your gown or suit! outfit your wedding party; find your accessories; SELECT YOUR MENU and your cake; CHOOSE AN OFFICIANT and plan your ceremony; SEND OUT THOSE INVITATIONS; don’t forget postage! FINALIZE YOUR GUEST COUNT call up those stragglers, as needed; GET MARRIED and have some champagne!

**Contents**

preface introduction PART ONE the big picture 1. first things first 2. a vision in white . . . or blue . . . or blush . . .

PART TWO planning and logistics 3. laying the groundwork (12+ MONTHS OUT) 4. spreading the news (9 TO 11 MONTHS OUT) 5. booking before it & 8217; s too late (9 TO 11 MONTHS OUT) 6. additional vendors and big-ticket items (6 TO 8 MONTHS OUT) 7. in the thick of it (4 TO 5 MONTHS OUT) 8. parties and gifts (2 TO 3 MONTHS OUT) 9. finalizing key decisions (1 MONTH OUT) 10. tying up loose ends (1 WEEK OUT) PART THREE the big day and beyond 11. tying the knot 12. happily ever after acknowledgments APPENDIX A sample timelines (checklists) APPENDIX B contracts and negotiation resources credits

Preface Planning a wedding is no easy feat. I should know. I’ve helped plan so many that I’m pretty much a professional bridesmaid . . . But it was the first wedding I helped plan that changed everything. It was 2010, and my sister Leila asked me to be her maid of honor. We were already working together at Be Inspired, the L.A.-based wedding PR agency she had founded, so between our understanding of the industry and her connections, we expected the planning process to be a cinch. We were so wrong. I spent hours and hours in front of my laptop, searching for creative shower themes and bachelorette ideas, hunting for bridesmaid dresses everyone might actually like, wondering how on earth to DIY vintage vineyard details on a budget. As I clicked through Google search pages and copied and pasted links to my running list, I thought: If it’s this hard for Leila and me, how much more are other brides and grooms struggling? I 160; want more from loverly? head to loverlybook.com to unlock exclusive tips and advice from kellee So, one month after my sister said & 8220;I do,& 8221; I packed my bags and headed to New York City, where I poured my heart (and post-college savings) into building a platform for modern couples that would make wedding planning easier and more fun. On Valentine’s Day of 2012, Loverly was launched. What’s Loverly? I like to think of it as your new wedding BFF, helping you get inspired, plan, and shop for the big day. On our website, you’ll find ideas and inspiration from the wedding industry’s most stylish and skilled bloggers and photographers, which can be saved, organized, and shared. You can shop original wedding-worthy products at every price point, from gowns and décor to gifts and more. Use our handy tools to create a custom wedding website, or plan away with our easy-peasy checklists and budget calculator. And of course, read up on the latest and greatest planning advice, tips, and etiquette, straight from the Loverly Editorial Team. We believe the planning process should be inspiring and exciting and that your big day should be perfectly you all about black tie or totally into cowboy boots, and whether you want to embrace tradition or break all the rules. This book will walk you through everything you need to know about getting married today, because a lot has changed over the years and we’ve been keeping up. So, why not let us be your professional bridesmaid? From our website, to our app, to this helpful new guide, we’ve got you totally covered from & 8220;yes& 8221; straight through to happily ever after. Are you ready? Create an account on Lover.ly so we can pretty up your inbox with weekly news and tips, and start reading. You got this! xo, Kellee Jose Villa Photography (top); Christina Lilly Photography (bottom) Rachel Solomon introduction Congratulations& 8212; you’re engaged! You & 8217; re one step closer to spending the rest of your life with your other half, and that is an amazing step for you and your partner. Pop some bubbly or kick back with some friends. This is a moment worth savoring. Once you’re done sharing the news and posting about it online, it’s time to start planning your wedding, which will surely be an exciting, celebratory, and, yes, sometimes stressful task. Orchestrating a huge event for your nearest and dearest might seem overwhelming, but with this book to guide you, you’ll be able to enjoy the process and focus on what’s really important: creating a day that will truly reflect you as a couple. No matter what you’ve seen in wedding magazines or assumed from checking out blogs, your day can be as traditional or as offbeat as you want it to be. By maintaining your own vision and shaking off the
social pressure to include details that simply don’t speak to you, you’ll create a wedding that’s as unique as you are. That’s the point after all; to celebrate you two! In this book, you'll find step-by-step assistance with the logistics, from start to finish. You must know information about each phase of the planning process. Practical month-by-month timelines to make planning easier. Insightful, encouraging, nonjudgmental advice to assist you along the way. Troy Grover Photographers chapter one first things first The next few months are going to be some of the most exciting of your relationship thus far. Not only are you getting married, but you’re also planning an awesome party to celebrate with everyone you love. If you’ve never planned an event this large before, you might find this process a tiny bit nerve-racking. There’s going to be some pressure to make this one day the most memorable and beautiful of your life. There’s also the realization that you have to make a billion decisions, down to what stemware to rent for the champagne toast. Take a deep breath and remember: Your wedding is about you and your partner’s promise to love and cherish each other for the rest of your lives. It’s about a life-changing commitment, not the decisions and worries that come during wedding planning. Your day would be awesome even if it were just the two of you and someone to officiate. And really, all stemware clinks the same, so whichever style you choose will be perfect. A blissful engagement Being engaged is a happy, celebratory time, a calm before the storm of wedding planning, if you will. Take this time to enjoy each other, show off your new bling (if that’s your style), and start talking about the next stage of your life. Giving yourselves this breathing room will set you up for less intense and more unified months of planning. One aspect to being engaged that you might have already encountered is that people (friends, family members, even randoms you don’t know) will be so excited by your news that you’ll find yourself fielding a lot of unsolicited advice and questions. (As in, “Please tell me you’re not having a destination wedding and OMG when are you going to set a date already?!”) The best way to handle them? Smile—it keeps you from biting the person’s head off—and simply say that you have it covered. On the bright side, you may also choose to have an engagement party soon after the question is popped. Usually a parent hosts this party, but don’t be afraid to let any member of your family or close friends volunteer. Anyone can throw a soiree in your honor, and the party is often held where the couple lives. The event doesn’t need to be an over-the-top celebration: It’s really just a chance for your nearest and dearest to congratulate you in person and show their support.

