

Vintage Wedding 101

How to Plan an Authentic Vintage
Wedding from Start to Finish with
Love, Grace, and Style

**HowExpert with
Celia Miller**

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Chapter 1: The Vision & Era

Vintage or Vintage-Inspired? There is a difference!

We're so glad you are planning a vintage wedding. A wedding is a time when we look forward to our future, but also, to our past. Paying tribute to days gone by is a wonderful way to celebrate a joyous occasion. Vintage-themed weddings allow the couple to base their theme, vision, and décor off of influences that will set their special day apart from the run-of-the-mill weddings seen in all the magazines, blogs, and on reality television shows.

Let's talk about the word "vintage," shall we? Some people associate it with antique shops, lace curtains, old furniture, and doilies. Others may associate it with a resurgence in fashion, culture, and styling from past eras. And others still may just associate it with anything that is remotely nostalgic, or the usual cliché and gaudy proms, parties, and other events they attended with a "vintage" theme.

The phrase "true vintage" typically describes authentic items from a specific time period. This could include items like your grandmother's wedding dress or an old set of wooden drawers passed down through the family. Vintage-inspired or reproduction describes items that are reminiscent of an era or even an older style. Perhaps you may have seen or even owned one of those popular telephones that resemble an old antique rotary telephone. Upon closer inspection you may find that it is actually a plastic phone style made

popular in the 1980s with a spiral coiled cord instead of the woven cloth-covered wire and Bakelite or Catalin construction its predecessor would have had. There are good reproductions and vintage-inspired objects and clothing out there, and there are bad.

You have to make a decision early on in the planning process just how authentic you want your wedding to actually be. Upcycling is a popular thing for brides to do but preserving vintage treasures is also a consideration. You wouldn't want to run the risk of your guests breaking hundred-year-old glassware for example, but you may want to have look or feel of such glassware at your table. How authentic do you want yourself and the bridal party to look? Vintage clothing is beautiful but sometimes delicate- and for a large bridal party may be somewhat impractical for a long day. There are so many options out there, from gowns with the right silhouette to gowns that are exact reproductions sewn from old patterns.

We want to make it clear that the most wonderful thing about incorporating vintage elements into your special day is that you can incorporate anything you like, mix and match, and enjoy how it all comes together. Authenticity goes a long way towards achieving specific aesthetic but the most important part of your wedding day is that *you* like it and that it expresses your personalities and the love and commitment you have for one another. Never do something you don't like at your wedding because somebody told you it was expected of you by the guests, "traditional" or that doing otherwise would bring you "bad luck." Worrying about the expectations of others will bring you more bad luck than any old superstition might.

Research, Research, Research!

So you've decided you're going to have a vintage wedding but you still aren't sure how it should look. You've seen inspiration boards and blogs out there, you're probably thinking about an Old Hollywood movie you've seen and you like the aesthetic of those beautiful bias-cut dresses and gorgeous waved hair. It's time to really nail down a good era or two to take inspiration from and go from there. We recommend you stick to one era though, or it can dilute the desired effect and get confusing for your guests.

There are some phenomenal websites and online resources dedicated to helping people understand and emulate the fashion of the past. Take time to do extensive reading about vintage fashion and traditions from the past. Look up old newspaper postings about weddings from the past. It used to be traditional in small towns for a newspaper to run short snippets about weddings of prominent citizens, with breathless descriptions of the decorations, the flowers, who was seen at the event, and what the bride wore. You can find microfiche or digital versions of old newspapers just about anywhere- online or in your local library. Last but not least, study old photos from the era you are emulating. Seek out images of both celebrities and everyday people. Pay close attention to the hairstyles, the clothing, and the textures. Many brides had formal bridal portraits taken and were photographed days or weeks before the wedding, so there are these beautiful studio portraits of old-fashioned brides out there showing lots of these important details. When searching for old photos, you may have to weed through dozens of more contemporary bridal gown

images that are labelled as vintage. Consider starting at the Vintage Fashion Guild, Metropolitan Museum of Art, or subscribe to the Vogue Archive. The Metropolitan Museum of Art has exquisite and sometimes very detailed photographs of period gowns. Look for more than just wedding gowns for your inspiration.

Start researching décor trends, technological advances, popular artists and designers, musicians and their music, architecture, and the historical events of the times you are interested in. Immerse yourself into the eras you are interested in with old movies, newspapers, magazines, and memorabilia.

Most importantly though, talk to older friends and family members. Ask about their recollections of the time, and how a wedding from their younger years might have looked. Inquire about any mementoes, photographs, or music that might inspire you. Look for connections that inspire you and you may begin to find a recurring theme or idea that will help you nail down your own wedding.

Historic Accuracy vs. Pop Culture In The Vintage-Themed Wedding

Many old movies depict courtship and weddings as a popular recurring theme. We love to watch old movies too, but be careful—it wasn't until the last 15 years or so that Hollywood began aiming for their "historic" productions to really be authentic. Nostalgia and realism wasn't as important to audiences back then.

One of the best examples is how our cultural misconceptions about 1920s fashion stem from a 1959 movie set in 1929 starring Marilyn Monroe that got everything wrong. Unfortunately, this misconception is what sells the thousands of sequined, slim fitting “Gatsby” mini-dresses and feathered headdresses every year. The actual silhouette of true 1920s clothing was very different, even for party and flapper dresses.

If you are aiming for even a vintage-inspired look and feel for your wedding, you’ll find better inspiration looking at authentic sources than many of the more modern interpretations out there. Digital versions of old Hollywood magazines such as *Movie Magazine*, *Photoplay*, and *Motion Picture Classic* can be accessed online. They are full of old advertisements, beautiful photos, and articles about fashion and beauty.

Choose Your Era:

The 1910s Era

This was an era that saw the end of the Gilded Age, Suffragettes, the foxtrot, the automobile, the airplane, the sinking of the Titanic, and the first World War. Art Nouveau, the Arts & Crafts movement, and a growing fascination with new technology informed the aesthetics of the time. The Edwardian era was giving way to a new age.

Women’s clothing was becoming less restrictive and corsets were being phased out. Women at home or in casual settings began to wear “tea gowns” that were

worn without corsets and comfortable. During World War I, commerce between Europe and the United States had pretty much stopped along with the production of silk and other fine textiles. Utilitarian clothing influenced by military uniforms such as the long tunic worn over a skirt was a popular style. For the first time, women began to wear work clothing and uniforms as part of the war effort. This was a decade that saw the the rise of female clothing designers such as Gabrielle Chanel who began making more practical and casual sportswear.

Men's fashion had not changed much from the previous decade but pant legs were shortened, and slimmer silhouettes began to emerge. Men too were excited to wear less restrictive and complicated clothing. Sportswear and the more casual "lounge suit" had become popular as daywear, considerably less formal than the frock coat. These suits were typically worn with a bowler or homburg hat. For formal events the morning and frock coat designs were still considered the standard and higher class gentlemen continued to wear top hats. For evening wear, a well-dressed gentleman would wear a dark-colored coat with tails, a waistcoat and trousers. Of course military uniforms from this time were also widely worn by most men during World War I, even those serving in capacities at home. Men's fashion was also directly influenced by military uniforms and designs. This decade marked the aptly coined "trench coat" which continued to be popular after the Armistice. It is still popular today.

The 1920s Era

A remarkable time of silent movies and epics, advances in air and automobile travel, the overshadowing Great Depression, post-war industry, the 1920s saw even more dramatic change than the previous decade. Women were for the first time allowed to vote. Fashion was heavily influenced by the exotic art of China and Egypt. Archeological discoveries such as King Tutankhamen's tomb in 1922 entranced the public. Americans were vacationing in warmer climates. The influence of Hollywood, French-style Art Deco, "flapper" culture, and modernism grew.

Prosperity after the war saw American influences on fashion and culture increase. The newly-found freedoms and mobility women were suddenly enjoying translated directly to the clothes they wore. Comfortable, simple and convenient sportswear such as two-piece ensembles and suit sets were commonly worn by women of all classes. While evening gowns were often still floor length, they were now also worn with higher hemlines (but not the mid-thigh mini-dresses you see in modern movies about the 20s). Simpler construction of clothing was balanced by stunning and ornate beading, embroidery, sequins, fringe, and other embellishments. Women sought to shape their bodies so they were a more boyish, straight silhouette that looked good under these straight lines and androgynous shapes of clothing.

Menswear also saw some changes. Starched collars gave way to softer collars and three piece suits were often substituted with jacket and trouser combinations worn without the waistcoat. Unique to the era were

new additions to the fashionable man's wardrobe: plus-four knickers, the classic baggy short-legged pants gathering at the knee and worn over argyle socks. Often worn with a sweater for sports, these became popular as daywear.

The 1930s Era

After the devastating losses and setbacks of the stock market crash in 1929, the Dust Bowl, mass unemployment and the New Deal, the 1930s was a time of grinding poverty, austerity, popular radio broadcast programs, transatlantic crossings aboard beautiful Art-Deco ocean liners, epic Hollywood productions, the end of the Prohibition, and the surging growth of swing music. Even after the Prohibition Era ended, cabaret style nightclubs and entertainment remained popular. Travel by air was a relatively new idea. Even during this time of great progress, the average working-class or even middle-class woman could not afford elaborate weddings. Many wedding receptions were held at home. Even so, the first major bridal magazines became popular during this era, helping women plan their weddings on a budget.

Women's clothing changed again- back to a much more conservative feminine silhouette, particularly in the graceful and ultra-flattering bias cut gowns fashioned from beautiful satins floating over the body, clinging in all the right places. Hemlines went lower again. Daywear saw waistlines returned to the natural waist, nipped-in. Sharp tailoring, two-piece suits, sportswear, and knee-length skirts worn with sweaters and puffy-

tailored blouses were popular. Beautiful hats and fascinators completed every fashionable ensemble.

Men's fashion had finally seen the three-piece suit relegated to formal and business occasions, and the two-piece suits were considered acceptable. Sportswear was frequently worn as daywear. Men's trousers were worn high on the waist with wide legs, pleated, and often cuffed. Hats and ties were still frequently worn but were not considered obligatory.

The 1940s Era

A brief time of recovery from the Great Depression, and the world found itself plunged again into another World War. This was an era of extreme rationing, Victory gardens, patriotism, and more women than ever were entering the workforce. Big bands were wildly popular, and movie stars such as Katherine Hepburn, Lauren Bacall, Spencer Tracy, Betty Grable, Jimmy Stewart were well-liked, many of them serving publicly to support the war effort. Pin-up girls set the beauty standard. With hundreds of thousands of service members having been deployed to the South Pacific, "Tiki" culture inspired tropical themed décor, entertainment, clothing, and movie plots. Sarongs and Hawaiian print clothing were extremely popular and after the war, and travel to exotic locations aboard ocean liners and passenger aircraft became a reality for many.

During the war, the "Utility" and L85 regulations restricted clothing designs. Austerity influenced

women's clothing to resemble the uniforms and utilitarian designs worn by those in service or working in factories. Clothing was made with minimum yardage, with few embellishments, pleats and minimal decoration. Boxy silhouettes were seen on the suits and top portions of dresses. Most skirts were worn just below the knee. After the war, fashion literally exploded- the "New Look" saw ultra-feminine fashions using extravagant amounts of material that would have been illegal or frowned on just years before. Corsets and restrictive undergarments had returned to accommodate this new nipped-in silhouette. These bold, beautiful new designs were expressive of a population looking forward after years of rationing, sorrow, and hardship.

As during World War I, men wore uniforms during the 1940s, even after the war. The clean-shaven look was obligatory. Two-piece lounge suits had returned to popularity. Just as the women's suits did, the men's suits also had broad, exaggerated shoulders, high-waisted wide leg pants and wide ties.

The 1950s Era

This era saw remarkable prosperity, peace and success. The economy had surged, unemployment was low, and technology continued to make life easier. In an atomic age, the fear of nuclear war and Communism was the undercurrent to the innocence of the era. Televisions were everywhere, allowing advertisers and Hollywood access right into the living rooms of most middle-class homes, showing a highly-idealized picture of what the

perfect life, marriage, home, family, children, should look like. There was an obsession with French design, TV shows, big chrome-embellished cars, Hollywood starlets such as Audrey Hepburn, Marilyn Monroe, Sophia Loren, Brigitte Bardot and many others. The wedding industry boomed, driven by and dictated to by advertisers. Elaborate fairy-tale weddings were popular.

Remarkable differences from previous decades were seen in the frothy, uber-feminine fashions of the 1950s. Full skirts worn with crinolines under cinched-in tiny waists or dramatic pencil skirt suits were common. The “cupcake” prom or wedding dress loaded with tulle, satin, and embellishment was popular. Towards the end of the 1950s, looser-fitting clothing began to re-emerge again as fashionable including shift dresses. The invention of Lycra also saw new levels of comfort achieved in sportswear and daywear. Women were even beginning to wear pants outside factories and the garden.

Men still wore suits, typically two-piece for daywear. Jackets worn with contrasting or complimentary trousers became fashionable. Teenagers were starting to popularize workwear such as denim being worn as daywear.

Review:

- ◆ *Decide early on about how authentic you want the wedding to be, if you want to be vintage-*

inspired or narrow it down a specific era that will influence your design and attire.

