Underneath it all

Designer lingerie—a luxury or a necessity in the bridal market?

In the 1900s, the modern bride wore the covered-up look. Her bridal gown hid more than it revealed. Although many brides wore their finest lingerie on their wedding day, they could have made do with under-clothing sewn from old sheets!

Not so today. When a bride shops for her gown, she should consider what she must wear under her gown for proper fit as well as modesty. At the time she selects her gown, she should buy the correct lingerie if such items are not already part of her trousseau or current wardrobe.

The strapless look is popular with today's brides. Strapless—yes, bare—no! Contemporary lingerie, usually emphasizing the coordinating set, has responded with ultra-low-cut merry widows, bras and camisoles. A bride will feel confident and feminine as she walks down the aisle in today's lingerie.

A bride must also consider lingerie as she plans for her honeymoon. Her wedding night apparel is a reflection of a woman's most intimate expressions. The selection of fabric, style and color for the wedding night will be uppermost in a bride's mind as she sets the honeymoon mood.

In selecting several other pieces of lingerie for both public and private wear as a married woman, the bride will choose practical as well as romantic finery.

The items she chooses, along with those she receives from her most intimate friends at bridal showers, will help keep the romance alive in her marriage long after the honeymoon is over.

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You Are Cordially Invited

Guests will appreciate receiving their invitations to your wedding three to four weeks before the event. If traveling some distance, they will be doubly thankful for an extra week.

Engraved invitations require several weeks for printing and delivery, therefore be sure to place your order at least two months before the wedding date. It is good policy to request a few extra envelopes in the event that you make mistakes when addressing them.

At the same time you order invitations, order your wedding announcements. This insures a perfect match in paper and lettering. Announcements are sent to any uninvited friends, social or business acquaintances, and distant family, and should be mailed immediately after the wedding ceremony.

You will want your invitations and announcements to be of fine quality heavy paper with a glazed or smooth finish. Pale ivory is elegant, but white is acceptable.

The message is engraved on the outer page of a double sheet, one of two sizes. If it is 5 by 7½ inches, it may be folded again in half to be placed in the envelope. A bit less expensive and less formal is the smaller size, 4½ by 6 inches, which does not require folding.

There are always two envelopes for an invitation or an announcement. All enclosure cards are placed in the inner envelope, and the address appears on the outer. Only the outher one has gummed flap. A return address should be embossed on the flap of the outer envelope, never engraved, printed, or handwritten.

Traditionally, all wedding invitations, announcements, and enclosures are engraved. There is a less expensive printing process which simulates engraving with raised letters called thermoengraving. All lettering should be black, and script is preferred.

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The Bridal Registry

To avoid duplication in wedding gifts and to make sure you get the gifts you want, the wise bride-to-be will avail herself of the bride's greatest friend: the Wedding Gift Registry.

Bridal registry is a free service provided by most department stores and many smaller gift shops and specialty housewares stores.

Your guests will also appreciate this service, as it will spare them the time and effort of hunting for the perfect gift for you. Once you have registered at the stores of your choice, your guests will be able to select gifts you will want and use.

Make an appointment to talk with a bridal consultant even before you send out your invitations. The bridal consultant at a bridal registry is knowledgeable in housewares and can help you in your selection of dishes, glasses, silver and other items. You and your fiance may want to make the final decisions together.

When you register, you should be careful to list items that suit the budgets of all your guests. You can let your guests know where you are registered by having your shower hostess note the store name on invitations, or by having your mother and attendants help you spread the word.

Persons invited to your wedding can call the store or visit it personally to choose your gift. The store will keep careful records of what has been purchased so that duplication of gifts can be avoided as much as possible.

You can help, once gifts begin to arrive, by checking with the registry every week or so to be sure that gifts you have received are removed from the list.

With the service of the bridal registry, you will be more likely to begin married life with the beautiful china, silverware, glasses and household goods of your own choosing.

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Gems and Jewels

The wedding ring symbolizes a binding union of eternal love. Ancient tribes tied rings of grass around their brides' wrists and ankles, and rings have been a tradition since Egyptian and Roman times. They used silver and gold because they are the most precious metals, and diamonds and other gems have been set in rings for thousands of years.

The ring is worn on the third finger, left hand because ancients believed that a vein ran from this finger to the heart.

It is customary for the bride to choose her own wedding band. A plain gold band is in the finest taste, but it could be more elaborate.

If engraved, it may bear the inscription of the bride's initials, the groom's initials, and the wedding date. Or a sentimental phrase may be engraved inside the ring.

In a double ring ceremony, where the bride and groom exchange rings, the maid of honor will hold the groom's ring and the best man will hold the bride's ring until they are exchanged.

Choose a reputable jeweler with a wide selection of wedding bands, and trust his expertise and your own taste and good judgement. You and your husband may want matching rings and your jeweler can help you decide on bands that are both suitable and personally yours. These rings are visible evidence to all the world that you belong together.

Flowers

Flowers are an intricate and most important aspect of your wedding. They add color, style, romance, fragrance and an ambience to both the wedding party and to the location of the wedding, whether it be a church, home or garden, and to the reception as well.

Even in the office of a judge, a clerk or a Justice of the Peace a bouquet will add that "Certain Something" that nothing else can.

According to Clarence C. Crip, owner of Crip's Florist Shop (which has been in operation for more than 40 years) people are using more flowers for weddings now than ever before. Crip attributes this to current changes in styles and designs, more creative uses of modern arrangements and specialized advertising.

There are popular colors and types of flowers for the various seasons of the year.

Daisies, carnations, lilies and snap dragons in pastels of yellow, pink, white and green are popular in spring and summer. In fall and winter mums, tiger lilies, carnations, orchids and roses in colors of orange, rust, green and blue and in variations are popular. A favorite variation is burgundy mums for Autumn.

Roses and carnations are year-around favorites, with roses being popular in red, pink, yellow, peach, white or lavendar and carnations in a wide variety of colors.

The latest trend in bouquets is for silk arrangements.

According to Crip's Shop, the demand for wedding flowers peaks in May, June and August.

The price of flowers has increased by approximately 75 percent in the past five years for home or church weddings, even for the candlelit ones.

Whatever your budget is for flowers, if you are planning a traditional church wedding, the wedding package includes flowers for the church, bouquets for the females in the bridal party, corsages for mothers and grandmothers, the bride and groom, boutonnieres for the groom, best man, ushers and fathers of the bride and groom. Flower petals for the flower girl or girls and a bud for the ring bearer, as well as flowers for the reception, (room tables, etc.) are necessary

Before you choose your flowers, you will need to choose your florist. As you make your decision, compare costs; find out exactly what each florist offers for the price he quotes you. Look at his photo albums. Do you like what he has to offer?

Are his floral arrangements skimpy and does he rely on a lot of ornamentation that you don't like?

Take note of his attitude toward you. If he is willing to answer your questions and to cater to your personal tastes, he may be the florist with whom you want to work.

Once you have chosen your florist, you will need to give him a complete description of your gown, including a sketch and fabric swatches, if possible. He will recommend an appropriate style for your bouquet according to the style and color of your dress.

Inform him also of the theme of your wedding, the style and color of your attendant's dresses and the mothers' dresses, and the layout of your church,

(Continued on page 8)

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