To find inspiration for every element of your wedding, check out our inspiration section at lover.ly. To find inspiration for every element of your wedding, check out our inspiration section at lover.ly/wedding-inspiration. Engagement announcements After the question is popped, you’ll want to share your happy news with everyone! But before you change your relationship status on Facebook or post a selfie flashing your new bling, take a peek at these tips. Be sure to tell VIPs offline. Before making any sweeping announcements online, first tell your parents, siblings, and BFFs the news. Then, call or text any other super-close family and friends to let them know you’re engaged, depending on your level of closeness or preferred method of communicating with them. Decide how you want to share the news. Some couples simply change their Facebook relationship statuses from to &; for a subtler announcement, while others post a photo (or video) of the big moment itself on their social media accounts. Still others might go the traditional route with an announcement in the local newspaper. Do what you feel most comfortable with; it’s your big news! Get creative. Yes, you can simply post a photo of your new bling on your social media accounts, but if you want to share the news in a fun way, play to your personalities. You might consider snapping a post-engagement selfie of both of you (using a popular hashtag like #SoLoverly, #HeSaidYes, or #SheSaidYes). You could even take a cute photo of, say, your dog with a sign displaying your news, create a photo collage, or even draw a comic strip. Wedding blogs and websites; including our own; have tons of fun ideas to inspire you. Advance notice necessary While it’s great to postpone planning a bit to enjoy being engaged, there are a few elements that will need your attention at least nine months in advance; even longer if you live in a busy city or plan to purchase items that cannot be rushed at the last minute, such as a
designer wedding gown. Jot a few of these deadlines into your calendar, if only so you can stay as worry-free as possible once you get into the thick of planning. Tackle the following to-dos right away if you're tying the knot in less than a year:

**Venue:** Depending on the city you're planning to get married in, some venues book up over a year in advance. (Unbelievable, right?) If there's a particular location in which you're hoping to wed, call the place ASAP to find out how soon you will need to reserve a date. Some venues even have online calendars that show their availability for events.

**Budget:** Deciding who's paying for what—and how much you have to spend—may be easy for some couples, but it's typically a bit tricky for most. Before booking anything (or settling on your wedding vision), it's important to get a sense of the money situation.

**Dress:** Many designer gowns are made-to-order, and this process can take months. While you'll wind up with a truly one-of-a-kind dress, it may also be a bit unnerving if you find your dream gown but realize it won't be ready in time for you to actually wear it. If you have your eye on a particular dress, call or email the store or designer and ask for a timeline. And don't forget that alterations can take a couple of months, too.

**Photographer:** Having professional wedding photos is usually a must for couples. Make sure the pros in your area aren't all booked up; and ensure that you find someone with a style you love by securing photography early on.

