

A wedding is a ceremony that celebrates the beginning of a marriage or civil union. Wedding traditions and customs vary greatly between cultures, ethnic groups, religions, countries, and social classes.

In some countries, cultures and religions, the actual act of marriage begins during the wedding ceremony. In others, the legal act of marriage occurs at the time of signing a marriage license or other legal document, and the wedding is then an opportunity to perform a traditional ceremony and celebrate with friends and family.

A woman taking part in the ceremony is called a bride, a man called a bridegroom, after the ceremony they become a wife and a husband, respectively.



Wedding ceremonies vary within country and cultures however, most contain wedding vows of some kind and a proclamation of marriage, usually officiated by a local religious clerk. Most weddings also involve wearing the traditional clothes of the culture in which the couple is wedding. A wedding is often followed or accompanied by a wedding reception.

Other elements may include music, poetry, prayer, scripture, or other traditions. In most societies a number of traditions or customs have emerged around the wedding ceremony, many of which have lost their original symbolic meaning in the modern world. Other wedding traditions are relatively recent. Some elements of the Western heterosexual wedding ceremony symbolize the bride's departure from her father's control and entry into a new family with her husband. In modern Western weddings, this symbolism is largely vestigial, since husband and wife are of equal power and status. In some cultures, same-sex weddings are celebrated.

Offers ideas, insights & details for engagement, wedding and anniversary plans. Featuring insights into:

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## Attaching Overlays

### Ribbon and Sealing Wax



Fold two papers in half, place one inside the other, and wrap decorative string or ribbon around fold. Secure overlay to main card stock with sealing wax. Light wick of wax stick, hold stick at an angle and drip wax over area to be sealed. Push stamp into wax, imprinting design, if desired. Wax seals may break if mailed.

### Mounting corners

Secure corners of overlay, using self adhesive paper mounting corners.

### Glue Stick

Fold a full card overlay in half. Apply glue to wrong side of overlay back; slip main card stock inside, and press to secure. Leave front overlay loose, or attach to front corners with glue stick.

### Stickers

Secure edges of single overlay with three dimensional self adhesive paper stickers.

### Woven Ribbon

Punch two holes through both layers of paper. Run ribbon ends through holes from underside, as shown. Tie ribbon in a simple knot or bow if desired. Trim tails at an angle.

If you are planning on being a wedding consultant or photographer there is a strong likelihood you will be limited to the number of weddings you can do on any specific day.

Most weddings are local, so look for information pertaining to your area. For the number of weddings in any specific area call the County Clerks office in that county.

#### Statistics for the Wedding Industry

- **2,226,000** weddings occurred in the US from June 2004 to June 2005 spending approximately \$85 billion. If considering all the items a bride will purchase 6 months prior to 6 months after her wedding the total exceeds 120 billion dollars.
- Over **9,000,000** weddings in China per year with an average \$19,900/wedding.
- 714,000 Japanese brides spend an average of \$70,000 per wedding in 2005.
- Number of worldwide weddings 115,000/day.
- #1 wedding city in the world is **Istanbul, Turkey** with 166,000 for the year.
- #2 wedding city in the world is **Las Vegas, Nevada, USA** with 116,000 weddings.
- #3 wedding city (2nd in USA) is **Gatlinburg, Tennessee, USA** with 42,000 weddings.
- #4 wedding city (3rd USA) is **New Orleans, Louisiana, USA** with 36,545 marriages in 2002.
- In Australia figures show that the average age of a bride in 2003 was 29, compared with 26 in 1993. And 75 per cent of couples lived together before marrying, up from 16 per cent in the 1970s. Average number of guests that are being invited to a wedding is 164.

If you are looking to determine the number of brides in a specific area and you do not have the time to locate the county or city clerk's office to get that information. About .007% of the population will wed in any specific area during a year's time frame.

#### Craft Glue

Apply a drop of glue between overlay and main card stock at top edge of overlay. Ease excess glue above overlay, secure bow or charm.

#### Aerosol Adhesive

Attach sheer paper to solid color backing paper, using aerosol adhesive. Trim to size after layering.

#### Decorative Effects

Add elegant textural interest to cards with embossed designs .Select either subtle pressure embossing, using a brass embossing plate and a stylus, or thermal embossing, using a rubber stamp and special powders.

Embellish with colorful stenciled designs, using an ink pad and makeup sponges. Or develop one- of -a kind watercolor effects with paint and kosher salt.

Create unusual shapes, cutouts or edges with die-cutting techniques. For fine finishing detail, deckle the edges, using a specially designed ruler. Or, weave an elegant narrow ribbon through tiny slits in the paper/

Your personal style may include more than one of these techniques, all the supplies you need are available in art

Average traditional wedding in the USA is \$20,000 - \$25,000 \*\* Average age for first-time brides is 25 years. For grooms, it's 27. \*\* June is the most popular month for weddings, followed by August, September, October and May \*\* One third of engaged couples retain a wedding consultant. \*\* The average household income of a newly married couple is \$60,000/year.

99% of couples who get married go on a honeymoon. \*\* Couples spend an average of \$5,000 on their honeymoon. \*\* The honeymoon industry is a 12 billion dollar a year industry. \*\* An average honeymoon vacation is one week. 45 percent of honeymoon trips are to domestic locations; 55 percent are international. \*\* Most popular honeymoon activities that honeymooners enjoy are:

- Visiting a new place for sightseeing, restaurants, entertainment and nightlife - 75%
- Beaches and lakes - 45%
- Casinos - 20%
- Cruises - 15%
- Golf/sports vacations - 10%
- Skiing trips - 5%

supply or stationary stores, or through mail order sources.

## **Weaving Ribbon**

### You Will Need

- ribbon
  - chenille or tapestry needle for weaving narrow ribbon
  - paper clip for weaving wider ribbon
  - mat knife
  - cutting mat
1. Cut paper to desired size, or use purchased card. Print message on paper or card, if message is desired on paper with woven ribbon. Embellish as desired.
  2. Mark two horizontal lines on paper where ribbon is desired, using a light pencil mark. Distance between lines is slightly more than width of ribbon.
  3. Between marked lines, cut vertical pairs of slits, using mat knife and cutting mat. For a narrow ribbon, cut slits in each pair about 1/8 in. apart and space pairs 1 in. apart for wider ribbon, increase distances.
  4. Weave ribbon under each pair of slits and over spaces between pairs. Thread narrow ribbon into a chenille or tapestry needle, for weaving for wider ribbon, poke ribbon through slits using the end of an unfolded paper clip.