- ◆ *Do your homework and choose a specific era to stay on point.*
- ◆ *Immerse yourself in the culture and media from your chosen culture, including music, movies, and magazines.*
- ◆ *Do not rely on popular movies about or inspired by eras. Seek out actual movies and media from the time period.*
- ◆ *The internet will be your best and worst enemy. Verify authenticity of your inspiration sources.*
- ◆ *The earlier the era, the more difficult it may be to find authentic clothing. Consider attiring your wedding party in reproduction clothing.*

Chapter 2: The Engagement

The Proposal

Unless you were completely taken by surprise, there are ways to bring a little vintage flair to your engagement. It's a good way to explore your themes for the wedding. Suggest that you might enjoy a date at a classy restaurant, visit a museum or historic mansion. If you or your significant other who is proposing has hired a photographer this can make it even more special.

Vintage Rings

If you are concerned about the ethics of purchasing conflict-free jewelry, consider buying a vintage ring. While you may not be guaranteed that the original owner sourced the stones or metal from a conflict-free source, you can rest assured that you are upcycling a valuable resource and not contributing to the market for gemstones mined under appalling conditions.

There are so many beautiful vintage rings out there with a level of workmanship, uniqueness and beauty that are rarely found in modern jewelry, and many websites and antique shops will stock these beautiful works of art.

Consider a stone other than a diamond. You may not have known that the idea that every engagement or wedding ring must be a diamond is a relatively new

one. A result of the aggressive decade-spanning De Beers Mining Company “Diamonds are Forever” publicity campaign, the world’s perception was forever changed about the value and importance of a diamond. Prior to that, many engagement rings were sapphires, emeralds, or rubies. You may find the beauty of these stones is better suited to the personality of the person wearing it than a diamond.

The idea of buying two separate rings is also a relatively new “tradition,” designed and marketed by the jewelry industry to convince consumers that the engagement ring is necessary to show your love, but you must also purchase the wedding ring to go with it.

Research styles of vintage jewelry. Art Deco is a very popular style in jewelry, and those timeless designs still influence jewelry makers today. You may be able to find a stunning reproduction of a vintage-style ring and enjoy the warranties, guarantees, and convenience of purchasing a newer piece of jewelry but keep in mind that buying new diamonds means paying a premium price. Couples who called off the wedding are often dismayed to return to the jeweler and be told the ring they purchased is only worth a fraction of the price even when returned unworn and unused.

You may be able to find a high quality vintage ring by a high-end designer for far less than what you may have paid for a new one. As always, do your research to ensure you are receiving what you are paying for. There are rashes of imitation vintage rings and gemstones being sold online and many of them are made from molds of older styles. Research the company you are buying from if purchasing online. A

reputable jeweler would help you appraise and resize a ring if necessary but keep in mind that some older vintage rings cannot be resized. Some antique shops may not guarantee their jewelry so we recommend that you work with an estate jeweler or dealer who can assess old jewelry carefully and inspect mountings, stone settings, and accurately date the piece for you.

Consider finding a vintage ring box to store your ring in and for photographing it on the day of the wedding. You can find stunning ring boxes made out of Bakelite or Catalan, velvet, silk, etc. Look on eBay and in local antique shops.

Lastly, be sure to insure your ring. You may be able to do this through a valuable property or renters insurance policy. When getting a quote, find out if you are covered for loss, theft, damage, what the deductible will be, and how long it takes to file a claim and receive reimbursement or replacement. Most insurance companies will require an appraisal from a jeweler. This is something that your jeweler should provide to you when you purchase your ring.

Engagement Photography

There is a growing trend to have a photographer on hand when you become engaged, and to take photos shortly afterwards. By now you may have already been shopping for a wedding photographer or have one in mind. Many wedding photographers will include engagement photography in their packages or offer a discounted rate. This is a great time to establish a

rapport with your photographer and get a feel for their working style and dynamic. While you may not be fully prepared to go all-out on your vintage attire for your engagement photos, it's still fun to dress up and do something more unique than peer around a tree at one another or imitate all the other silly trends you're getting in the mail from your friends' cheesy Save the Date and announcement cards!

Use your imagination to explore options and seek out beautiful places to take these photos. Think about old train stations, museums, historic homes, and older public buildings like your local city hall. Your photographer should be able to help you find an idea that is unique and where it is legal to take photographs.

As an example of how important research is- many couples think that train tracks are a great "vintage" idea for taking their photos. This is a very dangerous and illegal idea, and we do not recommend it. Not only is it overdone, there are dozens of fatalities and accidents that have occurred during photography sessions on train tracks. Most train tracks are considered private property and you will be considered trespassing to photograph on them. It is not always easily apparent if train tracks are actively in use or not. If you just can't stop thinking about a train-themed session, we recommend seeking out a train museum. Many of them will have great old buildings, sections of train tracks and old train cars and locomotives you could use for your photos, and still remain safe and within the law.

Review:

- ◆ If your engagement is not a surprise, choose to make it a vintage-inspired affair as well.
- ◆ Vintage rings are a lovely alternative to modern jewelry but do your homework and your research before purchasing one.
- ◆ Consider a stone other than a diamond.
- ◆ Your wedding photographer may include an engagement session as part of your package. Take advantage of this opportunity to get to know them!
- ◆ Try to find a location for your engagement photos that reflects your theme or chosen era for your wedding.

Chapter 3: The Plan

The Budget

Remember that you are beginning a chapter together with your intended and there is no faster way to marital conflict than to enter your marriage immediately arguing about money, heavily in debt or harboring resentment over a wedding that was way beyond your means. Be realistic about what you can afford, how much help you are getting with the expenses, and what you really want from your wedding. Communicate openly and candidly with your fiancé and check in with one another often during the planning process. Find ways to keep both of you actively involved in the development and implementation of the event. The flowers will fade, most of the decorations will end up in the charity bin, and your guests' memories of the event will diminish. You want to be sure that the wedding memories you made with your new spouse are good ones and that flipping back through the wedding album will not make you cringe.

Your wedding should never be a fundraising event. It's never a good idea to assume that your friends, family members or parents will be comfortable footing the bill of your wedding. It's also extremely tacky to set up money funding or cash registries and expect guests to pay money in order to attend your wedding. This has been seen a lot in recent years, where a bride will set a public threshold for what her expectations are regarding cash donations or gift cards in order to offset the costs of an elaborate wedding. If you cannot afford it, don't ask your guests to subsidize it.

If family members are assisting you with the cost of your wedding, be sure to stay in constant contact with them in order to be sure they know you are being judicious with the money they have given you.

In your budgetary planning, be sure to consider what the financial obligation members of your wedding party will have. A disturbing trend in modern weddings is how common it is for a bride to put an excessive burden on members of her family or group of friends who will be “in” the wedding. Be sure you are not putting this kind of pressure on bridesmaids, maids of honor, and others. If not carefully and thoughtfully planned out, weddings can alienate friends and family.

There are several ways to be smart about paying for your wedding. If you are nervous about booking your vendors far enough in advance to secure their services, consider purchasing wedding insurance. You should also open up a savings account specifically for your wedding and deposit the money that you will be paying vendors here so that it will not only earn interest, you will not be tempted to spend on other things and come up short in the weeks leading up to the wedding.

The Plan: Getting the Word Out & Timelines

Always try to be courteous to anybody who you might have asked to be in your wedding or help you. Begin planning immediately so that people who may be

traveling or who have busy schedules will be able to be a part of your special day. This is especially important if you are going to rely on the help of family members or friends with do-it-yourself tasks such as creating decor, stuffing envelopes, or preparing food.

This is by no means a one-size-fits-all checklist but here's a sample timeline for you to refer to. As soon as you have decided that you are getting married, create a similar timeline for yourself as you plan. Whether you are going to do it yourself route or hiring a planner, this is critical to stay organized.

12-18 Months Before The Wedding:

Choose your era, colors, and theme, choose date, settle on a budget, and begin shopping for venues.

10-12 Months Before The Wedding:

Finish your guest list/headcount, book your venue, choose your wedding party, meet with your officiant, book your photographer and entertainment, and began shopping for a caterer and baker.

Choose your wedding gown, and began shopping for bridesmaids' dresses. Send out a save-the-date if you will be doing that.

8-10 Months Before The Wedding:

Order your wedding gown, finalize catering, your cake, and begin your gift registry. Make reservations for hotel rooms for yourself and any out-of-state guests, order your wedding invitations, begin planning any other events surrounding the wedding such as the rehearsal dinner, a bride's luncheon, or a post-wedding brunch. Decide on your decor, and began assembling as much as you can ahead of time.

6-8 Months Before The Wedding:

Finalize your plans for flowers and anything else that your florist or decorator may need to order in advance. If you will be purchasing materials for your decorations from an international vendor, order these soon as possible. Reserve any rental equipment such as tents chairs, tables, or other peripherals. Make reservations for your rehearsal dinner location. Finalize ensembles for the groom and his attendants. Purchase your wedding rings. Visit a dermatologist or aesthetician if you have concerns about your skin or complexion to get a plan in place for a good skincare regimen and great photos on your wedding day.

4-6 Months Before Wedding:

Purchase all of your accessories for the bride, groom, and attendants. Purchase any favors or gifts that can be assembled ahead of time. Confirm with your

vendors delivery of any dresses or ensembles that have been ordered. Choose any special undergarments or lingerie to be worn under the wedding gown before your first fitting. If you will be using any special transportation be sure to reserve this far in advance as well. Mail out your wedding announcements.

2-4 Months Before The Wedding:

Choose your hairstylist and makeup artist, and have your first trial with them. Purchase any special cosmetics or styling products that you will need so that you can become familiar with them, and ensure ahead of time that you are not allergic to anything that will be used on the wedding day. Schedule your first wedding gown fitting and be sure you have any special undergarments such as a corset or cincher on hand. Confirm all reservations you've made so far.

4-6 Weeks Before The Wedding:

Begin intensive self-care to get your skin glowing and healthy. Schedule another fitting for your wedding gown if need be. Have your bridal shower or luncheon, and the groom can have his dinner with his attendants. Write thank you notes for any gifts or services you've received so far. Order any remaining food, alcohol, or supplies for the wedding that may still be outstanding. Begin writing your vows. Meet with officiant, photographer, and DJ again to review plans. Your DJ or entertainment should have your

playlists, timeline, and itinerary, and your photographer should have your plans for photography finalized.

2-4 Weeks Before The Wedding:

If you haven't already scheduled, have your trial with your stylists. If required, have your blood test done. Pick up your wedding rings, purchase any additional accessories, make-up, gifts, etc. Get your marriage license. Confirm your hotel, travel, and other arrangements. Pay any outstanding balances due to your vendors. Give your final count of guests to your caterer and check in with your baker. Take lots of deep breaths throughout your days, and be sure to enjoy this exciting time. Get your hair cut and colored if need be, and any other beauty regimens that may require recovery time such as peels, facials, or waxing. Print your programs. Order your guest book.

1-2 Weeks Before The Wedding:

Assemble all of your final payments for vendors and cash tips in envelopes. Give these to your point person or wedding planner to give to your vendors on the wedding day. Have a manicure and pedicure done, and any last-minute grooming or beauty regimens completed. Be sure that you're getting enough sleep during this time, and keeping yourself hydrated and your skin moisturized. If you're feeling stressed, schedule time with your family members or bridal

party for some relaxation. It's not a bad idea to get everyone together for planning purposes and to enjoy these last days the big event. Be sure to keep a gratitude journal and to constantly share with those around you how much you appreciate their help and support. If you have gratitude in your heart, you will be a memorable bride for all the right reasons and your entire event will reflect your mindset.

The Wedding Website:

For planning purposes, you might consider building a small simple website for your wedding day. There are a lot of online sites that will allow you to customize your own subdomain, choose a theme and add some basic photos and information for your guests to refer to. This is convenient because it will allow you to direct your guests to a one-stop location where most of their questions should be answered.

If you are tech-savvy enough, consider registering your own domain, creating a simple themed website, and create a hashtag specific to your wedding. You might also consider adding information for out-of-town guests about recommended places to stay such as hotels or bed and breakfasts, and need to know info for getting around town or the destination where your wedding will be held. Once you have it figured out, it's helpful to post the itinerary and timeline for the wedding day for your guests and wedding party members to refer to.

Whether or not you post your information about the wedding online or not, it is always considerate to print this information out and send to your family members or guests who may not use the internet so they too are in the loop.

The Plan: Do-It-Yourself or Delegation?

Many of those planning a wedding feel compelled to do every last part of it themselves, as if that alone makes it all feel more authentic and attractive to their guests. Happy idyllic visions of arranging flowers, tying hundreds of bows, hand-addressing all of your invitations, and tasting cakes may be in your head, but the reality of it is that planning and implementing a successful wedding is hard work and the more planning and coordination you can do in advance, the better.

Depending on the size of your wedding, it is a good idea to be practical and realistic about the time involved in making your dreams come true. Planning and building a wedding can rapidly become a full-time job, become stressful, and take the joy out of the event. Remember too, that time can sometimes mean money. Several questions to ask yourself as you examine each aspect of your wedding plan:

- ✦ Can I actually do this myself and have the same outcome as the magazine or idea board I found the concept in? Is there any trial-and-error involved?