**Religious requirements:** Depending on your faith, you may need to attend marriage classes before you make things official (you or your partner may even want to convert). Therefore, if you're going to have a religious ceremony, be sure to check with them as soon as you can to confirm availability.

**Travel:** These days, people fly in from all over the country (and world) to attend nuptials. If you know that many of your closest friends and family members will likely need to book travel (flights, hotels, and so on) and arrange for time off from work to attend your wedding, try to set a date and share the information with these special people as soon as possible so they can start researching their options.

**Honeymoon:** For couples who want to take large-scale vacations post-wedding, getting a jump on planning is important. Around-the-world plane tickets and African safaris, for example, will need to be booked well in advance of your actual travel dates.

**ETIQUETTE PRIMER**

As you can imagine, there are quite a few traditions associated with weddings. At this stage, it's important to be in the know about a few key etiquette points before you jump into planning. Speaking of budgets: Those who pay usually have more say; if your parents are paying for most or all of your wedding, be aware that they may feel that they have earned the right to dictate certain details or can veto ideas they don't like. The well-organized planner staying organized is a must while wedding planning; if only for your own sanity. First of all, you'll have tons of paperwork like contracts, proposals, menus, timelines, and other documents you'll want to have in order. Plus, as you start buying and organizing items (as well as things like stationery, bridal party gifts, and favors, if you so choose), you'll need to organize those items as well.

**REAL COUPLES SPEAK**

"Our entire office in our home was filled floor to ceiling for nearly a year with perfectly labeled boxes full of our wedding décor. Everything was labeled by table and by ‘zone.’ It definitely looked a little crazy, but Natasha was super organized and executed everything perfectly." – Natasha and Greg

The following tips will help you keep everything streamlined, yet accessible, during your planning process:

1. Keep all of your important info organized in one physical place. You don't necessarily need to buy an actual wedding-themed planning binder (unless you want to), but it's nice to have hard copies of all of your contracts and proposals in one place. Print everything out, hole-punch them, and separate the documents by vendor using tabbed dividers. This way, if your parents are paying or just want to be involved, it's easy to show them all documentation. Plus, for some people, it's simply easier to flip through a physical binder than it is to check through a digital file.
through printed-out docs rather than searching for files on a computer. A helpful tool for staying organized is Google Docs, which will allow you to collect all of your information in one place online, accessible from any computer. 2. Take advantage of programs and apps that make it easy to stay organized when you're on-the-go or sharing information with others. Online file management tools like Google Docs and Dropbox allow you to share and edit important files, whether you're finalizing your menu with the caterer or inputting items into the budget with your parents. Mobile apps like Trello and Evernote make it easy to schedule (and remember) appointments and keep track of to-do lists with your wedding planning crew. The helpful thing about all of these tools is that they allow you to store and update different information in digital workspaces that are accessible from any computer or smartphone. So if you're traveling before the wedding, live in a different city from your parents, or are having a destination wedding, you can easily stay organized and connected throughout your planning. 3. If you're planning to start a fitness or healthy eating program before the wedding, an app like MyFitnessPal can track your progress. And of course, if you want one tool that organizes all of your wedding-related plans, then sites like Loverly and WeddingWire offer a few different app options, from one that helps you find your wedding gown to another that assists you with venue searching. The WeddingWire website is great for reading vendor reviews, too. 4. Organize your physical space early on by compiling décor and other wedding items in their boxes. To keep them organized, label them by area or type (e.g., ‘Welcome Table;’ ‘Favors’). This way, nothing will get lost and you will have an easy time transporting the items to the venue (and setting them up) when the day comes. Also, because these boxes are easy to stack, you won't have a random pile of wedding stuff overwhelming your home; and stressing you out! 5. Keep tabs on your inspiration and decorating ideas using pin boards or online tools. On Loverly, we have a bundling feature that makes it easy to select and save your favorite wedding planning ideas as you figure out your vision for the big day. Once you've created a Loverly bundle of your favorite ideas and inspiration, you can share it with the people you're collaborating with, like your vendors or your planner. Amazon also offers a plug-in where you can save any item you find online to a Wish List. It's a great tool when you're researching everything from registry items to favor ideas and want to keep it all in one place. Once you install the plug-in for your browser, all you have to do is click a button and that particular item will save to your list. Then, when you want to purchase, the link is right there.

