

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.

## **Handcrafted Weddings**



Weddings are very personal, with every detail carefully pondered and carried out to perfection. You would love to be extravagant with every aspect, but good sense tells you to save a little money for life after the wedding. With a little creativity, you can have the wedding of your dreams at an affordable price. Handcrafted items, like veils and headpieces, flower girl baskets and bridal bouquets, are unique and can be made at a fraction of the cost of purchased items.

The projects in this take you designing and creating your own wedding stationary, accessorizing the wedding party, decorating the ceremony and reception sites and preserving your cherished memories, And because individuality is key, we offer lots of variations so that you can select a style that fits your style of a perfect wedding.

While coordinating the necessary arrangements for your wedding when would you find time to make all of these beautiful things too? Delegate! Many friends and family members would be honored if you asked them to help. Plan a weekend get-together with your groom and both sets of parents to help you prepare and send invitations. Assemble your bridesmaids for an evening of girl talk and crafting reception centerpieces. Perhaps ask a favorite aunt to make a ring bearer pillow or sew you garter. Remember that many items can be crafted long in advance of the wedding .preserving your sanity in the last few weeks or giving you time for last minute flower preparation.

Select the projects that mean the most to you. Weigh the money savings, uniqueness and personal



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:

- [Anniversary](#)
- [Engagement](#)
- [Wedding](#)

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.

satisfaction in making a project against the time commitment required. Even if the only item you make is your own headpiece and veil, you could save enough money to purchase gifts for your bridesmaids. Each item you create marks another joyful moment leading to your special day

#### Stationary Basics

There are many paper options and methods for embellishment to choose from. Start with purchased cards, or create your own from card or paper stock available from stationary, art or craft store. Print your message and embellish the cards as lavishly or as simply as you wish. Consider a variety of effects, including pressure embossing, stamping, thermal embossing, stenciling and watercolor painting. Create interest with deckled or die cut edges. Incorporate other elements such as ribbons, pressed flowers or feathers.

Stock used for printing can become the base card, or the printed copies can be cut and mounted to other paper. The paper stock on which the message is to be printed must have a smooth texture and be of medium weight such as laser- printable, card stock or vellum and it must be of a standard printing size. Compose and lay out the message on a computer;

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%

then either print copies onto the chosen stock, using a laser printer, or print out a copy on white paper and have a professional printer reproduce it.

### **Selecting Paper**

Wedding stationary can be created from ready made cards or cut from paper or card stock. For ready made cards, select plain blank cards with matching envelopes or those imprinted with a simple design that could be further embellished. Add details such as a stenciled border design, an edging or an embossed design.

Cut your own cards from a wide variety of papers; browse through art supply, stationary and craft stores. or visit a professional printer for papers. Parchment, card and cover stock and watercolor papers are a few options. Handmade papers, which have a lovely nubby surface, may have flower petals, leaves or metallic strings embedded in them. Since many textured papers do not take to printing, print messages on other stock and mount them to the textured paper.

Whether you choose ready-made cards or cut them from stock, you can create interesting effects by layering papers of various textures.

Translucent overlays such as tissue, vellum and Japanese lace paper are lovely options as well.

### **Producing Wedding Stationary**

1. Decide on the desired components of the wedding stationary. Besides the invitation and mailing envelope, consider an inner envelope to hold the invitation and all the inserts, a response card with an envelope, a reception card and a thank you card with an envelope.
2. Plan the size and format of the cards. Not all the pieces of the set have to be exactly the same, but they should have a common design element. Invitation and insert cards can be a single heavy card or a double folded sheet. If cards will be cut to size, consider sizes of available envelopes. Cards should be  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. shorter and narrower than the accompanying envelope.
3. Print message on standard size paper, trim to desired size.
4. Cut several sheets of paper at once, using paper cutter or rotary cutter, straightedge and cutting mat. Cut decorative edges, if desired using specialty rotary cutter blades or scissors with decorative edged blades. Or tear deckled edges.
5. Mark lightly for any folds. For heavy paper, lightly score fold line on outside, using back of mat knife blade. For medium and lightweight papers, burnish fold line on the inside using butter knife or stylus.