

18.

INVITATIONS

DIY Wedding Invitations:
Save Money, Stay Classy

20.

WEDDING ANXIETY Perfect NLP Remedy For Wedding Day Anxiety

22.

WEDDING DAY BEAUTY: Bridal Makeup Trends

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O4.
FINANCES
How To Have An
Affordable Wedding

12.
WEDDING PHOTOS
Take Your Wedding Album
To The Next Level

08. FLOWERS Beach Themed Wedding Flowers

HA.

BRIDAL GOWN
SILHOUETTES
Fit & Flare





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FOCUS ON WHAT MATTERS

There might be some things at your wedding that are non-negotiable, so try and make a list of all of them. After you've done this, you can go on to look for cheaper substitutes. For example, do you really need a big fancy cake? If not, you can easily get a nice store-bought one. Do you need fresh flowers? If you don't need specific flowers from a specific florist, shop around your local sellers to see what they offer.

Pictured:

A garland of greenery with small bouquets of store bought flowers in borrowed vases of different sizes.





DON'T BUY BRAND-NEW

Perhaps the best tip of all. Stay away from buying brand-new things for your wedding. One of the ways that you can do this is by buying second-hand, gently-used items from other people. There are dedicated sites and apps for this, but you can just as easily find items in places like Facebook Market-place.

Another way you can avoid buying brand-new is by renting items. You can rent pretty much anything from tables and chairs to flowers and lights.

And finally, you can always get things from people who are looking to declutter/give away items. A great place to look for items in this scenario would be from friends and family, or Facebook groups. You'd be surprised by what people want to give away!

Pictured: Borrowed lanterns









Many couples choose to have both a color scheme and theme for their weddings. They often select a theme that reflects their interests, personalities and lives together. One such theme is a beach theme. Some couples are inspired by their travels together. When using a theme for your wedding, you will want any decorations and accessories to tie in with this theme.

Flowers are one form of decoration used at a wedding, as they are used for the bridal party and to decorate wedding venues. If you opt for a beach themed wedding and want some beach design inspiration for your bouquet and floral decorations, here are some ideas.



Bouquet Colors

One way you can tie in the design of your bouquet with a beach-themed wedding is to choose beach-themed colors. You can use the same colors for the rest of the bridal party and the table decorations!

Colors often associated with the beach are blues and yellows. The blues represent the sea and sky, while shades of yellow represent the sun and sand. However, these are not the only colors you can use, as the grays of rocks and green shades of the water are also good options.

If you cannot get flowers in your preferred shades, then you can use dyed artificial flowers. Alternatively, opt for white or cream flowers and accessorize your bouquet with colored fabrics or beach-related items.





Materials for Bouquets and Floral Decorations

Fresh flowers are the traditional option for wedding flowers, although there are other materials that you can use in your design to reflect your beach theme.

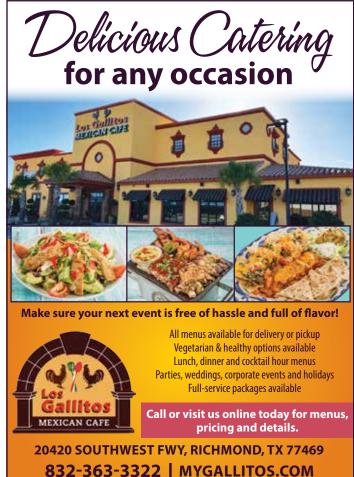
There are many natural materials that you can incorporate into your bouquet that lend themselves to a beach design. Many natural flowers and sea grasses grow along the coast, and you can incorporate these into the design. You can also dry, dye, or spray sea grasses to fit in with the design that you have in mind for your bouquet.

Another option is to source materials directly from the beach. An alternative to having a floral display on the table is to use glass jars filled with sand, pebbles and shells.

Finally, take inspiration for your design by visiting the beach, looking through travel brochures, and reading other bridal magazines. These should all help inspire you to design a truly unique bouquet and floral decorations that will perfectly fit your beach theme, making you proud to carry your bouquet down the aisle.











You'll never regret spending the extra money to hire a professional wedding photographer to capture every moment of your wedding day. These are the memories you'll look back on for years to come, sharing them with your children and even your grandchildren.

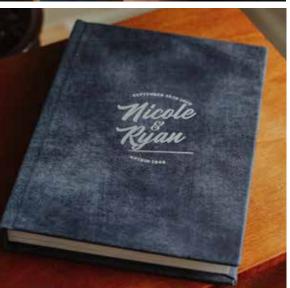
But the daunting task of scrolling through hundreds—if not thousands—of images the photographer has sent you can be overwhelming. And you realize that a DIY online wedding album is not going to be as quick or easy as you had anticipated.