To find out more on lover.ly head over to lover.ly/wedding-inspiration and download our mobile app for your iOS or Android device. THE PROCRASTINATOR'S FAQ

What if I still need a venue; and most are either unavailable or over-budget?
Think outside the box: Look into getting married at your parents; house or at a private home that can be rented out, a restaurant or bar, art galleries or museums that can be used after-hours, or public parks (although you might need a permit) where guests can gather. Also, don't forget that you can always get hitched at city hall. Remember: There's going to be so much love in the room, wherever you are will feel special.

What happens if I can't find a caterer?
Many restaurants offer catering services with menus that are more expansive than what they typically serve at their establishments.

What if I haven't found a dress and there's no time to go through a designer? And what if I need bridesmaids' dresses, too?
You can look into purchasing a gown from a sample store or trunk show, or buy an off-the-rack white gown at a department store. Major retailers like J.Crew and Ann Taylor now sell bridal and bridesmaids' dresses. Or you can simply ask bridesmaids to wear the same color, but have them choose their own dresses.

What do we do if we didn't order wedding bands in time for the big day?
Buy and travel; wedding rings you can use for your ceremony and honeymoon; and wear for years to come whenever you go on vacation. (You can find gold-plated and sterling silver bands online for around $10.) That way, the ones you use for your
ceremony will still be special and you won’t lose the real thing when you’re abroad. **What if we can’t find a live musician to play at the ceremony?**

Contact local colleges or music schools to find a stellar student or instructor to lend their talents for your ceremony. **Wedding inspiration** If you haven’t already, you’ll likely get the urge to check out wedding magazines, blogs, Loverly, Pinterest, Instagram, and other sources of inspiration so you can figure out your vision for your own celebration. While many magazines feature mainly conventional nuptials, you’ll find ideas online that suit whatever kind of wedding you have in mind. Wedding blogs showcase anything from high-end affairs to indie celebrations or even eco-friendly fetes. As you look around, you’ll find sites and blogs that reflect your personalities and styles; stick to the ones that speak to you and you’ll find a wealth of ideas to jump-start your planning. The amazing thing is that there really are no rules when it comes to getting married; and what a wedding should look like. For example, pretty much any space qualities as a venue nowadays. Sure, many couples take the traditional route of getting married in places of worship, hotel ballrooms, or even at their homes. But many others take nonconventional routes by saying their vows in industrial warehouses, botanical gardens, and rustic barns, or at the top of ski slopes, on hiking trails, and even underwater. The logistics might be tricky in some cases, but the setting is completely up to you. While the location is the driving factor for many of the other big decisions, from the dress to the decor, much of the wedding inspiration you see featured in magazine spreads and blogs focuses on all of the small details that can set your event apart from others. Once upon a time, all you had to do was choose your colors and get some flowers to jazz up your event, but now there’s no shortage of choices for element like favors, table settings, and escort cards. Not to mention all of the new trends, like dessert bars, signature drinks, monogrammed cocktail napkins; the list goes on and on and on! Of course, you don’t have to have all; or any; of these at your wedding. Factors like budget and personal preference really come into play here. Before deciding what kinds of favors you want, ask yourself if you even need (or want) them. There might be some other detail (like a dessert bar) that you’d prefer and would be just as appreciated by your guests. Remember, the only thing that must happen at your wedding is that two of you get married. Basically, everything else is fair game! Let blogs, magazines, and pictures inspire you, but keep in mind that it’s your personal style that should dictate what elements and details you have; or don’t; on your wedding day. So, where to start? Use the images you come across to discover what style most appeals to you: Are you two more of a glam city couple or a down-home duo? And it’s okay if you’re not quite sure, or if you’re a combination of different styles; you’ll figure it out! The vibe you want for your celebration will guide your choice of location, as well as how to choose and orchestrate the details. **Real Couples Speak & Plan as much as you can in advance, and then try to let go of everything as soon as the wedding festivities begin.** The overwhelming love, camaraderie, and eagerness to help that permeates wedding events is like nothing else; and they show that the details (yes, those ones you planned so carefully) aren’t what matters most in the end. Steph got lipstick on the front of her ivory-colored dress when putting it on before our ceremony. The music we planned to walk to after the ceremony didn’t start. Our site tried to shut the party down an hour before our negotiated closing time. And yet we absolutely had the best day of our lives. All of the mishaps make for hilarious stories after the fact. **Letting Go Of** &;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;&;
attention on certain key details that matter the most to you. That way, you'll still be able to have the wedding you love without feeling overwhelmed. Let go of self-imposed expectations and realize that your wedding will be wonderful no matter what! \(\text{note space YOUR DREAM WEDDING}\)