- ✦ How long will it take me to do myself versus having another person help me?
- ✦ Can I ask the skilled person I know can help me to do this or will I be imposing on them?
- ✦ Is what I am asking the skilled person to help me with something they do for a living and would my request put them in an awkward position of working for me for free because they are family or a close friend?
- ✦ How far in advance can I do/make/build/plan this in advance if I do it myself? Flowers, for example, have to be arranged and used within a few days of delivery.

Be sure to review all of the policies for the venues you'll be looking at and take time to visit a few of them. You may not have the option to DIY aspects of your wedding such as food, drink, and certain decorations. Many venues have contracts in place with preferred vendors. If you intend to do a lot of your wedding yourself, make a list ahead of time so you can be sure to ask all of your vendors very specific questions about everything from a DIY standpoint. If your vendors are not forthcoming with this information, it's not a bad idea to shop around and find somebody who will be more helpful during your planning process.

Tried to stay as organized as you can, and unless you have a very good reason to do so... don't second-guess decisions after you've already made them and paid for deposits. Not every decision needs to be made the moment that you're engaged, but do take the time to prioritize which vendors will need to be booked right away, and which decisions can be made later in the planning process. The biggest chunks of the planning

process to get out of the way first are going to be your date, budget, hiring your venue, your guest headcount.

There are advantages to hiring a wedding planner. You will save a tremendous amount of time, and your planner will already have plenty of vendors, inspiration, and connections already in place. Not all wedding planners will be familiar with your era chosen, however with the growing popularity of vintage weddings makes it more likely that you will find somebody who can work with you and your research to help bring your vision to life. If you utilize a wedding planner, be sure to ask in advance if there are tasks you can help with such as preparing invitations, assembling favors, etc. to offset hourly fees.

The Plan: Venue & Decorations:

Consider your venue carefully. Does it already have a lovely setting and mood? If so, don't try to overwhelm with over-the-top decorations. Less is more with a vintage wedding.

Greenery was typically used more than flowers for vintage wedding décor as it was not as easy to fly in thousands of in-season blooms in years past. With this in mind, consider building your arrangements primarily out of greenery to frame your floral arrangements and plants. Vintage florals tended to be cream and white flowers only with lots of greenery such as ferns, eucalyptus, ivy, or evergreen. Orange

blossoms, roses, lilies, and other classic flowers will stand out beautifully against a rich green backdrop. Keep your floral centerpieces sweet and simple. Gaudy colored ostrich feathers and miles of fake pearls are not going to lend an authentic feel to your affair. Large white flowering plants or floral sprays can define areas of your venue. In the springtime you could use flowering branches or shrubs.

For your centerpieces, consider using nontraditional elements such as fresh fruit and vegetable arrangements. Utilize containers that you may already have, such as florist vases or crystal. A cost-effective way to create the look of vintage style glassware is to utilize mirror finish spray paint on the inside of glass containers, vases, jars etc. for a beautiful mercury glass appearance.

If you don't want to spend a lot on your flowers, but you still want a dramatic, over the top effect, consider only decorating the front of your venue where your ceremony will take place. This could be as simple as one or two large and elaborate arrangements, or a bower of rich-smelling greenery under which you'll be married.

Lighting can also completely change the feel of a venue. Unscented ivory candles will add a soft, rich glow to your affair. Protect them with hurricane lampshades or keep them in glass containers for safety. If you want colored candles, we encourage you to stick with pastel shades to get that warm glow. Colored candles (especially reds and burgundies) can also look a little gruesome once they have been burning and melting for a while. We've seen this kind of carnage and you don't want your beautiful red

candles to end up looking like a haunted house display! For an outdoor wedding you can certainly use many more candles than may be allowed indoors. Cluster candles together and create arrangements with them. Use delicate white lights among your greenery to create a magical feel.

If candles are not an option for you, consider using LED lights to enhance vintage style centerpieces and decorations. Stunning arrangements can be made with flowers and LED lights tastefully blended to add extra light and ambience to your event. If you have white, cream or pastel drapery for example, you may opt to use LED lights to add a little sparkle behind it. If your venue is outdoors, consider hanging lanterns or LED fairy lights trees shrubs and other fixtures in the area.

Lighting is one area where you can really go overboard and not detract from the simplicity of your affair. Many successful vintage weddings we've seen have relied on lighting to set the mood and all the other decorations and florals simply enhanced the look.

You may own a collection of vintage furniture and memorabilia that could be used to stage your wedding. Renting furniture is also a great option especially if the rental company will drop off and pick up the furniture. If not, you may enjoy the treasure hunt of searching for beautiful treasures to use for your wedding decorations or even for favors! We do suggest being mindful the value and rarity of the piece that you may be altering for your décor. Thousands of beautiful pieces of furniture have been ruined by shabby chic decorators who destroyed a veneer or

finish with cheap chalk paint and then discarded them after the event.

You may want to recreate your own items, such as a souvenir postcard based off a vintage design but customized just for your guests. Consider too asking your elderly relatives to bring memorabilia or photos from their weddings to share at yours. What better way to involve your guests and family than by sharing stories and memories of past “true” vintage weddings as you celebrate yours?

If you will be renting seating, we recommend saving money on the bulk of it by renting inexpensive chairs and have a few “signature” and standout seating pieces around your venue for photo-ops. Consider that your guests may only be sitting down in them for very short period of time. To dress up your budget rental chairs, you could always tie on a bow or swag of inexpensive gossamer.

Think about how to honor older family members (especially those that wed during your era!) at your wedding with your decor. Ask them about what they did for their wedding. We have seen a growing trend for vintage weddings where a small table is set up in the reception area with older photographs from past family weddings are set up with flowers and greenery. This is a lovely way to give older family members the opportunity to share stories and history of their weddings. While your special day is about you and your partner, it is in good taste to revere and honor those who went before you.

Review:

- ◆ *Stay organized!*
- ◆ *Decide early on if you will take the DIY route or hire a wedding planner.*
- ◆ *Set your budget first, and stick to it. Give yourself a buffer for unexpected expenses.*
- ◆ *Open a savings account for your wedding expenses.*
- ◆ *Unless it's already been offered, do not plan to have family or friends foot the bill for your wedding.*
- ◆ *Consider the financial obligation you will ask members of your wedding party to take on.*
- ◆ *Set your timelines for each aspect, task, and phase of your planning and stick to the plan!*
- ◆ *Make self-care and time with your partner a priority as you plan to alleviate stress.*
- ◆ *Remember that less is more with an authentic vintage wedding.*

Chapter 4: The Vendors

Hiring the Right Professionals

We cannot recommend highly enough that you seek out quality vendors to assist you with your wedding. If you are not using a wedding planner, involve your vendors early in your planning process and communicate often. Be specific and stay as organized as possible from the beginning. Your photographer in particular should be involved in scheduling your day so that you are able to give them the most time possible to get the photos you dream about. It may even make sense to ask them to come along when you finalize plans for your venue if they are not familiar with it. If they cannot come along and have not seen the venue, take dozens of photos of the venue on your cell phone to help them plan your photography.

Vendors for a wedding typically include: florist, baker, caterer (if you are serving a meal or finger food), photographer, officiant, DJ or entertainment, venue, any rental company you may be utilizing, and your stylist. Always ask for references, examples of previous work, and be sure to research them online as well. Most reputable vendors will be listed with the Better Business Bureau, online wedding vendor registries, and other websites. They may also have reviews posted on social media and with search engines.

Once you've established that you want to work with a vendor, be sure to book them as far in advance as you can. This ensures you get the right people on board and you get to work with the vendors you are excited

about, rather than last-minute “you’ll do” hires. Your vendors will appreciate you being organized.

Remember that during the consultation phase with vendors you can always walk away if you are not feeling a good connection with them. If they are making you nervous, anxious or otherwise uneasy, walk away and find somebody you relate to better. You should not stay with a vendor because you feel bad that you sampled their cake, consulted with them, or talked to them on the phone already. If you have not signed a contract and there are already problems brewing before the planning begins, *walk away*.

If you signed a contract, paid a retainer or deposit and you still want out of a relationship with a vendor, *do this as early as possible*. If your retainer or deposit is non-refundable (most of them are), eat the cost and move on. If it’s early enough in the process where they are not out money from having lost the potential of another booking, many vendors may even work with you on it, but if not—let it go. Don’t flame them, don’t offer excuses or a narrative. If you aren’t feeling it, chalk it up to a learning experience, absorb the cost and find somebody who puts you at ease.

Be sure that your vendors understand the vintage aesthetic you are aiming for. Before hiring them, ask them if they have experience creating the kind of cakes, flowers, invitations, and photographs you have in mind. Ask for samples of their work, and provide them with a handful of specific, solid examples to help guide them. Don’t just create a Pinterest board and expect it all to fall together.

Remember, you get what you pay for, and you can't take it all with you. Try to map out in your mind what will be most important to you in the months and years after the wedding. Set up your budget accordingly. Too many times a bride will find herself "upside down." By this we mean that things that are fleeting and temporary such as flowers, or a cake, ate up most of the budget, and aspects of the wedding that she will truly have forever such as her photography or gifts for her wedding party were not a priority in the planning, she is scrambling for funds and will come to regret this in the weeks after the wedding.

Be involved but respectful, and have realistic expectations, especially if you are on a tight budget. If you are kind, approachable, and humble, the right vendors will go the extra mile to be sure you are well taken care of on your special day. It is your vendors who will be there the entire day with you and your wedding party. It is often a vendor who just happens to have thoughtfully packed with them the box of safety pins or batteries or whatever else it is that saves the day for your wedding.

Your vendors do this for a living and it is highly inappropriate for you to demand discounts and freebies every step of the way simply because you are getting married. You would not walk into a store at the mall and demand everything be given to you for free, nor would you load up your cart in a grocery store, head out the door with it and insist on paying for it later at a discount. Respect the artistic talents and abilities of your vendors and their time.

If you are still feeling unsure about planning your vintage affair entirely on your own, ask for help. There

are many historic-minded professionals who can help you avoid putting on a silly overdone party full of inaccurate and gaudy clichés. When hiring a planner, be sure to ask for examples of previous work and more importantly, for references. And if you find that you are feeling overwhelmed, do not wait until the last minute to hire a planner to bail you out.

Another consideration for your vendors to keep in mind is that those who will be on site during the wedding such as your photographer, your DJ, and others that may be on your feet most the day will likely include in their contract a short break and a meal. Be courteous, and be sure to offer this first instead of them having to bring it up. Make it clear to your caterer for example, that your DJ and photographer will both need a meal served to them during a lull in the reception, preferably while the wedding guests are served, in a quiet place, and at a time when they would not need to be taking photographs. This is usually when other wedding guests are eating and wouldn't need their photograph taken. Communicate clearly with your caterer that your event planner, photographer, videographer, DJ etc. will need a full meal at a specific time during the event so that that they are not put in the awkward position of asking a waiter or chef where their food is being served. Ask the vendors what works best for them and be accommodating. You would not expect to work a 12-hour day without a break. Do not expect your vendors to do the same.

The Vendors: Your Venue

When selecting a venue, be sure to ask yourself if it lends itself well to your theme without having to pay a small fortune to completely transform it with decorations. For a vintage wedding, remember that less is more. If you choose a historic or creative venue, it will provide plenty of ambiance and character. Look up the historic society for your town or county and start by making some inquiries. Think outside the box. If you are dreaming of completely building your vintage theme from the ground up inside a relatively blank slate of a venue such as a boring hotel ballroom or event space, you may find repurposed buildings and venues that are suitable for the level of ambiance and decoration you want to bring in with you.

For venues with built-in ambiance and atmosphere we suggest investigating:

- ✦ Museums- Check out the local museums in your town. Are there any old airports, railway stations, hotels, or other fun locations nearby?
- ✦ Historic Homes/Mansions- Many of these may be converted to a bed and breakfast, or due to their size may only be able to accommodate an outdoor wedding.
- ✦ Backyard or “at home” weddings- More often than not, brides in the past enjoyed a wedding at a family member’s home and this was a perfectly acceptable alternative to hiring a venue.
- ✦ Governor’s Mansions- some cities or states may open these to the public.

- ✦ Colleges/Universities- Some universities and colleges have older buildings as part of their campus and some may be available for hire.
- ✦ Theaters- The golden age of movie going left behind many beautiful and ornate structures. These “movie palaces” are hidden gems that lend themselves well to weddings and typically have lots of open space and provide a beautiful backdrop for photography.
- ✦ Old Libraries- Need we say more?
- ✦ City or Town Halls- Many of these structures are elaborate and full of amazing architectural detail with grand staircases and sweeping interior spaces.
- ✦ Botanic Gardens- Many cities have botanic gardens or greenhouse conservatories. These make beautiful locations for ceremonies and receptions. Many botanic gardens will set up large tents for receptions outdoors.
- ✦ Farms- These can lend themselves to a more laid-back and rustic affair. Just say no to the burlap and mason jar trends- these are not authentic vintage.
- ✦ Athletic Clubs- Typically in large cities, these may or may not require a membership to rent out for events such as weddings, dinners, and receptions. Some of them also have accommodations available.
- ✦ Masonic Temples & Lodges- Some of these may have halls or facilities for rent.