The solution: Enlist the help of a pro to create a professionally designed artisan wedding album that you'll be proud of.

story. They curate and professionally edit the images, assemble the book and request your input and final approval.

Artisan wedding albums are a worthwhile investment—they protect expensive photos using museum-quality ink and paper and are handcrafted. They are a truly priceless keepsake.





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Artisan wedding albums were once considered a luxury item, but now they are viewed as essential. It's the ideal way to protect, beautify and memorialize your precious photos.

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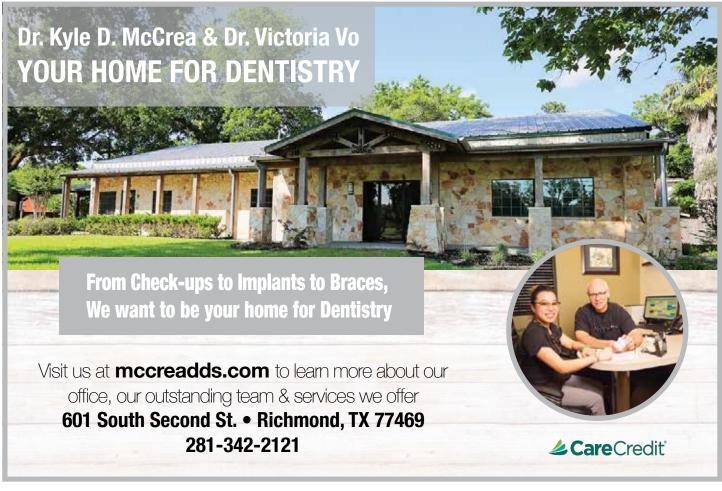
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When it comes to bridal style, the options may seem endless, and indeed they can be without a good starting point and some clear direction. Knowing what you don't want can be just as useful as knowing what you do want, so brides should definitely be encouraged to fine-tune their wedding checklist by whittling down contenders for a final wedding gown choice as early as possible. This will allow for all necessary fittings and alterations to be done in time to have the perfect look. With so many styles and silhouettes available, it's important to know what works for various body types. Something as versatile as the fit-and-flare silhouette is a good place to begin!



The fit-and-flare silhouette is one of the most popular choices when it comes to bridal gowns, most likely because it suits a range of body shapes, sizes and proportions. This silhouette works well to flatter the figure without being as restrictive or revealing as other silhouettes such as the mermaid or trumpet styles, which tend to be fitted to hug the body. The fit-and-flare is also a comfortable alternative to these styles, with the fitted part of the gown being around the hips and buttocks and the flare starting at a higher point on the thigh, allowing for ease of movement when walking, sitting or dancing.

This silhouette works on brides who would like to show off their curves, or those who want a softer flare to mask where they may not be as shapely. The starting point of the flare is higher than that of a mermaid gown, providing a softer flare angle which makes this silhouette suitable for petite brides or those whose figures may not be evenly proportioned vertically—that is, a longer torso and shorter legs, or a short torso and longer legs. Softer silhouette lines keep the eyes of the viewer traveling across the body, rather than creating a focal point that could draw attention where it is unwanted on the bride's body. This silhouette is a 'safe' option for brides who may be confused or unsure of what works best on their own body.

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Planning is your best protection against the unexpected.





Wedding invitations are an early expense when it comes to getting married, and often times they come into play before the wedding is fully financed. Don't fret! You still have options, even when you're on a shoestring budget and need to make an impression to family and friends. Think of your invitations as an opportunity to let your creativity shine instead of a stress-inducing obligation. Use these ideas to kick start your own imagination and come up with invites that express you and your future spouse, all while saving money for other important aspects of your wedding.

THE BASIC PRINT-AT-HOME INVITATION

Who says you need to spend a ton of money ordering your invitations from a professional printer? Visit a stationary shop, purchase some fancy paper or card stock, and print your invitations and RSVP cards at home. Most word processing programs have templates for 2-up, 4-up and 8-up prints (2, 4, and 8 copies per page, respectively). For even and straight cutting, head to your nearest library—most of them have paper cutters that you can use free of charge. A local print shop may charge a minimal fee, but it's worth it to have a professional cut.

