



Q&A

Struggling with a bridalwear problem? WDO's Fashion Editor and team of experts will solve your dilemma



Q My dress is made in a delicate material. Can you recommend any specialist dry cleaners and a way to keep it in good condition after the big day?

A Your wedding dress is probably one of the most expensive items you'll ever buy, so it's important to use a professional dry cleaner who specialises in fabric care. **The Textile Services Association (TSA)** have a number of dry cleaners across the country who will carefully clean the dress to restore the colour and fabric and return it to you in a beautiful box for you to keep (www.tsa-uk.org tel: 020 8863 7755)

Q I'm looking for some wedding shoes in an oyster colour and shoes to match my bridesmaids outfits. Are there any companies who offer a shoe dyeing service?

A Three of the best are **Rainbow Club (01392 207040)**, where you can take your shoes to any number of their stores and have them hand coloured to the desired shade. **John Lewis in Oxford Street, London (08456 049049)** who have a 'rainbow' shoe dyeing department where brides-to-be can select shoes from a large range of styles in ivory, which can then be dyed to the colour of your choice. Finally, **Davina Shoes www.davinashoes.co.uk** also offer an online service for brides, bridesmaids and mother-of-the-bride.

Q We're planning a winter wedding; can you suggest a dress to wear which looks good and keeps me warm?



A Bridalwear designer, **Anita Masseralla (0113 268 7783)** "wear a long sleeved silk velvet dress for a traditional feel, or deep red velvet for a Christmas wedding. For two looks in one, try a fabulous voluminous coat for the ceremony, then take off the outer layer at your reception to reveal a whole new look!"

Q I want to have a vintage look for my wedding, do you have any tips to help me find the perfect style?

A **Astral Sundholm-Hayes from Circa Vintage Brides (www.circabrides.com +44 (0)845 094 1667)** "think about your shape, if you have an hourglass figure then 50's style dresses look great – think Bridget Bardot. For pear shapes try an empire line dress like Elizabeth Taylor and for straight and tall figures look at 20's, 30's and 40's outfits - Lauren Bacall style. For inspiration search the web for hollywood film stars or books like 'Fashion the Century of the Designer 1900-1990' by Charlotte Seeling. If you want to buy a real vintage dress, it will take time, sometimes it has to be altered e.g. 1930's wedding dresses had long tight arms and high necklines. Try having the neck lowered and the sleeves turned into a cap style to transform the dress. Another option is to buy a vintage evening dress and have it altered into a bridal dress.

Q I have very fair skin and the dresses I've tried on make me look pale and washed out. I want a white dress but how can I find the right style and colour for me?

A Fashion and style expert **Michaela Jedinak** has set up a specialist wedding colour consultancy (www.joyofcolour.com) after her own recent wedding; "finding the right white depends on skin tone, hair and eye colour. Make sure your hair will be the same colour when you buy your dress as on your wedding day. Age is another factor, if you're 20, a bright white will look great and if you're older a paler shade is softer. Finding the right colour and fabrics for your body shape is also important, light colours and silks reflect the bits you want to hide but velvets and thicker fabrics in darker shades of white are more forgiving!" To have a colour analysis simply log onto the website and answer a simple questionnaire. Michaela will then find the perfect white for your skintone as well as the right colours for your bridesmaids too!