You may be working on a budget that does not allow for the kind of venue that you dream of. Remember too that more often than not, the vintage bride of 60-80 years ago often was planning under even tighter constraints than you are and without the advantages

of technology and transportation that we enjoy today. Less than “perfect” venues can still be beautifully decorated to create the kind of ambiance your guests will remember for years to come. Consider if it’s possible to use draped fabric and greenery such as potted plants, trees, and other foliage to conceal problem areas. If you were planning a New Year’s wedding, for example, you could round up discarded but still fresh and green Christmas trees. You can create walls or arbors using inexpensive building materials that you cover with greenery. Drapery can be done cheaply. If you are unable to source cheap tulle or netting, consider renting pipe and drape or using gossamer sourced from a wedding or prom supplier. You can often find these materials cheaply on eBay or through a foreign supplier. While these solutions are marvelous for hiding problem areas, consider that during these eras, textiles were not as cheap or easy to procure as they are today and the compromise between using drapes and historic accuracy. A curtain wall is a practical and inexpensive solution though, and nobody would judge you for it. They brighten up rooms and your photographer may appreciate a neutral background in at least one area of your venue for photos.

Lighting can also completely change the feel of a venue. Candlelight is romantic and makes any surrounding look soft and beautiful. LED technology has changed the game of battery-powered and string lights, and there are more realistic LED candles available in the event your venue does not allow candlelight.

The day you go to look at the venue and tour, be sure to bring a list of questions you put together ahead of

time. Ask to review the venue's wedding contract, and while you may be anxious to plunk down your deposit and reserve your special day immediately, take time to read everything. Don't be afraid to ask questions that may seem stupid or silly. Assume nothing. If there are special requirements or circumstances you are requesting, insist that these be included in your contract.

A verbal agreement or reassurance will not matter the day of the wedding when you are locked out of the venue until an hour before your ceremony is set to begin because there was a miscommunication about set-up time. So do your due diligence, and remember to not let excitement or emotional attachment overrule making a good, informed decision on your choice of venue.

Pay attention to details such as parking, how friendly the staff are, how difficult was it to get hold of a contact person, and how knowledgeable are they about their venue? Were they pushy or overly salesy? You want to be sure that on the day of the wedding when stress levels are high that you have a good support team in place, and your venue's staff will be critical.

If your venue is outside, you should ask if there is a contingency plan for rain or other elements on your wedding day. If you have plans to host a wedding and there is a possibility that you may be faced with adverse weather at the last moment, consider that every other bride in town will also be facing the same dilemma and you may not have the option to rent tents or other forms of shelter for your ceremony. Some rental companies will allow you to put down a

deposit ahead of time to reserve a tent in the event that you need it. You may not have to pay the full rental fee and the cost of the deposit can give you peace of mind.

Another point to consider is if your venue is all-inclusive or includes elements such as tables and chairs, or other built-in amenities that may save you money. Not having to hire rental companies to truck all of this in can save you a lot of money. Some venues will offer wedding planning services structured around their specific venue. It's definitely worth pursuing. A planner working for a venue will know all of the ins and outs, and how to make the most out of their space for your event.

As you make a decision about your venue, you should also be considering how the venue will work well with other vendors you may want to use. How easy will it be for your photographer to get the photographs you're dreaming of? What are their policies regarding photography before, during, and after the wedding? Do they allow flash or off-camera lighting? What about decorations? Do they allow candles or insist on LED alternatives? What are their rules about food and drinks? You need to know inside and out what the rules are. It would be most unfortunate if your catering team or even your wedding cake delivery is refused entry because they were not preferred vendors. These things do happen, even at the most perfect of venues. We have seen guests forced to eat off folding tables somebody hastily bought at a hardware store and out of tailgates of vehicles standing around in the parking lot outside because a beautiful, stunning venue only allowed their own vendors to prepare and serve food indoors, including

the cutting of a cake. On the day of the wedding, the person who promised the bride that those rules “didn’t matter” on the day she scheduled it was nowhere to be found.

Be mindful of the nature of your venue. If it is a house of worship, somebody’s home, or another location deserving dignity and civility choose decorations, music, and a program that is respectful and considerate.

If all of these considerations make you nervous, remember that in the past, a wedding at the home of a family member was common practice and is still perfectly viable an attractive option. There are many advantages to be married at home including flexibility, half of your budget being freed up for other things such as amazing food, and few restrictions on your decorating and catering. A backyard wedding can be charming and inviting to your guests. A home wedding will have other considerations though: the amount of noise that your event will generate (consider a noise permit if possible), parking, ability to erect a tent if need be, liability insurance, and your neighbors. Be sure to clear it with them first even if you have a noise permit.

Thoughtfully consider the space. Does the landscaping need to be updated such as the sod? Are there any repairs that need to be made? Your home wedding venue could get some great upgrades that will outlast the wedding and still be cheaper than renting a wedding venue! Your home’s bathroom may not accommodate the number of guests you wish to invite but you don’t have to rent disgusting port-a-potties! If the event will be long, and the backyard is big enough,

consider a luxury restroom rental trailer for your guests. Hosting your event earlier in the day will cut down on any costs you may incur renting lighting and generators to keep it all on.

Last but not least: consider that if your goal is beautiful photos in a stunning venue, you don't necessarily have to hold the wedding there. Perhaps you may be able to afford to take photos at the venue of your dreams, and save up for it by booking a less extravagant venue for your ceremony and reception. Alternately you could make arrangements to have your photos taken there early on the morning of your wedding if you left your photographer plenty of time to photograph you and still "get you to the church on time" after the shoot. Some couples will even book a portrait photographer for after the wedding, when all the stress, schedule conflicts and fuss has died down, and have a cinematic styled shoot, where they and their photographer are in total control and can enjoy themselves in the process. We have a complete section on wedding photography coming up!

The Vendors: Printing the Invitations:

Your invitations have two purposes- to invite guests to either your marriage ceremony or the reception or both, and to convey the personality and style of the wedding being planned. If your wedding ceremony is being held in a separate venue than the reception, and you are not choosing to invite everyone to the reception afterwards, then you may provide your

ceremony information on the invitation and include a reception card. Today most guests would expect to be invited to both.

Your invitation will help your guests to get an idea of what to expect when they come to your wedding. Some vintage wedding invitations are based directly on the theme, or take inspiration from something like an old travel ticket, vintage advertisement, etc. It's important to remember that the most beautiful invitations you've seen on idea boards are usually not made by hand. Popular styles include delicate florals, designs or filigree which are cut out with an engraving machine or press. Metallic inclusions on invitations are also printed professionally. There are some absolutely beautiful handmade invitations out there but you must ask yourself how many of these will need to be mailed out, how soon, and how long will this actually take to prepare if I make these by hand? Research carefully what invitations looked like in the past.

For a historically accurate option, go clean and elegant. Traditional wedding invitations have not changed in over a hundred years, and while your wedding may be non-traditional in its vintage theme, you may still opt to send out the simple and sophisticated invitation that is printed or engraved on a single, non-folded card printed in black or a dark ink on white, cream or off-white heavy stock, with a reply card included. If you choose this option be sure to select a traditional type face.

Your invitation will convey to the guest what to anticipate. Whether a traditional or themed invitation, you should always include prominently the

date, time, venue clearly spelled out for your guests. Many invitations will include the name and not just the address of your venue. If you are interested in having your guests dress in vintage attire, we suggest including on a separate little card a few sources of information to help them plan their own ensembles.

There are many schools of thought about indicating your preference regarding gifts. We do not recommend placing this prominently on the invitation itself, rather, on a small unobtrusive card included with the invitation, or on a wedding website. Keep it classy!

For a traditional wedding invitation, you may want to consider using a similar form as follows:

<p>Mr. & Mrs. John Doe</p> <p>request the honor of your presence</p> <p>at the marriage of their daughter</p> <p>Jane Doe</p> <p>to</p> <p>Mr. Jonathan Dough</p>	<p>Mr. & Mrs. John Doe</p> <p>announce the marriage</p> <p>of their daughter</p> <p>Jane Doe</p> <p>to</p> <p>Mr. Jonathan Dough</p>	<p>The pleasure of your company is requested</p> <p>at the marriage of:</p> <p>Jane Doe</p> <p>to</p> <p>Mr. Jonathan Dough</p>
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<p>Saturday, the twelfth of June</p> <p>at ten o'clock in the morning</p> <p>Unified Denominational Church</p>	<p>Saturday, the twelfth of June</p> <p>at ten o'clock in the morning</p> <p>First Denominational Church</p>	<p>Saturday, the twelfth of June</p> <p>at ten o'clock in the morning</p> <p>Officers' Club</p>
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Your guests would be thrilled to receive your invitation in an envelope you addressed yourself. If you don't have time or hate your handwriting but still want that personal touch it's always possible to hire help with this. Look for freelancers and calligraphers locally or online. Use the full title and name of the person being invited, then the street address, city, and state written out in full- for example, you would write Savannah, Georgia 31401 instead of Savannah, GA.

When choosing who to invite, consider carefully how you will word the names. Writing the name of the relative/friend "plus one" could be asking for trouble if you don't know who they will bring. Free alcohol and strangers could be a recipe for disaster and we cannot tell you how many requests there are to remove an ex-boyfriend or acquaintance from wedding photos in Photoshop after the event is over and somebody made a fool of themselves. A good rule of thumb is to invite your friends and their significant others but ask them not to bring a casual date, friend, children, or coworkers.

When inviting a family, one invitation for a married couple will suffice. If you are well acquainted with the family being invited and are not risking a loose interpretation how many members of “The Doe Family” might show up, one invitation will do. It could be a delight for the children to receive their own invitation. For more distant family members, you may want to specify an invitation addressed to the parents with “The Misses and Messrs. Doe” below indicating their children only are welcome to attend. This should clear up whether or not they can bring your cousin’s great aunt and her younger boyfriend.

Wedding invitations should be sent out between 3-4 months before the wedding. If you want to give your guests more time to plan, sending out “Save The Date” cards shortly after your engagement are highly popular. The “Save The Date” cards can be more informal.

The Vendors: The Cake

If you will not be baking the cake yourself or having a friend/family member do it for you, start the process early to find a good baker and schedule a wedding cake tasting. You and your fiancé should already know what your cake budget is. If not, figure this out before you go to any tasting. Write it down if need be to stay focused.

Before you arrive, you should be able to present your baker with an idea of what you want your cake to look like. Have some inspiration images printed out and be

specific about what you like about each one and what you don't like unless you want something reproduced outright. Do a little research online to read about what kinds of frostings are used in building a wedding cake and have an idea of how that will translate to your own cake.

Discuss with your baker how many guests are coming to the wedding, and the dates/times. The more information you can share with them about your plans the more tuned in they can be to your aesthetic. Brainstorm with them. If you want a cake topper, either bring a photo of it or already have it purchased to show the baker.

We don't recommend bringing anyone other than your fiancé and perhaps a parent to a cake tasting. Plan on going to your tasting after a lunch or light breakfast so you don't consume that much sugar on an empty stomach. Many bakers will charge a tasting fee and offer you a menu of options you'd like to sample ahead of time. Some couples will have several flavors of cake in different layers, others will all be the same flavor.

If you aren't keen on the cakes sampled or aren't sure the baker can bring your vision to life, don't be afraid to politely leave without signing a contract. If possible you may benefit from visiting several bakeries before settling on one. Try not to visit all the bakeries in one day or you will be feeling sick and unable to enjoy each.

Discuss ingredients, particularly if you have allergy concerns. Be prepared with questions. Are there any extra fees you might anticipate such as the

decorations or embellishments discussed? When will the baker actually make the cake? Is there a fee for delivery and when can the baker deliver it to the venue? If the venue is outside, are there any temperature considerations with ingredients such as melting frosting or embellishments? What is the size of one serving that would be served to guests vs. the cake samples at the tasting? Is there an option to provide a sheet cake to guests that can be discreetly cut in the kitchen to make serving the cake quicker and easier? Are you allowed to use your own cake topper for the cake?

Take detailed notes, especially if you will be attending more than one cake tasting. For each sample taste the cake separately from the frosting and the fillings, and then taste them together. Drink plenty of water in between each sample and be sure to ask the baker for advice on which to eat first.

Vintage-inspired cakes could be as simple as a pound cake or until the 1940s might have been an elaborate, expensive fruitcake, full of spices, sugar, candied fruit and frequently soaked in liquor. Your guests may not have ever had or enjoy a traditional fruitcake so if you want an authentic one, we recommend following the tradition of having a much smaller groom's cake (the fruitcake) for those who wish to sample it and the bride's cake, which is the more recognizable multi-layer concoction of white frosting, piped flowers and decorations, etc. designated to feed the guests at the reception.

There are other alternatives to a full-fledged wedding cake. While they are not as authentic you may opt to serve your guests other desserts such as miniature

pies, cupcakes, miniature tarts, or other treats that may align with your chosen theme.