WEDDING LOGO STAMPED INVITES

Do you have a monogram or a wedding logo that will appear on your invites, placeholders and wedding favors? Have it made into a rubber stamp! Custom rubber stampers usually run under \$25 and can be used for years to come. Go for a metallic stamp pad and you have a brilliant accent to an otherwise plain ink-and-paper invitation.





BACKDROP FRAMED INVITATIONS

In order to liven up plain-paper printed invites, consider placing them on a backdrop. Use something patterned that is either aesthetically appealing or means something to you and your fiance, such as wrapping paper, sheet music, pages from your favorite book, or even the comics page in the newspaper—whatever suits your imagery for the wedding will work. Glue the backdrop onto a piece of heavy card stock and use a paper cutter to cut it down to size. Then, glue your smaller printed invitation in the center. The backdrop will create a beautiful, personalized frame.



WEDDING TICKETS

Are you and your fiance sports, theater or music fans? Why not design your invitations like tickets to your favorite events? All you need is card stock, a printer and a handheld perforator (usually under \$10 at a craft supply store). Design your wedding tickets with an RSVP "stub," and use the perforator to make it easily detachable. Hint: cash envelopes from a bank are the perfect size to mail these kitschy invites. If you ask at the teller window, they may just give them to you!



FORTUNE TELLER ORIGAMI INVITES

Everyone remembers those little paper fortune teller toys that they made in class throughout middle school. Why not relive your youth with a creative wedding invite? Each flap can house different information about your big day. This one may take a bit of trial-and-error with your printer, but once you get it down, they're super easy to assemble, fold flat and mail off for a nostalgic twist on a traditional wedding invitation.



PERFECT REMEDY FOR WEDDING DAY ANXIETY

BY BRIDGET WEBBER

WEDDING DAY ANXIETY MIGHT GET THE BETTER OF YOU AS THE BIG DAY APPROACHES. IT'S COMMON TO EXPERIENCE THE JITTERS BEFORE YOU TIE THE KNOT. EVEN IF YOU'RE A BRIDESMAID OR THE BEST MAN, YOU MIGHT NOT ESCAPE NERVOUSNESS. THERE ARE EXPECTATIONS TO MEET AND PREPARATIONS TO MAKE, AND THE ATTENTION AND WORKLOAD CAN OVERWHELM. USE THIS EASY TECHNIQUE TO CURTAIL STRESS AND HELP YOU RELAX IF YOU ARE ANXIOUS ABOUT THE WEDDING. YOU CAN PERFORM IT IN PRIVATE AND IT'S PERFECT FOR PRE-WEDDING NERVES.

WHAT IS NLP?

Neuro-linguistic programming, also known as NLP, can help you adopt fresh, helpful thought patterns and revise your emotional state to promote calm as the wedding approaches. It employs simple, potent language to interact with the subconscious. Here's how to use it to purge your wedding day anxiety.

HOW TO STOP WEDDING DAY ANXIETY

Queasy? Where do you identify this feeling in your body? Once you find it, explore it so you know it inside and out. What is its size and shape? How would you describe it to a curious friend? It might be small and spiky, or large and smooth, for example.

Study the trajectory of the phenomenon. It may be vertical, horizontal, clockwise or counterclockwise, for instance. Or it might flow like waves, slide around or throb. Focus on the sensation as it proceeds along its course for a few minutes.

Now change the sensation's texture and shape with your imagination.

Make it a smooth, straight arrow and let it point where it prefers to go.

Turn the arrow red and observe it leave your body and loiter in front of you. Without delay, change the color of the arrow to blue, reverse its path and contemplate a feel-good subject.

You might think of a much-loved pet, a vacation, or a happy memory of time spent with someone you love. After a minute, look to the side of where you sit, lie or stand. Then look forward. Repeat the practice until it's easy to do and you can flip your wedding nerves to composure in an instant.

Don't let wedding day anxiety overpower you and spoil the celebration. Whenever you note anxiety rise, use the NLP technique and banish it. Your skill will grow every time you practice, so it will get easier and become your go-to anti-stress tool until it's no longer needed.