Take a moment to write down 5 to 10 must-haves for your wedding (e.g., a certain venue, a custom gown, a dessert bar, peonies in an array of colors, etc.). Come back to this list throughout your planning process to help you stay on track with your vision. \(\text{Theo Milo Photography}\)

\text{chapter two a vision in white . . . OR BLUE . . . OR BLUSH . . . Before you can start to tackle specific planning tasks, you'll need to make some important decisions about what kind of wedding you really want; from where you hold the celebration to how small or large the guest list is. These decisions, of course, are big ones, so it's okay to take your time before moving forward. Naturally, you two might have differing views on what kind of wedding you envision, which is completely normal! Yes, you're committing to spending your lives together as a unit, but you're still two distinct individuals. So, if your ideal doesn't completely match up, don't worry. Instead, think of wedding planning as a wonderful chance to practice some necessary skills—compromise and communication.} \(\text{note space managing expectations}\)

The best place to start planning is to listen to your gut about what you really want; By now, you've probably attended some weddings, or at least seen photos online or in wedding magazines. Each event usually has a clear vibe (or even a clear-cut theme), and while there's a traditional order of events, many couples switch things up to suit their tastes. You may decide to forgo a bridal party. Or you may have your heart set on walking down the aisle together, rather than being escorted by a parent or other family member. Whether you follow tradition or decide to make your own rules, the important thing is that your decisions are your own. Of course, if your parents are paying (and even if they are not), they may have distinct ideas about how the wedding should look and feel. After all, they most likely have been anticipating this day for a long time, just like you. So, part of managing expectations isn't just about figuring things out with your future spouse, but explaining your vision to your parents as well. Other family members, and even your friends, may offer their input as well. These are merely suggestions and you should take them as such: Remember, your wedding is about the two of you. In the end, you want to show up to your wedding feeling excited and comfortable. If you plan a day that's just not your style, you may end up dreading it, rather than looking forward to it. Let the planning process become an opportunity to show the world (okay, your friends and family) who you are as a couple with a celebration that reflects your relationship. Do this, and no matter what type of wedding you plan, you will look back feeling satisfied with the result. To help figure out what matters most to both of you, ask each other these questions to help you prioritize: 1. How important is the time of year to you? (For example, are you set on an outdoor wedding?) 2. How big is too big for your wedding—and how small is too small? (Try to decide on a guest range of what would work for both of you.) 3. Would you prefer a sit-down dinner or a casual BBQ event? (This choice helps dictate the vibe, as well as the types of venues you should consider.) 4. Do you want to travel somewhere for the wedding and plan remotely, or marry where you live? (A big consideration: You may not want to hop on a plane or drive a long distance right before the big day.) 5. Looking at the notes you made in Your Dream Wedding; what on that list could you not live without? (Try to each choose three things that really matter to you.) zen in the face of conflict and drama

You're probably familiar with the idea that wedding planning can cause people to go a little crazy. When you combine an expensive high-pressure event, two people with presumably little planning experience, a major life step, plus both of your families and all of your friends, you're likely to find yourself getting crazed over a minor detail (for instance, obsessing over what kind of ribbon to tie around your favors), recognize what's happening, pause, and force
yourself to breathe deeply and relax for a few seconds. Try to remember that most people
probably won’t focus on this detail the way you might; and that’s okay. On
the big day, it’s likely that you won’t be as focused on it either. 4. To minimize
family drama, remain united: If your parents question something that’s important to both
of you, stick to your guns together. When you show solidarity, your choices are more likely to be
respected. 5. When it comes to the budget, be mindful of the person who is paying. If you want to
go beyond the budget, offer to cover the added costs; or choose something less expensive.
6. Designate wedding planning to one day each week, during which you can tackle your to-dos.
This will help keep planning fatigue at bay. 7. Listen to each other: If your partner tells you
it’s fine for a certain decision to be up to you, believe it, make the choice, and move on.