The Vendors: The Caterer

Many weddings the past took place in the morning or at noon with a sit-down meal afterwards often referred to as the wedding breakfast. This is a charming and traditional way to feed your wedding party and/or guests a nice luncheon. Not all brides were able to afford elaborate evening receptions, and this is still a perfectly acceptable way to celebrate. Depending on her budget, the vintage-minded bride may opt for a traditional wedding breakfast and a bigger reception later in the afternoon or evening, or just the wedding breakfast.

Your caterer will typically be the vendor who prepares, delivers, and presents food to your guests at the wedding.

Before you contact your caterer, it's time to make decisions and do some research. Now is the time to decide when and how much food will be served. Will you want finger foods at the beginning of your reception or just a dinner? Do you need to take into consideration wine pairing? Will you prefer a buffet style or something fancier? Do you want a plated dinner where each plate is arranged by the kitchen and serve to each guest? Do you want platter service where waiters serve guests at the table? Do you want family-style dining where food and appetizers are served on platters and passed around among guests

seated at each table? Will you need any other desserts in addition to your wedding cake?

Collect information about your venue to bring to your caterer. This will allow them to give you an accurate quote. They will need to know about the kitchen space in the venue, such as refrigerator space, prep space, and if tables will be provided. Be sure to communicate with your venue about what the caterers' responsibilities are, such as who is responsible for cleanup at the end of the event. Provide a list of things that you need the caterer to do and be sure they are able to meet all of your requests. Find out if your caterer will need to bring items such as serving and kitchen utensils, tableware, linens, and other items needed for your food service.

Before you make any inquiries, check with your venue to be sure that you are not required to use an in-house or contracted catering service. We recommend that you book your caterer shortly after booking your venue, at least six months to year in advance.

When shopping around for a caterer, ask for recommendations from friends and family and coworkers. Your favorite restaurant may even offer catering. Be prepared with questions. Are they able to accommodate size of the event that you are planning? Can they provide reviews, references, or other information about recent events that they have put on? Can they give you a sample quotation so that you can be familiar with any extra charges or services that may be added on to your quote? Does your caterer have a current license?

After you have received an initial proposal and cost estimate from your caterer you may opt for a tasting. Most caterers will offer a tasting similar to the wedding cake tasting allowing you to sample food items before making a decision on your menu. Be sure when you meet with your caterer explain to them exactly what your plans are and that you are planning a vintage wedding. Not all caterers will be able to accommodate food requests outside of their specific menus and meal plans.

To keep your costs down, you could always forgo main course food options, and instead serve your guests hors d'oeuvres, appetizer platters, and other things that will go well in a buffet.

The Vendors: The DJ

Music is such an important element to bring the right feel and ambience to your event. There's a fine line to walk between having music played that is authentic appropriate for your era and worrying that your guests may feel alienated if there is not more modern music played your event. We encourage you to consider many of your guests may never have been exposed to vintage or period music and it may actually become enjoyable for them, particularly if you hire a dance instructor to teach everyone a few easy steps during the reception. Have your DJ play lots of slow, sweet old tunes that anyone could slow dance to. That being said, it's perfectly acceptable to play some popular songs that everyone will enjoy and get up and dance to.

Choosing your DJ is going to be one of the most important decisions for your event. Nothing could be more embarrassing to you than to have invited your guests to a vintage wedding and your DJ is oblivious to your aesthetic and ambiance.

We will include some sample playlists in the reference portion of this book to help you get started. We recommend reading about popular artists for the era that you've chosen for your wedding. Keep in mind that many songs made popular in the 1920s continue to be recorded over and over by different artists and in different styles clear up to the 1960s. Therefore, we recommend that if you want to be authentic you do a little homework on which artists recorded the songs you want played and when. Search out these beautiful forgotten recordings. There are amazing online archives containing digitized music from old records going as far back as the early 1910s and you are able to listen to and sometimes download this music for free. Imagine how beautiful it would be for your older guests to hear songs they might remember from years ago played and highlighted once again. We fondly remember a wedding where an elderly family member danced, tears in her eyes and shared with the bride and groom that the song the DJ played was the song she danced to with her first husband in the living room the night before he left to be shipped off to war. He died in the skies over Germany three weeks later. She never thought she'd hear it played again in a public place, much less at a wedding. She said for just a brief moment as she danced with her partner, she was brought back to that time and place.

Ask your DJ to be specific about what he can play for you, and make it very clear what you want played and

when, and what should not ever be played. Be specific with your DJ about expectations for dress and ask if they have any footage of them performing at weddings or other events in the past.

Be sure to provide DJ with a timeline of the wedding as early as possible so that there are no awkward pauses or miscommunications. Deliver your playlists to him at least one to two months in advance. Remember that your DJ will be setting the mood for the evening and the more information he has, the more seamlessly everything will run.

The Vendors: The Photographer

We cannot emphasize enough to you how important your photographer will be. Of all of your vendors, the photographer will be the one whose contribution will last forever. Your flowers will fade, the food will be eaten or thrown away, but the photographs your special day will persevere for generations to come. Your photographer will be responsible for capturing all of your hard work, planning, and your beautiful venue and preserving it for you. We recommend that you book and get your photographer involved in the planning process as early as possible. The best photographers are typically scheduled pretty far out, so we also recommend that this be one of the first vendors that you hire.

Think about the beautiful photographs that you may have inherited or have seen of older family members. In the past, photography was a luxury that most

people could only afford to indulge in for special events or milestones in their life such as wedding and there weren't hundreds of photos taken. The wedding photographs were usually comprised of one or two images taken in a studio or bridal portrait taken before the special day. Today, we have the luxury of being able to choose from hundreds of images that our photographer can alter, correct, or enhance.

First of all, spend some time doing your homework looking at other wedding photographs (new and old) and get a clear idea of what style of photography you want on your wedding day. It's a mistake to make a Pinterest board full of different styles and situations and expect your photographer to re-create all of those photographs. Keep in mind that on your wedding day things will be fast-paced and you will not have the time to stage every single one of the spectacular cinematic photographs that you see. Look for a similar aesthetic as far as color correction, composition, style to get a feel for what you want. We recommend you plan on asking your photographer for a good mix of candid photographs, portraits, and a few formal photographs with family members.

Choose the photographers you want to interview carefully. Be sure to exhaustively research their work, and examples of other weddings and other events that they have photographed. While you may find a photographer who takes beautiful vintage style portraits they may not have sufficient experience photographing a wedding. Weddings are unique events to photograph- they are a constantly changing dynamic environment with a lot of variables. Many photographers are not experienced enough to handle constantly changing and extremely challenging

lighting situations, guests who may or may not be inebriated, dozens of guests whose names they do not know, and subjects who may not want to be photographed, all in a fast-paced timeline of events.

Schedule consultations with several photographers. It is imperative that you meet your photographer in person. Their personality will make all the difference on your wedding day. Be sure that you feel comfortable with them as they will be spending more time with you more than anybody else on the day of your wedding. They will be there during stressful and emotional times and you want to be sure that your personalities are compatible. Your photographer should be comfortable and at ease working with people that they do not know, asking questions, and showing initiative to create beautiful and poignant images that you will treasure. They will need to be assertive without being offensive. Ask your photographer lots of questions. How will they work with difficult family members who aren't very excited about having their photo taken? How do they work with gathering and arranging the large numbers of family members for group photographs? Ask them to tell you about the most challenging situation they have dealt with at a wedding and how they addressed it. You will want a photographer who is friendly and outgoing enough to mingle and establish a relationship with your family and your guests so that the comfort level necessary for good photos (and a good time!) is there.

Ask them to show you some complete galleries of weddings from start to finish, some wedding photo albums, and other samples of their work. Be sure to analyze the images critically. Look for consistency in

focus, good composition, and a mastery of lighting in multiple situations and contexts. Do the people that they're photographing look happy and relaxed or do they look awkward in the photos?

Lastly, be sure that you understand how your photographer works on the business side. Ask to see sample contracts. Ask them about the breakdown of their fees, what is included and what will cost extra. Have a list of things that you would like included and be sure that you and the photographer are on the same page. Find out how many hours your photographer will be available and compare this to your timeline for your wedding day. Plan ahead and decide if you want your photographer around to photograph preparation, behind the scenes shots, and how late in the reception you will want them to be on hand.

Ask your photographer if an engagement session is available as part of your package. This will give you a chance to establish a good rapport with your photographer so that on the day of the wedding they'll feel more like a friend to you than a complete stranger. Consider if there are other events surrounding the wedding such as the rehearsal dinner, any parties or preliminary outings that you want photographed. Ask if there will be a second shooter present at the wedding. For larger weddings, it could even be beneficial to have a third shooter on hand, particularly if you want images of both the bride and groom and their attendants preparing for the wedding. Some photographers will have a clause in their contract that protects them in the event that any of your guests become abusive. Understand that while a photographer's contract may seem lengthier and

involved, this is to protect both you and the photographer. If it's in the contract, there's probably a very good reason for it. Your photographer should be happy to explain all of it to you.

Ask your photographer about the postproduction process. How long will it take to receive proofs, how will you be able to review them, and how long will final editing and finishing take? How many images can you expect, will you be receiving high or low resolution images, and will you be able to make any of your own prints? Some photographers provide digital images, and others will only provide digital copies of the prints that you have purchased. Most photographers will retain all copyrights to the photographs taken at the wedding, including photographs of the bridal party. Additionally, it is not uncommon for photographers to insist that you credit them when you post social media images, that you do not edit any images yourself, such as making them black and white or running Instagram filters on them. Unless you buy the rights to the images most photographers will not permit you to edit your own images or order an album from another source.

If your photographer does not provide you with digital images, it's probably because as a professional, this is not part of their business model. We are certain that they'll be very happy to explain to you the reasoning behind their policies.

There are very good reasons for why your photographer will be picky about their images, how they are used, and what you can do with them. Once they give you the images, they don't necessarily have much control over what happens to them once they go

out into the world. As an example, there was a bride who received absolutely stunning images from her photographer. Her photographer kindly provided digital copies of them for her personal use. She eagerly shared these with her family members. A few days later family members were posting these on social media after running filters on them that made them look completely different from the version with the photographer had worked for hours to perfect. While they tagged the photographer on social media, it wasn't long before the photographer asked for them to be taken down. The reason why is because the images that were going out to the world were not representative of the photographer's work because they had been changed and altered to where they were not even recognizable as the work of a professional photographer. The perfect color correction, focus, and lighting the photographer has been trained for years to perfect was not visible in images that were being seen by others, including potential new clients.

Once you have booked your photographer, be sure to stay in touch with them throughout the planning process and involve them if possible. Be sure that they are aware of the timeline, any locations other than the venue, and special requests that you or family members may have. Help them to be aware of any special circumstances or dynamics among family members so they do not make a mistake like photographing two parents who are divorced together, for example. Take care to ensure that individuals you suspect may not be a part of the family in the future are not included in the bulk of the photographs. Removing individuals can be expensive in postproduction.

Review:

- ◆ Try to involve your wedding vendors as early as possible in the planning process, especially your photographer.
- ◆ When hiring a vendor, always ask for references, examples of previous events and work, and do a search online for them as well.
- ◆ Don't be afraid to walk away if it is not a good fit.
- ◆ Book your vendor as far in advance as possible to ensure they are available for your date.
- ◆ Be sure that your vendor understands your vintage theme and visual concept.
- ◆ The key to a good relationship with your vendors is communication, communication, communication.
- ◆ Prioritize the most important things to you for your wedding, including what will last for years to come.
- ◆ Be respectful of your vendors, have realistic expectations, and understand that this work they are doing for you is how they make a living. Do not demand discounts and freebies unless your vendor has violated the terms of their contract.
- ◆ Do not forget to feed your vendors at the event and plan this in advance with your caterer.
- ◆ Hiring a wedding planner or consultant with an understanding of the era and time period you are emulating for your wedding will help you avoid embarrassing gaffes, and enhance the authenticity and atmosphere of the event.
- ◆ Try to find a historical creative venue with lots of character for your event.

- ◆ Less than perfect venues can still be made amazing with the right décor and lighting.
- ◆ Put everything in writing with your vendors and do not rely on verbal agreements.
- ◆ Pay close attention to all the logistical details of the venue and not just its appearance.
- ◆ Always have a contingency plan for an outdoor wedding.
- ◆ Plan for and send your invitations out in a timely fashion.
- ◆ Your photographer will be one of the most important vendors for your event. Budget accordingly and do a lot of research.

Chapter 5: The Vintage Bride & Groom

True Vintage or Reproduction?

There are benefits to buying true vintage gowns and searching for a good vintage reproduction or inspired gown. The really good reproduction gowns can be costly, but you will not run into as many problems finding something in your size, and they will likely be a little sturdier and hold up to more abuse on the wedding day than a vintage gown. Nothing would be more embarrassing than a wardrobe malfunction on your wedding day because your dress shattered. Do a lot of research to ensure you are finding gowns that represent the era of your choice accurately. Unless they are vintage enthusiasts themselves, bridesmaids will also thank you if you are not asking them to find matching true vintage gowns.

You may also want to consider having a gown made for you, or if you are an experienced seamstress, making your own wedding dress. Many brides in past years made their own gowns. There are increasing numbers of vintage patterns becoming available online and even major pattern makers are adapting and reselling vintage patterns sized for the modern woman. Some seamstresses may be able to help you design a beautiful dress by referring to drawings or old vintage patterns or perhaps reproduce a vintage garment that does not fit you or is too delicate to be worn. If you work with a seamstress to sew your dress for you, you should expect multiple dress fittings, and

will need to give your seamstress plenty of time to complete your gown.

