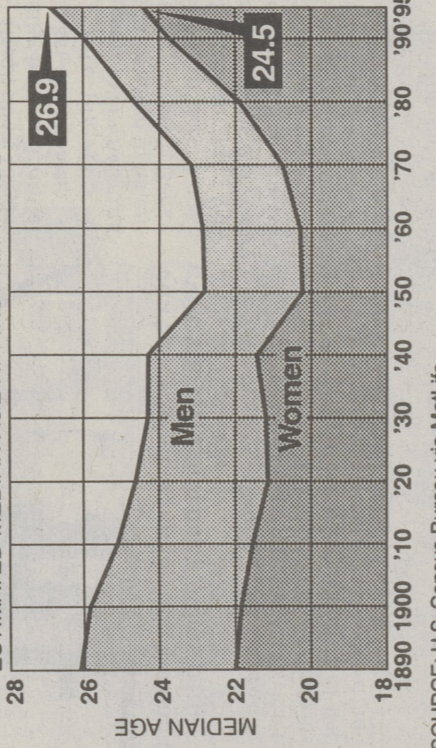
• Toasting. Traditionally, the best man toasts first to the new couple, followed by the maid or matron of honor, then family members and friends, if desired.

## BRIDEFACTS

### Marriage: We're taking our time

Americans are marrying later in life than at any time in recent history. And thanks to increased longevity, more couples will see silver and golden anniversaries.

ESTIMATED MEDIAN AGE AT FIRST MARRIAGE



SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau via MetLife

Copley News Service/Dan Clifford

from your family

**4 MONTHS AHEAD**  
• Book site for rehearsal dinner.  
• Arrange accommodations for out-of-town attendants.  
• Book honeymoon.

**2 MONTHS AHEAD**  
• Check with local newspaper for form and timing of your wedding announcement.  
• Check on requirements for blood tests and marriage license.  
• Select bride's wedding gift.  
• Select groomsmen's gifts.

**2 WEEKS AHEAD**  
• Complete wedding announcement for newspaper, and mail.  
• Confirm honeymoon bookings.

**1 WEEK AHEAD**  
• Confirm plans for wedding site, musicians, photographer and transportation.

On the day of the wedding, have someone other than the bride and groom take charge of the timing of reception traditions.  
• That person should remind you when it's time to move on to the next event," says Baroni.  
You may add or subtract from these traditions, but set a time you expect each event to take place.

**RECEPTION EVENTS, IN ORDER**  
• The receiving line. Either hold this line at the exit of the wedding

## Bridesmaids will love new sleek gowns

When it comes to color, "spring is lighter," according to Prince. "We're seeing more pale colors," she says, "more like ready-to-wear." Honeydew, sage green and moonlight are just a few of the latest hues from Watters & Watters.

At Dessy Creations, silvery platinum satin dresses with matching stoles are shimmering for the bridal party. Gray and all its lighter, shimmering shades are as popular for the bridal party as they are in ready-to-wear. And if you don't like silver, Dessy's interactive "colorfinder" will allow you to see any dress in any color with a click of the mouse on [www.dessy.com](http://www.dessy.com).

The shape of bridesmaids' dresses echo that of bridal gowns, says Prince. "They're mostly strapless," she says, "or they have a soft, modified V-neckline. Square necklines usually aren't as flattering."  
Watters & Watters' spring collection features elegant simplicity! A pink iridescent sleeveless

chiffon dress has a matching chiffon scarf; a honeydew-colored strapless dress with shirring bodice falls into a full-length tulle skirt, also with matching scarf fabric flower pin at the back waist and a slim floor-length skirt.

Other not-so-typical bridesmaids' dresses from Watters & Watters include a white rayon matka two-piece sleeveless top with buttons softened up with chiffon, Jim Hjelm's Occasions pink

See SLEEK, pg 6



The simple elegance of these Odessa empire-waist gowns in polished pewter is enough to make any bridesmaid celebrate.

Soft pink is another favorite hue this spring for the bridal party. Softened up with chiffon, Jim Hjelm's Occasions pink

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