

Bride must consider budget when selecting invitations

Etiquette books insist that there is no substitute for the engraved wedding invitation, but this practice often conflicts with the bride-to-be's budget.

There are two types of printing ordered as alternate to engraving. One provides flat lettering, the other, raised, glossy lettering. The raised is usually more popular.

It is estimated that for the first 100 invitations the average engraved card is about twice as much as the printed card. This includes the price of the engraving plate, so that the price of engraving the second 100 drops close to the price of printing. Price is premium cards, flat or raised, remains the same.

Etiquette authorities prescribe the plain folded card of off white high quality paper, with the invitation carefully spaced and centered on the first page.

Two sizes are popular: the larger size requiring a fold before insertion in the inner envelope. Many prefer the smaller size as it is cheaper and some people do not like the fold in the larger type.

Popular designs include invitations designed like a booklet with an embossed design, usually embossed in silver or gold on the cover and the invitation printed inside. Another design is the liturgical card, embossed

with a religious symbol on the cover.

Etiquette authorities suggest that if the same list is to be invited to both the wedding and reception the invitation can be combined by adding the words "and afterward at . . ." and "please reply".

Engravers feel, however, that this causes an invitation to look crowded, and they suggest a separate card for a breakfast, dinner or reception. Printed invitations often combine the sending and reception invitations by putting the reception invitation in the lower left hand corner in smaller type.

REDUCE COST

This, again, is done to reduce cost. It is also done because for many morning weddings, which have an evening reception, separate card is printed to include a breakfast or dinner, and brides feel one separate card is enough.

The enclosed reply card, an item which has leaped into popularity in recent years, is still frowned upon by etiquette authorities; however, the reason for its inclusion lies with the guest rather than the bride.

Many families, even though they know the form is incorrect, insist upon the reply card because they have been told people today ignore the obligation to reply, even though they see an RSVP or "please reply" on the card.

A bride on a budget may have read this far and say to herself, "I know what is proper but I can't afford it. What should I do?"

There are two choices open to her. The first is to order an engraved invitation in a style of engraving which is less expensive.

More than the script form commonly used today.

If this is still too expensive it is recommended to use raised printing on the best paper card afford.

Invitations serve a dual purpose, because, for distant friends and relatives who could not possibly attend, they become announcements of the marriage. They can also be used successfully with a churchful of guests for the ceremony, and only a fraction of them invited to the reception.

For the very small wedding with few guests, it is customary to send out invitations at all, but following the ceremony, to mail an announcement card. It is common practice to include an "at home" card in the invitation which is sent a present or write a note expressing pleasure at the news of the marriage.



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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 final fitting on your gown and have your wedding portrait taken. Also, arrange for the bridesmaids' dresses to be fitted.

Order your wedding cake and the packages of groom's gifts. Check the caterer and decide on the reception menu. By this you should be able to give a good estimate of the number of guests. See your florist, plan your music and arrange for your rehearsal dinner. If you plan to have one, arrange to put up out of town guests.

Know the ceremony procedure and tell the photographer which pictures you wish to have taken and whether there are particular people to be included.

Invitations should be mailed. They should be received three weeks before the wedding. Prepare the newspaper announcement to your wedding.

TWO WEEKS BEFORE Check the clothing and accessories for the wedding party. Record each gift as received, and write a thank you note. Have final check with the caterer and arrange a seating plan for the reception, writing out the place cards if you plan to have a bride's table. Go over your personal trousseau and send your typed announcements and dressy photographs to the newspaper.

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