True vintage wedding gowns from years gone by are in increasing demand due to their unmatched workmanship, detail, and appeal. The materials, tailoring and attention to detail in a vintage gown can usually only be found in couture gowns today. Technology and the internet have made it easier than ever to find a wide selection of vintage clothing and wedding gowns online and in shops. Buying vintage online can be a very involved process, with lots of considerations. Not all vintage clothing dealers allow returns. Clothing can frequently be listed as “vintage” when it is not, or the era miscategorized. A lot of 1980s styles, for example, are mistaken for 1940s, often referred to as “80s does 40s” by vintage clothing enthusiasts.

Sizing in past years is nothing like sizing of today and when buying vintage you must go by your actual measurements, not clothing sizes. Keep a tape measure handy when shopping- online or in person. Ask for help measuring yourself to get the most accurate numbers. And remember that even when your measurements match a dress, you may still need alterations for it to fit you perfectly. For example, a lot of vintage clothing is fitted for shorter torsos and narrower shoulders than most women of today have.

Larger sizes in vintage clothing can be challenging to find but don't give up easily. Look for local and online vintage clothing dealers, and reach out to them for help. You will be surprised at how friendly and helpful these individuals and businesses can be. Just remember that vintage clothing has usually been worn

before (unless it is considered deadstock) and there may be flaws or damage to it. Many of these things can be fixed or repaired, but some cannot. Ask a lot of questions when buying vintage clothing. Ask for detailed photos of seams, zippers, closures, buttons, and underarms. Many vintage dresses are weak, faded, or shattered under the arms due to perspiration and old-fashioned deodorant wearing down the material over time. Dry-cleaning a vintage gown is a risky thing to attempt. Countless beautiful vintage gowns have been ruined by inexperienced drycleaners. Therefore, we recommend that you instead ship it to an heirloom restoration company for cleaning. This is an area where doing your research is critical.

The Vintage Bride: The Dress & Veil

The 1910s

Women were phasing out corsets and Edwardian fashion, while still very elaborate and detailed, was shifting towards comfort with straight, slender dresses. Common trends were wide Empire-style waists, hemlines rising above the ankles, and beautiful overlays. Wedding veils were typically floor-length or longer, worn cap style with clusters of orange blossoms. It was during this era that brides began to have their bridal party dress alike, a popular trend that we still see today. Brides carried shower bouquets, with flowers, greenery, ribbons, and trim cascading to their ankles. By the end of World War I,

fabric shortages limited seamstresses to using less than five yards of cloth per dress. Parisian fashions were not available during the war, and brides often sewed their own dresses.

The 1920s

Skirt lengths had never been so short- knee length! Although wedding dresses were usually somewhat longer than day or party dresses, they were still straight and boxy. Women sought a more masculine silhouette, even going so far as to bind their breasts to flatten their chests. Undergarments and long-line corsets shaped the body into that sleek, smooth silhouette. Most wedding gowns had the famous dropped waist, chemise silhouette, with belt lines at the hips with a heavily embellished sheer layer of sheer net or chiffon. Sleeves were often cap sleeves, nonexistent, or elaborately draped. Necklines dropped too, often featuring a lace or sheer insert. Gloves were not usually worn with 1920s bridal ensembles. Beautifully embellished shoes, stockings and other accessories were worn by the bride and her bridesmaids. Headwear was often a wreath of flowers, a cap-style, or a beautiful headband or bandeau with a very long veil. Many of these dresses had a beautiful sewn-on cape or train starting at the shoulders. For an authentic 1920s veil, you should wear a veil made of tulle or lace affixed to a bandeau worn low on the forehead. Veils were long and extended to the floor or the end of a train.

The 1930s

The streamlined, bias-cut, and sensual evening gowns of the 1930s influenced bridal designs. Full-length dresses returned as did sleeves. Puffed sleeves and “leg of mutton” sleeves were wildly popular after Joan Crawford wore them. Many 1930s bridal gowns were long, sleek, with a short train. The “sweetheart” neckline had become popular. Other gowns featured cowl necklines, v-necks, elaborately ruched or pleated neckline/shoulder silhouettes, often accented with sparkly dress clips. Dresses were usually more modest as well, often featuring rows of covered buttons on the back. Bridesmaids would wear the slim and elegant bias-cut Art Deco silhouettes so popular in evening wear, in heavy rich bridal satin, velvet, or silk, often adorned with jeweled buckles and clips. During a brief time after actress Vivian Leigh in “Gone With The Wind” wore big beautiful antebellum gowns, there was a popular trend of huge ruffled wedding gowns with hoop skirts. The peplum design in gowns had also become very popular again by the late 1930s. Most 1930s veils were shorter and attached to a decorative headdress such as a Juliet cap, coronet-style cap or a bandeau, and the veil was worn further back on the forehead. Mantilla veils became popular during this time period. Orange blossoms continued to be favored by brides and worn on their veils.

The 1940s

The wartime wedding was the norm, sometimes with the arrangements happening with only a week or even

a day's notice. Rationing and shortages would dictate what a dress could be made of. Women who chose to forgo the traditional wedding gown were married in smart suits or day dresses, with beautiful hats with a small veil. It was perfectly acceptable to wear a nice dress and hat for a last-minute wedding. Rationing required use of non-traditional materials because the war effort used silk. Even Princess Elizabeth (now Queen) was even required to use clothing ration coupons in order to acquire the materials to make her wedding dress in 1947. Famous examples of wedding gowns made from parachute silk abound, and repurposing older wedding dresses or evening gowns was the norm. Formal wedding gowns were usually the A-line silhouette, often referred to as the princess style. Typical styles would include puffed sleeves, fitted bodice, nipped-in waist, sweetheart neckline, princess seams, long sleeves. The peplum waist was also trendy. While these gowns were simple and often adorned very simply, they were highly flattering and elegant. Bridesmaids often wore ensembles that they could wear again. In 1947, Christian Dior's "New Look" changed everything. Dresses and skirts used twice as much fabric as they had during the war. Wedding dresses took on more of a wide, ball gown shape that surged in popularity in the 1950s. In the 1940s, the fingertip, blusher, birdcage, and tiered veil were popular depending on your gown, attached to tiaras or decorative headpieces. A headpiece of lace or fabric matching the dress would hold several layers of. Many weddings were hasty or utilitarian due to the war, so a beautiful hat could also suffice for a justice-of-the-peace wedding.

The 1950s

Bridal gowns were massive confections usually incorporating a fitted bodice, tight waist, and bell-skirts. On full-length gowns, long trains were popular. Adorned with lace, embroidery, and other embellishments, and sometimes boasting multiple layers of tulle, these dresses were fit for a princess. Even a less-formal tea-length wedding gown would have a voluminous skirt. To achieve that full skirt effect, the bride would special undergarments including a corselette to cinch her waist, a bombast petticoat, and longer petticoats. Veils were often secured to the head with a half-cap and tightly gathered to make them fluffy to mirror the skirt of the dress below. Veils in the 1950s were typically much shorter and often included more layers. Fluffy, billowy and ethereal, they were worn with crowns, Juliet caps, and elaborate floral coronets. The length for these veils was often blusher length, fingertip length, or elbow length. The bridal bouquet was not nearly as large and elaborate as in former decades, often just the size of a small nosegay. Bridesmaids frequently would wear calf-length “ballerina” dresses, with nipped in waists, puffed sleeves, and the wide skirts with petticoats and crinolines to achieve the same bell-skirt silhouette.

The Vintage Bride: Accessories

As tempting as it might be, don't overdo it with too many accessories. Gloves were not always worn, particularly for an outdoor or daytime wedding. If you

do wear gloves, be sure they do not look cheap. Most vintage gloves would not be super shiny or metallic. True vintage gloves are relatively easy to find and inexpensive. Stoles made of fur or other lavish materials should work with more formal evening or strapless gowns.

Jewelry can be simple and tasteful. Think pearls, Art Deco rhinestone jewelry with smaller “stones,” for lots of sparkle but not too much garishness. Pick out something beautiful and vintage from an antique shop, eBay, or even a reproduction set.

White shoes or sandals in a vintage style are easily sourced. Most true vintage shoes out there are not going to be as comfortable for an entire day of wear, and an entire day of wear could destroy them- so consider vintage reproduction at least for your shoes. Royal Vintage Shoes, Chelsea Crew, ReMix Shoes, American Duchess, Rocket Originals, and BAIT footwear all have lovely reproduction styles that would go well with your gown. Think lower, thicker heels, but not too blocky or you’ll look 1970s!

There are a lot of cheap vintage-inspired shoes out there for sale on the internet. We recommend you take the time and effort to invest in a good quality pair that will be comfortable all day. Nothing is sadder than seeing a bride limping around with shredded stockings and bare feet because her cheap shoes injured her feet. Many quality shoe manufacturers make shoes that will pass for vintage style, will not break the bank, and will be comfortable all day.

There are many beautiful vintage shoe advertisements available online for research. Take time to look at different silhouettes for your era.

Most importantly, wear your shoes in a little before the big day. We've watched bride after bride take her beautiful shoes right out of the shoebox the morning of the wedding and wince in pain the rest of the day because she did not take the time to break them in on carpet and indoor flooring for comfort. Don't suffer needlessly. Take the time and do it right.

The Vintage Bride: Professional vs. DIY Styling

The Hair

Unless you are a professional stylist, or well versed in vintage hair, we'd strongly recommend not to try this aspect of your look on your own. Your vintage hairstyle will be one of the first things noticed about your appearance. Countless brides have gone to inexperienced stylists or attempted to do vintage hairstyles on their own only to be disappointed on the wedding day when their look doesn't come out the way that they envisioned. There are plenty of stylists who, with the best of intentions, assert that they can do a vintage style but the finished look won't look as authentic as the inspiration photo the bride brought to them. It will take far longer than the typical bridal updos they are accustomed to doing and the last thing you will want is to run late because of your hairstyle.

A vintage hairstyle can be accomplished with a lot of practice but many of the tutorials and videos you will find online rely on heat styling, which may not hold up for the entire wedding day for most brides. Most true vintage hairstyles achieve their volume and longevity from what's called a wet set that will add more authenticity to your hairstyle. Not all vintage stylists will use a wet set, but the principles needed to construct most authentic styles at the same: begin with tight curls, vigorously brush out and form into waves, rolls, or other vintage shapes. Most vintage hairstyles also work best on shorter hair or a very specific hair-cut, and it will take a professional to adapt the style on an individual who may have longer hair which most women today do. A 1920s style finger wave for example can be very time-consuming to create and near impossible on a woman with longer hair if you aren't sure what you're doing.

Regardless, with a lot of practice, it can be done. This is something that you want to begin practicing at least 6 to 8 months out on a regular basis to get used to doing it quickly and effectively so that your hair doesn't take five hours on your wedding day. We have seen nightmare scenarios such as the morning where a bride arrived an hour late to her own wedding, with awful hair, angry at her stylist, heartbroken and embarrassed to walk down the aisle. She did not smile in any of her wedding photos and has talked ever since about a do-over of an otherwise successful event. Another consideration is how authentic you want your bridesmaids to look and who will style them.

If you have a stylist that you know and trust, consider asking her well ahead of time to learn along with you

how to create the vintage style of your dreams. There are wonderful books out there on vintage hair. We are partial to author Lauren Rennells' books and line of products, as they are easy to follow and she even has a book specifically written for wedding hair. You could even study these with your bridesmaids and maid of honor and do one another's hair the day of the wedding but we recommend practicing months and months in advance, over and over, until you get it right so that your hair the day of the wedding is the least of your concerns.

We recommend getting your hair cut and colored at least 2 to 3 weeks in advance. If you're concerned about roots, consider booking your stylist at the two-week mark before your wedding. Two-tone and overly highlighted looks are not going to look as beautiful with vintage hairstyles as solid colors.

The day of your wedding, be sure to put on your veil after the dress, and ask your stylist to help you put it in place after you dress.

The Make-Up

We cannot emphasize enough the importance of doing a trial run with your makeup and hair well in advance of your wedding. If you are not pleased with the results and are not confident that your stylist can nail the vintage style that you want, do not hesitate or feel bad about parting ways. Find another stylist and start over until you find the one that you trust and can rely on.

Get everything in writing from your make-up artist, including when she will arrive on the day, if she will come to you or if you should go to her salon, if she wants to be paid for travel, and if she has a plan or backup associate who can do the work if she is unable to make it to your wedding. Budget in a generous tip for your stylists!

Pay close attention to the style for your era chosen when it comes to your makeup. Remember that for the vintage look, less is more. Don't rely on a search engine to give you accurate results for what to look for. There is a lot of mislabeled examples of "vintage" makeup. For example, it's a common misconception that a strong, heavy cat-eye is typical of the 1930s and 1940s when such styles did not become truly mainstream until the mid-1950s to 1960s. Look for old advertisements and magazine covers for your inspiration.

Be sure that you are using the right make up for the right time of year and your climate. Do not try to darken your skin with bronzers or foundation. Be sure that you have selected a perfect color match in foundation.