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES: HONORING PARENTS

Many people are part of blended families where parents are divorced or remarried. If this includes you, you may be wondering who will walk you
down the aisle if you’re, say, close to your dad and your stepdad, or if your mom raised you
on her own. There are no rules for these or any other parental scenarios; for instance, if you
have two mothers, or if your grandmother raised you. You could consider having two people walk
you down the aisle, rather than choose one over the other. Or you might have one parent handle
one important task, like the walk down the aisle, and ask another to give a speech at the reception.
Involve as many parents and parental figures as you’d like in whatever way seems fitting to
you. In other cases, you may have lost one or both of your parents before your big day. To honor
their memory and to allow yourself to participate in customary wedding rituals, a groom, for
instance, may choose to do the usual mother-son dance with his aunt or grandmother instead, and
a bride, for instance, might have her brother, grandfather, or other family member walk her down
the aisle. There’s no right or wrong way to go about this: You may even decide to skip
certain traditions if that makes more sense to you. In recent years, some couples have honored a
deceased parent by leaving a small flower and note on their empty chair at the ceremony, or by
setting up a little table with a framed photo and a lit candle. If you’d like to honor their
memory a little more privately, you can incorporate a memento, such as a special piece of jewelry,
into your attire by attaching it to your bouquet, pinning it to your lapel, or sewing it into your
clothing. Start thinking early on about what you might want to do so you have plenty of time to
make a final decision. You may have new ideas about how to incorporate or honor parents, or even
change your mind during the planning process.

Finding your wedding style

Finding your wedding style is a combination of your personal taste and how you’ve imagined your ideal nuptials to play
out in your mind. Maybe you’ve always envisioned getting married in your parents’
backyard with as many guests as you can cram into the space. Or perhaps you’ve
dreamed of an intimate sit-down dinner at a swanky hotel; and you’d prefer live music over a
DJ dance party. Of course, your wedding day desires may have changed once you got engaged. So,
the best way to discover your style is to use your personalities and your day-to-day life to guide
you. For example, if you’re not fancy or extravagant, by all means, don’t feel
pressure to host a formal fete; after all, a wedding doesn’t need to be black-tie to be
meaningful. Likewise, you don’t need to DIY every last detail in order for your wedding to
be special; maybe you’d rather enlist a pro to design your day so all you have to do
is show up. You might also consider using your relationship as inspiration. This way, you’re
bound to find common ground to establish your wedding style. Maybe you two met at a comic
book convention and want to incorporate bold colors with black and white accents into your
décor. Or, if you’ve bonded over a shared love for English literature, you might
consider a ceremony in a venue resembling a traditional English garden. If trying to decide on a
style sounds intimidating, don’t worry. You don’t need established
"colors" or a set "theme" if the concept doesn’t agree with
you. However, having a loose idea of what you want will make the planning process much easier
for you when it’s time to make decisions about your décor items (flowers, linens, and so
on), as well as give you some inspiration for all the fun extras (favors and other details) so you
don’t feel like you’re just throwing a bunch of random stuff together. By at least brainstorming style early on, you’ll both have a road map of what the day might look and
feel like for you and your guests. From there, you can determine the direction that's most true to you; and fits in best; with your wedding wants. 10 QUESTIONS COUPLES CAN ASK EACH OTHER TO ESTABLISH STYLE 1. What vibe do you want your wedding to have?  (A huge party or an intimate affair? Black tie optional, or cool and casual?) 2. How would you describe your personal styles?  (Laid-back? Trendy? Hipster? Preppy?) 3. What do you love to do together? 4. What’s unique about you as a couple and as individuals? 5. Are there certain colors you absolutely love . . . or hate? 6. Are there any traditional elements you think your wedding must have? 7. What are some places you've been (either traveled to or even favorite restaurants) that have a style or vibe you really like? 8. What’s the décor style of your home? 9. How do you define yourselves?  (Are you adventurous world travelers? Are you passionate about a certain cause or activity? Do you have a distinctive hobby?)

Your Modern Guide for Planning a Wedding that's Perfectly You

Wedding planning can be a bit overwhelming, but with the helpful how-tos and insider advice in this handy wedding book, you can forget the stress and focus on creating a day that truly reflects you as a couple. The Loverly Wedding Planner has everything you need to navigate the wedding planning process in a way that is simple, meaningful, and really enjoyable.

Kellee and Loverly's team of experts will help you plan a memorable, and perfectly personalized wedding, with:

- Updated advice for fast-evolving wedding customs like mixed-gender bridal parties, social media etiquette, unplugged weddings, same-sex ceremonies, and more
- Wedding organizer tools like worksheets and timelines to help you stay on track with detailed schedules, budgets, and to-do lists
- Down and dirty checklists to help you prioritize and streamline every step of the wedding planning process
- Insider tips from Kellee, the Loverly team, and real-life couples who have recently said "I do"
- Budget breakdowns from modern couples with differing allowances and priorities, as well as a handy section on contracts and negotiation
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