

Modern dress styles range from traditional to obscure

While the conventional white A-line wedding dress remains popular, modern brides have many choices

By Tyler Tronson
Freelance Reporter

Finding the right wedding dress can be as tricky as finding a spouse. Many modern brides feel they must find a dress that will both steal the show and represent their personality, beliefs and values. In the past, brides didn't have the myriad choices of color, length, fullness, fabric and styles that grace weddings today.

These choices mean women can make their own fashion statement without the fear of disrespecting traditions. Reed & Cross Wedding Gallerie employee Linda Goode encourages brides and grooms to go into shops, look around and not remain limited to one style.

"Often I'll show customers something much different than what they were trying on, and it's perfect," Goode said.

Goode said full dresses — especially those with a corset back — are popular in the local area. Diamond white is a new color replacing the more traditional white, and heavy beading with crystals and rhinestones is also a favorite. Goode added that women like dresses that are "simply elegant" — usually white with an A-line shape and simple details.

Junior Stephanie Cappelluti found the "simply elegant" look perfect for her July 2003 wedding.



Photo Illustration by Lauren Wimer Photographer
Tiffany Browne tries on a traditional dress at Eva's Bridal Mart, located at 970 Pearl St.

"I really wanted something simple but still beautiful," Cappelluti said.

Her A-line strapless dress was white and had beads that followed around the neck and back line that slowly dispersed down the dress.

Though Cappelluti's dress was a traditional white gown, her bridesmaids dressed in copper and black.

"I could never imagine putting someone in a teal dress," she said.

It's not uncommon to find women marrying in pants or bright colors. For example, a traditional Chinese wedding costume called the Qungua can come in brilliant reds and has ornate

embroidery of dragons and flowers. Traditional African attire comes in rich colors, such as purple and gold. Men often have a matching outfit that uses the colors and patterns of the bride's dress. These outfits have inspired many designers to incorporate a wide variety of styles in their new designs.

Whether it is a traditional white gown or overalls with orange flip flops, it is important to pick wedding attire that will be comfortable and make the day memorable for years to come.

Tyler Tronson is a freelance reporter for the Emerald.

Winter engagements, summer weddings prove most popular

According to recent trends, most marriage proposals occur around winter holidays

By Chad Kreiger
Freelance Reporter

Sometimes relationships start as "just friends," eventually evolving into dating and sometimes ending up lasting forever.

But when do most marriage proposals take place? On a birthday? What about the anniversary of the first date? Current engagement trends suggest that most marriage proposals occur during the winter holidays.

The holiday season presents a festive atmosphere ideal for marriage proposals.

"A lot of people seem to get engaged over the winter and New Year's holidays," David's Bridal store manager Elizabeth Moore said.

Moore said she hears about a lot of "sweet" proposals that happen over winter vacation. She added that most people buy their wedding gowns in January and plan for summer weddings.

Eugene resident Ty Mellinger proposed to junior Kim Wood in July 2002.

"I'm glad it was the day he chose," Wood said, acknowledging that many couples seem to get engaged in the winter. She said

Mellinger chose July for the proposal because they wanted to get married at a baseball field on the anniversary of the proposal.

A popular marriage proposal tradition is the element of surprise. Wood said she was surprised when Mellinger proposed to her. Mellinger hid the ring in Wood's room, and when she found it he got on one knee and asked her to marry him, Wood said.

Fred Cuellar, writer for <http://www.lovegevity.com>, said

he believes the number-one mistake men make when they propose is doing it on a birthday or a holiday. Cuellar said the proposal should occur on a significant day for the relationship, not a holiday that cannot be the couple's.

Although there are many days and times to propose, the marriage proposal is a climactic moment for many relationships, whatever day of the year it occurs on.

Chad Kreiger is a freelance reporter for the Emerald.

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