For the very best results for your photography there are two big rules: no glitter and no shimmer. Any highlighter should only be applied very sparingly to the top of cheekbones, and temples. Only use a superfine highlighter, nothing with glitter. Be sure that the rest of your face is matte, matte, matte or you will look like you are sweaty and oily. Set your makeup with a good matte powder. Use eye primer to keep your eyeshadow fresh and crease-free. Apply makeup under correct lighting. Do not experiment

with new products or techniques the day of the wedding. If you are doing your own make-up, practice your vintage styles months in advance so you've nailed the look you're after and can do it quickly and painlessly the day of your wedding. Take photos of it and see how it looks in sunlight and under artificial light.

For the 1910s, we recommend pale skin, using minimal foundation, light rouge, minimal eyeliner, and light mascara. It wasn't until the 1920s that women commonly wore makeup. Not only was makeup still being formulated with Victorian era ingredients such as lead and arsenic, it was widely believed that women who wore a lot of makeup were of ill repute. Women instead would pinch their cheeks to gain a little color and flush.

For the 1920s, makeup was more commonly accepted worn widely by most women. New technology, ingredients and the post-war manufacturing abilities made it possible for make-up to be mass-produced and marketed. Foundation in skin color would still be a matte, pale, strongly defined cheek with blush applied to the apples of the cheek, kohl eyeshadow and liner (think soft, dark smoky eye), and strong eyelashes. This was a time when eyeshadows were colorful, in rich plums, pale blues, and greys and browns. Think long, thin eyebrows. Strong lip colors were painted on in a cupid's bow shape for a small and rounded mouth shape. Early 1920s lipsticks were darker, richer colors, but by the end of the decade, bright corals, pinks, oranges, and reds became popular.

By the 1930s, brows had become thinner. Pancake makeup had become popular. The tanned look was becoming desirable- particularly in the winter time when fashionable people travelled to exotic locations. Blush was applied in a triangular shape to enhance cheekbones. A more carefully defined style of making up the eyes had become popular to make women look more feminine and delicate. Eyeshadows were available in more colors, but were not put on as heavily as in the 1920s. Lips were drawn on as fuller and more enlarged. The garish lip colors of the 1920s had given way to more refined reds, burgundies, and dark pinks.

In the 1940s, makeup had become more sophisticated. Red lipstick was part of your daily routine and was available just about any shade of rich red you can imagine but the most popular were the classic blue-reds. Most lipsticks were matte finish. Eyebrows were well groomed and shaped, no longer plucked thin. Powder was frequently sold in pressed form in compacts, replacing loose powders. During the war, when women found themselves increasingly entering the workforce and even the military, makeup had to be simple, portable, feminine, and convenient.

The postwar 1950s saw the beauty industry boom. Makeup had become highly sophisticated, more feminine than ever, and more technologically advanced. Foundation for this era should be natural looking and matte- matching your face color. Soft pink blush should be applied to the apple of the cheeks. The popular wing or cat-eye effect for eyeliner became popular in the 1950s but don't go overboard with it. Lashes were well defined but mascara was usually only applied to the upper lashes. Eyebrows

still looked predominantly natural but were more feminine and shaped in a gentle arch. Eyeshadow would be soft and feminine and come in a rainbow of pastel and nude-colored shades.

Self And Body Care:

For a vintage look, we do not recommend getting a spray tan. In the weeks leading up to the wedding, pamper yourself and take lots of time out for both of you to take good care of yourselves. Moisturize your skin regularly, giving special attention to elbows, hands, and knees. Exfoliate your skin regularly. We recommend a Baiden mitten or similar for sloughing off dead skin a few weeks before the wedding.

Take a few minutes each night and rub those sore arches on your feet. Ensure you get a good night's rest, especially in the nights before your wedding so your skin looks healthy and refreshed! Drink plenty of water, more than you think you need! Drink fresh green juices or cleansing teas. Eat light. Stay away from lots of salt, sugar, and bloaty foods. Avoid excessive alcohol/tobacco/marijuana use as these can also make your skin look discolored, blotchy and uneven.

For your pedicure, choose classic or neutral colors, such as reds, soft pinks, and nudes. For your manicure, we recommend getting the half-moon manicure with the base natural or white, and the remainder of your nail a classic red or soft peachy pink.

The Vintage Groom:

Thankfully it will be easier for the groom to emulate classic vintage style than it is for the bride. Men's fashion has changed very little over the years. The clothing choices for the groom will be influenced largely by what the bride is wearing. If the bride's gown's formal, and the groom will also need to wear a more formal ensemble. If the wedding is taking place during the day, the groom may wear a morning suit. If the bride has a longer, floor length dress with a train, the wedding should be considered a formal occasion. Tea length or shorter train would signify a less formal occasion.

A common misconception about men's clothing in the 1930s and 1940s is that a zoot suit is considered appropriate formal attire commonly worn by men from the time period. While this is charming and a lot of men enjoy the idea of dressing like a “gangster” from the time period, it's not “gangster,” and is not authentic. When you look at mugshots and arrest photos of real gangsters and organized crime mobsters from the time period, they are dressed quite differently. These can also make interesting reference photos for vintage daywear for men.

The Clothing:

Formal evening wear for an Edwardian groom would include a frock coat or tailcoat with greater matching pants, a stiff starched white shirt with winged collar, white bow tie, and a black top hat. The shoes would be

black or white with white spats and white gloves. Alternative accessories could include a high silk hat or an opera hat, a white scarf, white gloves, and a white handkerchief. formal Daywear for the 1910s groom could include a cutaway coat in a lighter color with single or double breasted waistcoat worn over a white starched shirt with striped trousers. Complete the look with black shoes with white or gray spats to match the gloves, a high silk hat, and light colored gloves. The 1920s and 1930s groom would wear a very similar ensemble to the Edwardian style. Watch a Fred Astaire movie. There's your man.

For the 1940s, your groom may be excited to wear an authentic military uniform. Perhaps he received one from an older family member or is a reenactor. These are expensive but fortunately still relatively easy to procure. Do your homework to ensure that you show proper respect to any military uniform worn, including shaving and adhering to the grooming standards a soldier of the day would have. Nothing is more insulting to those who served in the military to see a civilian disrespecting and flouting the standards for a uniform they may have worn.

The Accessories:

The groom's boutonniere should be made from flowers and greenery from the bride's bouquet. If the groom is wearing gloves, so should his best man. He should remove his gloves before the ceremony, however. Ties worn by groomsmen should be identical

but different from the tie worn by the groom. Learn to tie a bowtie properly.

Beautiful hats are important for the groom's total look. Amazing true vintage hats can be found in antique shops, from vintage clothing dealers, and online. Perhaps the groom has an old pocket watch or other vintage accessories belonging to family members. Wear them and show them off!

Vintage watches are an authentic and fun accessory but stay away from the silly "gangster" chain and modern bling pieces, they will look more like a costume.

Cufflinks are another fantastic way for the groom and his attendants to express themselves. These may make great groomsmen gifts as well.

Suspenders would have been worn by a vintage man, so these are a fun way to accessorize for the groom and his attendants. These can be patterned, colorful or monochrome to match the colors of the bridesmaid's gowns. Patterned suspenders and socks should be worn with solid shirts and suits.

"Groomed" To Perfection:

Be sure to take good care of yourself so you look as good as your partner does on the big day. Indulge in a self-care regimen beginning a few months before the wedding. Keep your skin moisturized. Learn to trim rogue hair on eyebrows, ears, and nose, if need be.

Men these days enjoy pedicures and manicures, sans the polish. Indulge in both a few weeks out from the wedding. Just before the wedding you and your attendants might enjoy being pampered by a true barber with a straight-razor shave with hot towel and lather.

While many men consider a beard to be an integral part of a “vintage” look, men from past eras were typically very clean-cut and a beard would not be authentic. This is entirely a matter of personal preference and we would not recommend a groom shave off beloved facial hair for one day if it would make him uncomfortable, self-conscious or worse-resentful.

The Groomsmen:

The groomsmen should all dress similar to one another but not have the same color tie, waistcoat, or boutonnière as the groom. Consider finding some lovely vintage or vintage-inspired cufflinks for your groomsmen to wear as a gift.

Review:

- ◆ *True vintage gowns can be more expensive and fragile than a quality reproduction gown.*
- ◆ *Consider having a seamstress make you a reproduction gown for you and for your bridesmaids.*

- ◆ *When choosing vintage clothing, remember to go by your actual measurements not the clothing size listed.*
- ◆ *Never trust your vintage clothing to any old dry cleaner. Find a specialist.*
- ◆ *Orange blossoms are considered traditional for most eras to wear with your veil.*
- ◆ *Less is more with your accessories and jewelry.*
- ◆ *Study the silhouettes for shoes before choosing a pair for your wedding and be sure to choose a comfortable quality brand instead of the trendy cheap “vintage” styles you will find on the internet.*
- ◆ *Your vintage hairstyle will be one of the first things people notice about your appearance and will “make or break” your look. Consider hiring a professional with a solid portfolio and ability to do this quickly.*
- ◆ *If you are attempting to do any of the vintage hair or make-up styles yourself, forget everything you learned about modern make up techniques and begin practicing a few months out.*
- ◆ *Get your hair cut and colored at least 2-3 weeks in advance and avoid excessive highlights or ombre colors for a vintage hairstyle.*
- ◆ *Always do at least one trial run with your hair and makeup.*
- ◆ *Verify and authenticate your “vintage inspiration” sources on the internet.*
- ◆ *Regardless of your era, avoid using any glitter, shimmer, and sparkles on your face and hair the day of the wedding.*

- ◆ *Indulge in self-care and preparation beginning a month out.*

Chapter 6: The Pre-Wedding Events & Prep

The Wedding Party

Plan to have a discussion in advance with your wedding party about logistics and any expectations as to their participation in the ceremony and the reception. In addition to the rehearsal dinner you may want to have a planning meeting a month out and just go over everything with everyone involved and give them the opportunity to make suggestions or give you feedback. For example, if you are asking somebody to read aloud during your ceremony give them plenty of time to write their thoughts down and rehearse.

Purchase any gifts for your bridal party and parents at least a month to two months away from the wedding. It's a nice idea to present members of your bridal party with a gift bag containing essentials for the wedding day. This is especially useful if you have expectations regarding vintage accessories that you may want them to wear. You can simply purchase these things ahead of time and put them in the gift bag with a note. If members of your bridal party are coming from out of town, you could also include care package with gift cards for local restaurants or souvenirs.

While your wedding party may want to make the most of the free liquor, it is not unreasonable to ask all of them to moderate how much they drink so your memories of the day are not tarnished with bad behavior.

The Rehearsal Dinner:

Over time the rehearsal dinner has grown from being a small informal dinner for the wedding party after rehearsing the event to a secondary reception that includes a cake, guest list, table assignments, entertainment, etc. After attending both formal rehearsal dinners and informal gatherings, we can safely conclude that the night before the wedding is a time better spent relaxing in an informal setting. Additionally, better photos will be taken on the big day if the bridal party is well rested, and not dreading a second large reception necessitating formal attire and preparation.

While the rehearsal dinner costs or by tradition paid for by the groom's family, this could be built into your wedding budget if you're not sure whether family wants to foot the bill for it.

A practical rehearsal dinner should serve the purpose of allowing members of the wedding party to mingle and unwind before the big day. If you have guests coming from out of town they will probably welcome the opportunity to enjoy an informal gathering and if family members haven't seen one another in a while, they will likely be focused more on one another than on any entertainment or fabulous decorations you might be dreaming of.

Instead of paying for more decorations and all the other expenses with a catered event, we'd recommend a simpler alternative such as a backyard barbecue, dinner at a nice restaurant (make reservations for group ahead of time), or a simple catered meal. Some

couples get creative and have a rehearsal luncheon or even breakfast and a creative group activity for the group afterwards. One of our favorite rehearsal events was at a destination wedding. A lovely brunch was given by a couple for the wedding party and their close family members after which the gentlemen went for a round of golf and the ladies treated themselves to a luxurious afternoon on the beach with a few rented cabanas and masseuse on hand. Another family who were huge sports fans scheduled an old-fashioned softball game at the local park between the bride and groom's family complete with ballpark-style food, old music, and a real umpire. Be creative and find ways to save money on the rehearsal dinner so you can invest in the bigger things.

We would recommend having a loosely structured plan for the gathering, such as asking family members ahead of time to offer a toast or a short story to share with the group. The bride and groom will be the focus of the wedding ceremony and reception. Take this time to allow your groomsmen, bridesmaids, and other attendance and family members who have helped to shine, and honor them and their contributions.

Be sure to build in plenty of time for casual conversations, reunions, and catching up between family members and friends. Take the time to greet everybody, thank them for their contribution, meant to answer any concerns or questions they may have about their role for the next day. And then go to bed relatively early for a fresh start on your big day.

Preparation: Little Details, Big Impact

If you will not have a wedding planner on site, we recommend appointing a “point” person or family member who can field calls and questions throughout the day of the wedding from family members, vendors. They will be the one to pay the vendors at the end of the event any outstanding balance due and tips. This person should have provided their phone number to all the people who will be involved and should be available to take calls and text messages on behalf of the bride and groom. They should also be in charge of and empowered to enforce privacy and personal space for the bride and groom as they prepare, unless you were hoping for a swarm of well-meaning aunties, friends, and others swarming the bridal suite, fussing over you and causing delays. Ensure they also have a copy of the timeline and help everybody stay on task.

