

Flower Girl Posy Balls



A delightful alternative for the flower girl, a posy ball is easy to carry.

Constructed from fresh, artificial, or dried flowers, posy balls have a charm all their own. The size can be adjusted to suit the age of the flower girl.

Make the fresh flower posy ball up to 48 hours ahead, using resilient flowers such as miniature carnations. Or substitute artificial flowers and greens, following the same directions.

Start the twig ball at least two weeks before the wedding, allowing enough time for the flowers to dry completely.

Select the lace ball with silk roses for a very young flower girl. It is lightest in weight and can be jostled about with little concern for its durability.

Making a Flower Covered Posy Ball

You Will Need

- Styrofoam ball, 2in. to 4in. in diameter
- 20 to 50 fresh miniature carnations, or artificial flowers
- Fresh green leaves, or artificial greens
- 1yd. ribbon, 5/8in. wide
- 2/3yd. ribbon, 1/4in. wide
- Flat-headed straight pins

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.

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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.

- Hot glue gun
- 1. Cut two pieces of 5/8in. ribbon equal in length to circumference of Styrofoam ball plus 1in. make loop with one ribbon, overlapping ends 1/2in.; hot-glue. Glue loop to top of ball, and secure with two straight pins.
- 2. Wrap second ribbon around ball, crossing through top loop. Overlap ends at bottom of ball. Hot-glue ends together and to ball; secure with two straight pins.
- 3. Hot-glue fresh or artificial leaves flat to ball, covering surface.
- 4. Cut flower ends off stems, just below calyx. Starting next to ribbon, hot-glue flowers onto ball, overlapping slightly so ball doesn't show. Cover half the ball. If using fresh carnations, hang ball by loop to finish other side, Glue flowers over area where top ribbon loop is attached. Omit step 5 if using artificial flowers.
- 5. Mist inside of plastic bag. Insert several toothpicks all around ball, between flowers. Insert ball into bag, and seal. Prop ball up by toothpicks to avoid

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%

- flattening flowers. Store in refrigerator.
6. Before use, cut five lengths of 1/4in. ribbon, 3in. to 5in. long. Hot-glue ends to bottom of ball, and secure with straight pins.

Making a Twig Ball

You Will Need

- 6in. twig ball
 - 8 to 12 fresh fragrant flowers potpourri oil
 - 5yd. ribbon, 5/8in. wide
 - 1yd. ribbon, 1/4in. wide, for streamers
 - Small cluster artificial flowers and greens
 - 24 gauge florist wire
 - Hot glue gun
1. Start project two weeks before wedding. Cut off heads of fragrant flowers; insert through openings of ball. Gently shake and turn ball once a day to ensure proper drying of flowers.
 2. Wrap 6in. length of wire around crossed twigs on top of ball, twist to secure leaving tails.
 3. Cut four lengths of 5/8in. ribbon, equal in length to circumference of ball plus 1in. Wrap one ribbon around ball; twist wire tails around ends to secure. Repeat for two more ribbons, spacing them evenly. Trim ends of wire and ribbons. Secure intersections at top and bottom, using hot-glue.
 4. Make loop with remaining ribbon, overlapping ends 1/2in.; hot-glue. Secure loop to top of ball, using wire. Glue cluster of artificial flowers and greens over joined area.
 5. Cut three lengths of 1/4in. ribbon, 12in. long for streamers. Layer and fold in half. Slip fold loop under crossed ribbons at bottom of ball; insert loose ends at bottom of ball and pull snug. Trim streamer ends to various lengths. Add few drops of potpourri oil for fragrance, if desired.

Making a Lace Ball

You Will Need

- 3in. Styrofoam ball
- 3 1/2yd. pre-gathered lace, 1 1/4in. wide
- 2 1/4yd. satin ribbon, 1/8in. wide

- 12 silk roses, 1in. in diameter
 - 6 sprays of lily of the valley with pearls
 - 26 gauge craft wire
 - Sharp, pointed metal nail file
 - Hot glue gun
1. Roll end of lace into tight circle. Poke bound edge of lace circle 1/2in. deep into top of ball, using point of nail file.
 2. Spiraling down around the ball, continue poking bound edge of lace into ball every 1/2in., leave enough slack in lace between pokes to allow binding to be flat on surface. Cover entire ball allowing 1/4in. space between rows.
 3. Cut excess lace at bottom, leaving short tail. Roll tail into small circle, as in step 1; poke into ball.
 4. Cut a 10in. piece of ribbon, form a loop and hot-glue ends to center of top of ball. Hot-glue two roses to base of loop.
 5. Cut two pieces of ribbon, 11in., and 25in. long. Fold long piece into six loops, leaving 5in. tails. Center short ribbon over loops; secure at center with wire. Twist wire ends together and insert wire in center of circle at bottom of ball. Repeat for circle at top of ball, cutting short ribbon 9in. long.
 6. Hot-glue one end of lily of the valley sprays to center of circle at bottom of ball. Hot-glue remaining roses into lace, evenly spacing them around ball.