

## Ornate trains follow romance trend Open-backed dresses win approval

By Sara Bauder  
Staff Reporter

A traditional full-skirted wedding gown with emphasis on the train and back of the bodice is the most popular choice of brides, said the owner of a Lincoln bridal shop.

Joyce Jacobs, owner-manager of J'Maries's Bridal Shoppe, 1404 N. 66 St. Suite 405, said most of her customers want gowns with an open back, or a back covered with sheer netting and ornamental lace, pearl or sequin accents. She said trains are receiving a lot of attention from her customers.

Kathleen Nider, owner-manager of K-Ann's Bridal Village, 4642 Baldwin Ave., agreed with Jacobs, saying that brides are looking for long, wide trains with a lot of ornamentation.

Both Nider and Jacobs said satin is the most popular fabric choice for the wedding gowns.

"We still sell a few of the taffeta gowns, but satin is really the biggest seller," Nider said.

Jacobs said most customers want the traditional full-skirted wedding gown with a basque waist, although some prefer sheath or mermaid styles. She said full skirts can disguise larger hips because of the way the material flows and also make waists look smaller.

The sheath style has a narrow, straight skirt with a detachable train, while the mermaid style has a straight skirt with a flounce at the bottom.

The sheath is selling stronger than the mermaid styles this year,



Millie Becker's Creative Weddings & Floral Designs offers custom designed hats, hair pieces and veils.

Jacobs said.

Nider said that for second weddings, about half of her customers choose tea-length gowns in ivory or white, while the rest want the traditional, full-skirted, long gown.

Jacobs said most brides are looking for an elaborate dress.

"They are really looking for the pearling on the dresses," she said. "They also like the sequins, which give a kind of 'moonlight on fresh-fallen snow' sparkle to the dress."

Nider said that although some of her customers like to look at wedding gowns in pale pinks, most of them still choose white. She said about half of the customers choose short, puffed sleeves and the other half choose long sleeves.

Jacobs said headpieces are one item of bridal apparel that have really changed this year.

"With the backs of the gowns being so highly decorated, most girls are going with short veils," she said.

Headbands that come to a pointed 'v' shape in front and have a pouf of netting have been very popular, as

have tiara headpieces and Juliet caplets, Jacobs said.

Nider said some brides are still looking at hats, but most want the shorter, waist-length veil or pouf headpieces.

Jewelry is an important bridal accessory this year, according to Jacobs and Nider.

"The girls that come in here are looking for huge earrings, usually with big pearls worn as drops or clusters," Jacobs said. "We see both rhinestone and pearl necklaces, but pearls are more popular."

Nider said that because of the extravagant pearling and beading on gowns, jewelry is often needed to complete the bridal look.

Although a few women wear satin bridal slippers with no heels, most look for white satin pumps with about a 1 1/2-inch heel, Nider said. She said most of her brides do not ask about decorative shoe clips, but regard them as an unnecessary expense.

## Months of planning bring jitters, worries and a 'perfect' day

The setting for this service could be anywhere: an altar at the church, a corner of the court house, a garden at the park.

"Friends, we are meeting here amid the beauty of nature and in the presence of God to unite this jittery man and this terrified woman in holy marriage."

Not exactly how the script is read, but pretty close to the real-life drama of those special wedding moments.

understand instructions on how to plan a perfect wedding -- step by step. As an added bonus, it contained a sheet of "perk-up stickers" to mark those special days and help me remember when to make the bags of rice or when to get our blood tests. Even when to choose our rings.

Real memory-savers, there. They looked so cute, but my busy fingers never touched a one. Instead, I made myself a three-page list of all the things to do.

With lots of nervousness and apprehension, somehow, my planning method worked.

And then the perfect day had finally come.

From sunrise on, we hung balloons, made the punch, taped the crepe, moved the chairs, set the tables and hung balloons . . . until the day was finally done.

Until it all was perfect. Then I started stewing. What if my hair turns out frizzy, my eyeliner runs, or I trip down the stairs?

We all were worried. Mike was worried. His mom was worried. My maid of honor was worried.

Even my two carefree daughters -- then 8 and 9 -- were anxious about the perfect day. Particularly, the part about the stairs.

In fact, my oldest daughter's worries did come true. She tripped a bit during the wedding procession.

Afterward, she told me, for my information: "I thought it was a pretty stupid idea to go down the stairs, Mom."

"I tripped," she pouted.

But by then, the ritual was finished, we were married, and all my wedding worries had faded. I smoothed my daughter's hairsprayed locks and told her not to worry.

Everything was perfect. Schepers is a senior news-editorial major and a Daily Nebraskan columnist.



C. J. Schepers

The good truth is that after months and months of planning what to wear, where to meet, what to eat and what to spend, the end result is universally the same: a nervous bride and groom about to make themselves a spectacle of love's intentions.

The Wedding Day. A day that, whether dreamed of all your life or not, inevitably becomes the most important day of your life. A day that must be perfect. A day where nothing can go wrong.

Gulp. A day that must be perfect? I started planning right away.

First I started hunting for the gown. I needed something white that fit my comfort, fit my style and fit my budget. It took me several weeks of constant shopping before I found the one. The perfect one.

A beaded bodice graced my torso. A flowing charmeuse satin skirt draped itself upon my hips.

I know. I know. Gag.

But, it was, of course, perfect. Then I bought a Wedding Planner for the Bride-To-Be; all with easy-to-

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