Your

Bath

Specialis

ecor on a Dime owner Louise Ostrander met Teri Gilberg (better known as the Re-Modelista) through a client. "My client was using Teri to remodel her kitchen," says Louise. "She asked me to help verify her backsplash and paint choices. I had read about the Remodelista and I wanted to meet her, so my client set us up. Teri told me she hates what I do (design and decor). I told her I hate what she does (executing projects). So we struck up a deal and we've

referred clients to each other ever since!" So when Louise and her husband Dan bought their fixer upper dream home "as is," there was no question who would do the remodeling: Teri! "You name it, we did it. We remodeled the entire house from top to bottom," says Louise. "We broke walls, took out a step down, reconfigured the kitchen, painted cabinets, put in all new doors, installed all new lighting. retextured the walls, added all new plumbing fixtures and put in new countertops in the kitchen and baths. Plus we painted every single surface. This was the first time Teri did work for me personally. She is a tough cookie but a great joy to work with. When we started the project, we walked through the house. Room by room, Teri created a detailed line item bid. She was very honest. She let us know in the beginning that demo-ing an entire house is rough. Each time we got the deer-in-theheadlights look, Teri was very reassuring. She let us know that when it's all done, when the dust is settled, we'd have but a small memory of this. I loved that we had her to fall back on. When things changed, as they inevitably do when remodeling, she would always call and come over to talk. She is responsive and a team player. Christian Galvan was the foreman in charge of our project. He was also great to work with as Teri's right hand man. The entire crew became like family!"

While Teri and her crew worked on Louise and Dan's dream home, Louise worked her magic in her previous home. "As I do for my clients, I staged my home with only existing items." Louise and Dan's Sugar Land home of 25 years

sold in less than two weeks.
They moved their belongings to storage and lived with her mother. On "move day," the Ostranders were surprised. "It was a Sunday," says Louise. "But Teri and her crew showed up! We didn't expect them, but they were out there ready to help. They rolled up their sleeves and got it done. I was blown away!"

"I give my clients choices when recommending contractors," says Louise. "Teri is always a choice, and she sells herself. This experience has provided me the certainty that when I recommend Teri, she will take care of my clients. She always does what she says she is going to do."

Visit "Decor on a Dime by Louise Ostrander on Facebook or schedule a room by room consultation by contacting Louise at louostrander@comcast.net.

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Doubtless, you will choose your bridal makeup with care because it's your big day, signaling a new chapter of your life. Later, when you study your cherished nuptial snaps, you'll be happy to note your appearance was just as you hoped it would be, and that you look beautiful. Here are several bridal beauty trends to help you shine.





Natural and Fresh

Many brides opt for a youthful, dewy appearance. For a natural look, avoid caking on foundation and matte powder. Choose a moisturizing base with reflective particles or a luminous foundation. If you don't need much coverage, opt for a good quality cream, and just dab concealer over blemishes and under the eye circles before blending. Apply a neutral mineral powder, lightly dusting it over your T-zone, which is across the forehead, over the nose, and down to the chin. Too much powder will ruin a dewy look.

Even professional makeup artists sometimes find it hard to perfect a dewy appearance with cosmetics, so practice before your

wedding day. Experiment with different products, and see whether primer helps or hinders the process.

Consider the humidity of your surroundings on your wedding day, as it can impact your makeup. Although you want to avoid heavy matte makeup, keep face powder close at hand. You'll be glad to have it if you get hot and shiny. Opt for natural, groomed brows, rose pink lips and blush, and mascara to complete your natural bridal makeup.

Glamorous and Smoky-eyed

The foxy, smoky-eyed bridal trend remains popular. The key to making it work is to use a simple base with a dusting of highlighter and pay extra attention to making your eye makeup and lipstick bold. Wing out upper eyeliner and blend shadow outwards with an angled brush. Apply plenty of mascara to outer lashes to create added lift too.

Make your eyebrows bold and defined. Then use a bluered, as opposed to orange-red, toned lipstick. Shape your lips with a liner, and then a brush lathered in your chosen lipstick shade. Blot your lips before filling them in until they are bold and beautiful.

Whether you choose a bridal makeup trend that shimmers, freshens, or turns you into a glamorous vixen, you can look beautiful on your wedding day. Check what works for you before your nuptials, and you'll glow with confidence.

Shimmer and Shine

Shimmer eyeshadow can make you sparkle on your wedding day. Elegant pink lid shimmer is a top bridal trend, along with a smooth makeup base, mascara, and a touch of highlighter on browbones and cheekbones. Lips are nude and glossy, and brows are simple and defined rather than heavy.

Other shimmering eyeshadow bridal trends include amber, gold, taupe and bronze. The best shade for you depends on your eye and hair color and how dramatic you like your makeup.

Choose shimmer eyeshadow that's not chunky. If you spot single particles in an eyeshadow, beware. They sometimes look like white spots in photographs. A micro-fine shimmer, though, looks flattering. Apply it at the corners of your eyes or on your lids around the center of your eyes. Remember to hold a tissue under your eyes during the application, to ensure none drops onto your face.







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