

LA BRIDES

countdown to the big day

Follow these 10 tips for looking and feeling your very best on your wedding day.

by Patti Pietschmann

Okay, he popped the question. You got the ring. The wedding date is set. And now the work begins. Relax. It can be a breeze if you follow "L.A. Brides" 10-step countdown to looking, feeling and doing your best on your wedding day:

Ungene purses from Bella Luna make great gifts for the girls in your wedding party.

1.) Find That Gorgeous Gown

(Six Months Before the Wedding)

Wedding planners advise shopping for your bridal gown at least six months in advance. But before you settle on a style, New York fashion consultant/celebrity stylist Danna Weiss suggests you take a good look at your shape. Weiss, who's dressed Molly Sims, Willa Ford, Lenny Kravitz, Kim Basinger, Academy Awards presenters and scads of other famous folk, created Fashion Illusion, a design technique that matches the perfect style with your body type. For instance:

Pear Shape: Wear an empire waist dress that glides over the lower body with more fabric coverage on top, puff sleeves or long sleeves to even out top and bottom. A little A-line on bottom should do the trick nicely.

Very Petite: Wear a very fitted dress. If it's too loose, you'll look wider than you are tall. A little strapless number fitted with tiny buttons down the back will look lovely.

Full Figure or Apple Shape: This is a tough one, but a bride can look her best in an empire waist dress, with a little seam just beneath the bust with a skirt that glides down in an A-line to cover the tummy.

Top Heavy: A Reverse Pear Shape: This may be the perfect figure that can wear just about anything, but brides must be careful to show the waist because if you don't, you'll look tent-like. Find a gown that's fitted beneath the bust to the waist.

Tall and Thin: So maybe you can never be too thin or too rich, but some string beans don't feel that way. To mask that Twiggy look, go with a skirt with lots of gathers.

2.) Get Great Gifts for the Groom

(Two to Three Months Before Wedding)

Forget ho-hum bridesmaid gifts and give something sensational like a generic purse from Bella Luna. The company can create custom designs to match bridesmaid dresses or simply pick out your girlfriends' favorite color and give the bag to them as a personalized keepsake. You can choose from selection on the Internet like the Victoria from Bella Luna's Princessa Collection. The exquisite lingerie bag is a knockout gorgeous in a cream-ecru

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just doesn't work." He's putting flowers in the ceremony when the bride is veiled. The super stylist has a time between his New York Prive salons, and he's here to do the bride, groom and bridesmaids. Prive at Onza Blvd., Los Angeles.

Super hair energizer. It's ionic hair conditioner. The 20-minute session costs \$40-\$60 and makes your mane oh-so-healthy and shiny looking. Super colorist/hair care expert is a celebrated clientele such as "King of Queens," "That Girl in the City" and Sarah Michelle Gellar. She works at Gavert Salon on Wilton Way, Beverly Hills, you

women want
wedding day
their hair that
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at (626)274-4725 to book
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on Your Fingers and Your Toes (A Week Before)

Manicure and pedicure at least a week before the big event at Genia Foot Spa at the Four Seasons. This talented celebrity nail technician can turn your nails into a work of art. A foot spa session with mani costs \$100, and it's worth it. Genia's Foot Spa at the Four Seasons, 300 S. Doheny Dr., Beverly Hills, (310) 786-2229.

Our eyebrows shaped by the brow-shaper of the stars who has done beautiful brows for lovelies like Madonna, Sarah Jessica Parker, Goldie Hawn and other celebrities. "Getting your brows done professionally is like having half your face done," says Valerie, who charges \$50 for a visit and \$40 for visits thereafter. Beverly Hills, 460 Canon Blvd., (310) 274-7348.

Facial (Three to Four Days