We recommend having plenty of snacks and drinks on hand the day of the wedding for the wedding party as they prepare. This does not have to be fancy catered food, and definitely limit the amount of alcohol that is consumed before the ceremony. It might even be nice to have a light lunch catered if the ceremony and reception will take place later in the day. Keep the food light, simple and free of anything that may cause bubbly tummies. Sparkling water or sparkling juice is a great alternative to endless mimosas.

For your bridal suite/preparation space, be sure to have other essentials on hand, such as a sewing kit, first-aid kit, safety pins, bobby pins, baby wipes, hand

sanitizer, manicure kit, the bride's makeup kit, clear nail polish, fabric repair tape, feminine supplies, chewing gum or strong mints, tape, scissors, any medications needed plus essentials like pain relievers and antacids, charging cables for everyone's devices, sunscreen, bug spray (for an outdoor wedding), eye drops, make-up remover wipes, hairspray, hand mirrors, straws for drinking (this will save your lipstick!), deodorant, dental floss, lint brush, and some pretty boxes to keep all this in so to keep the area beautiful so that the photographer won't have to work around a disaster area.

Keep the preparation area neat and clean for photos. Ask one of the bridesmaids to keep an eye on it as the day progresses. We once were hired to help retouch and edit photos for a bride who was so upset that her otherwise beautiful and ethereal preparation photos showed her in a beautiful mirror, and faintly reflected in the background was a row of her great aunt's pill bottles, oxygen tank, a box of baby wipes, and somebody's ashtray. The photographer was not willing to do it for her at the time so she ended up out of pocket down the line hiring another professional.

Remember that some of the most beautiful photos of the bride and her closest friends and family are taken during the preparation before the wedding. Be sure to communicate with your photographer ahead of time about what you want photographed and what is not to be documented. Some brides are extremely modest, others love the photographs of them as the dress is being put on, zipped up, or even lounging about in their robes and beautiful undergarments. Always ask everyone else in the room about their comfort level, particularly if your photographer is of the opposite

sex. Try to schedule the prep in a comfortable, well lit place and plan plenty of time for sharing memories, telling stories, and relaxing together.

Chapter 7: The Wedding Day

The Wedding Day: Overview

Weddings are celebrations of the creation of a new family, and it is important to keep this at the forefront of all planning lest it become a means of causing strain on existing, established families. No wedding is ever perfect, and the pursuit of flawlessness, publication in all the top blogs, etc. will take away from the purpose of the event. If you want to be published in a blog you may want to consider modelling and participating in a “styled” shoot with a photographer and vendors.

After the ceremony, be sure to remain close to your partner throughout the rest of the event as much as possible. With many guests and family members present, it may be easy to be pulled away or different directions. Establish communication ahead of time such as a little code word or gesture for when you need to be rescued or you’d like to realign and refocus on the other throughout the event. Make it a priority not to be separated.

The Wedding Day: Daytime? Nighttime? Both?

There are many advantages to holding a traditional daytime wedding. You can have a shorter timeline, save costs on vendors by avoiding premium evening, weekend, and after-hours rates, you will not be

expected to provide as much entertainment and alcohol as you would at an evening reception, and you will have the whole rest of your day to dedicate to taking wedding photos and spending quality time with one another. Daytime weddings can be just as formal, but daywear is typically not as formal as evening wear. A daytime wedding will require getting up pretty early in the morning for prep or doing a lot of it the night before. Most daytime weddings will not have a “cocktail hour” and guests can go straight from the ceremony to the “wedding breakfast.”

The Wedding Day: The Timeline

Make sure that you do not try to pack too much in on the day of your event. Take care of as many tasks and preparation as far ahead of time as possible. This should be one of the first things that you plan. Do not leave your timeline until the last minute because you will need the cooperation of your vendors to make it all come off perfect.

Trust your vendors when they make suggestions for your timeline, such as the amount of time needed for photography. Always remember the human element, such as some of your party running late.

Always give everyone plenty of time to get where they need to go. Variables such as traffic, weather, and other events happening at the same time as yours can cause unforeseen delays.

While you do not want to come across as a bridezilla, be sure that you have carefully structured your day with detailed timelines and itineraries. All of your participants know their part, and everyone should understand the timeline from beginning to end. You may want to treat everyone to an informal planning supper ahead of time to help get them onboard. Have your point person or wedding planner be empowered to help and step in if anything is running behind.

Planning an affair that is the most 4 to 5 hours long will ensure that your guests leave happy and not tired. If you want a big ceremony and a big reception, consider splitting them up let your guests have a little bit of time between, especially if there are out-of-town guests or family members that haven't seen one another in a while. This will also give the couple a bit of breathing room and plenty of time to work with the photographer before the reception and the drinking begins. Regardless of your timeline, be sure to set aside a short time after the ceremony to be alone together with your new spouse.

Your reception should be relaxed and enjoyable but go on at a steady pace and not drag on forever. Be sure to not leave too much time between reception activities like cutting your cake and bouquet toss to keep your guests focused and engaged. Keep toasts short and sweet and ask your bridal party to refrain from drinking much until after they have spoken to the assembled guests.

When planning your timeline, carefully plan the time of day for optimum photos. Ask your photographer to help you choose a good timeline that will allow them to take the very best photos in the most flattering light

and circumstances. Make sure you have a fallback plan in case anything runs late to ensure you have the best light!

Things to consider building into your wedding timeline:

- ◆ Photography & The First Look- See our Photography section for some guidelines
- ◆ Travel Time- Are you between venues/locations? Are you going to be transporting any guests from one location to another? Be sure you give yourself twice as long as you think you need!
- ◆ Hair and Makeup (for vintage, plan on 2-4 hours for the bride, and 2 for each bridesmaid) will always take much longer than you think it will.
- ◆ Ceremony Time- 30-45 minutes
- ◆ Receiving Line- At Reception or After Ceremony- 10-15 minutes. An alternative is visiting with your guests during dinner.
- ◆ Gap between Ceremony & Reception- How long and should you fill it with activities for your guests?
- ◆ Does your venue have a curfew?
- ◆ How long do you have your vendors contracted for? Going past time can be expensive!
- ◆ Toasts- A good rule of thumb is the host giving a toast to “open” the reception. Bridal party toasts take place during dinner. No more than 5 minutes for each person speaking and no longer than 15 minutes for each segment.
- ◆ Cake Cutting- Plan on 10-12 minutes.
- ◆ Dancing- This is not always mandatory for a reception. In the past, some receptions were a meal, mingling, a toast, and a farewell!

- ◆ Signing the marriage license- Plan for 10-15 minutes with your officiant.
- ◆ Eating- Your catering plan will determine how long this will take. Keep in mind that a shorter reception means less food, and a longer reception means more food.
- ◆ Bouquet toss- 5 minutes
- ◆ Farewell/ Send-off- Plan on 10 minutes.

Here are several sample timelines to consider based on historic and modern weddings:

The Morning Ceremony and Wedding “Breakfast”	The Daytime Wedding & Luncheon	The Daytime Wedding & Evening Reception
7:00am-9:00am: Preparation & Family Photos 10:00am-10:45am: Ceremony 10:45am-11:30: Mimosas and Snacks, Photography 11:30am-1:30pm: The Wedding “Breakfast” & Reception 2:30pm: Couple Departs	9:00am-11:00am: Preparation & Photography 11:00am: First Look & Photography 12:30pm: Ceremony 1:15pm: Receiving Line 1:45pm: “Cocktail Reception”	9:00am-12:30pm: Preparation, Photos 1:00pm: Ceremony 1:45pm: Receiving Line, Couple Departs 6:00pm: “Cocktail Hour” 6:30pm: Couple Enters Reception

2:45pm- Guests Depart	2:15pm: Seated Lunch Served, Toasts	6:45pm: Hosts welcome, toast the couple
3:30-5:30: Photography	3:00pm Cake Cut & Served	7:00pm: Dinner Served, Toasts
	4:30pm: Farewells, Couple Departs	8:15pm: Cake Cut & Served
	5:00pm: Guests Depart	8:30pm: Dancing/Bouquet Toss
		10:30pm: Couple leaves
		11:00pm Guests Leave

The Wedding Day: Transportation

If you don't have friends who own classic period cars, consider reaching out to local car clubs. Attend some car shows in the months before your wedding and ask around if any of the owners of these stunning rolling works of art might (for a generous fee) be willing to drive you and your groom away from the wedding or at the very least, come to the reception venue and allow you to take photographs with it.

In many larger cities there are companies that will rent classic or vintage cars for very competitive rates. If either of you have been drinking be sure to hire a

well-dressed driver to drive your beautiful vintage rental.

Some couples may even enjoy going on a ride in a horse drawn carriage. This is a beautiful and classic photo op and will be a great time to spend together. Consider bringing your photographer along for the first part of the ride and then having them step out halfway.

Another great idea that we've seen and loved were classic motorcycles with a sidecar.

If you really wanted to go over the top and are having an aviation themed wedding you may even want to see if you could be photographed with or schedule a ride in an old airplane for your getaway. This is also an amazing photo op whether or not you actually get to ride in the airplane.

The Wedding Day: The Ceremony

We beg you to consider using something other than Canon in D for your ceremony music. While you may want classical music played, consider that there are so many beautiful and overlooked pieces of music that could be far more personal in nature and lend an air of sophistication and elegance to your event. Ditch the wedding music compilation discs your mother gave you and ask a friend who is a musician or music aficionado for advice. Watch royal weddings and pay attention to the stories being told through the music choices.

You may know friends or family members who have musical prodigies in their family who could play for you live at your wedding. Even if they are children pay them fairly.

Look your new partner in the eye as much as possible as you read your vows. Keep the vows short and to the point. Remember that not everyone there may be privy to your inside jokes. Be tasteful, succinct, and loving. Do not use this as an occasion to roast your new partner. Less is always more. As you prepare your vows, read them aloud several times, to yourself and maybe a trusted friend.

If it sounds awkward read aloud, go back to the drawing board. And don't wait until the last minute to write them. Have them written down or printed in a manner that's easy to read, because even the most courageous extrovert may find themselves fumbling for words during such an intense, emotional moment. Cringe-worthy things have been said by brides and grooms on their wedding day because they tried to speak from their heart, and their fear and nervousness took the microphone instead.

If your ring bearer is young and perhaps unreliable, you may want to consider using fake rings on a pillow or whatever it is he is carrying.

The Wedding Day: The Reception

Because you will likely be playing vintage music at your wedding, it might be a good idea to bring in

dancers or dance instructor to help teach your guests some authentic dance moves. You may want to reach out to a local dance group and asked them to come in and do a demonstration. Lindy hop flash mobs are extremely popular at vintage events and there is probably a group in your area who you can contact to make an appearance at your wedding. Many of them are students and might dance for you in exchange for free drinks or food.

You and your partner may want to invest in dance lessons in the months before the wedding, and wow your guests with the first dance to a beautiful foxtrot, energetic lindy-hop routine, or another fun dance. Imagine gliding across the floor ballroom style like Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers to a lush beautiful period tune like Harry Roy's "Learn to Croon," Artie Shaw's "Moonglow," or "Some Enchanted Evening." A popular "vintage" song at modern weddings is "At Last." The original version was recorded by Glenn Miller and is a lovely alternative to the usual Ella Fitzgerald recording. Subscribe to a service like Spotify to hear a lot of beautiful, remastered music and begin assembling your playlist for the wedding.

It's a great idea to arrange ahead of time who might give toasts during the reception. We do not recommend opening up the microphone for whoever may feel the need to come up and speak. This can drag on longer than you might have anticipated, can be difficult stop once it started, and if alcohol is involved, can become awkward and uncomfortable for you and your guests.

The week before the reception have a planning meeting with your bridal party and make requests at

that time for who will be giving a toast at the reception. Ask them to stay on a specific topic such as how the couple met or one funny story. Just one. We would suggest keeping each toast under two minutes, and include in those giving toasts the best man, the maid of honor, the groom toasting his bride, and perhaps a parent. The father of the bride is traditionally the one who begins the toasts. Communicate with your DJ what the plan is for toasts.

You may enjoy creating a time capsule at your wedding reception. Provide cards at each table asking your guests to write a special message for the bride and groom to open on a future anniversary. These are particularly poignant when you discover a message from a guest who has passed on since the time capsule was opened. Also consider writing a short note to your new spouse at some point during the day, such as during the prep time that you will give to them on your first anniversary.

If you don't want to declare your event child-free but would like your guests with children to be able to enjoy your reception, consider hiring a few babysitters to staff a room within the venue where children can go rest or play if they are tired or bored. Provide lots of entertainment and perhaps a television with several fun movies to watch. Be sure they have somewhere to lie down and sleep. Midday and evening receptions are tough on children, and consequentially, their parents. If the children are relaxed and having a good time, so will everyone else, but be sure it's not too much fun or the adults may end up in there all night! We once attended a wedding where the groom and some of the groomsmen had vanished. They were discovered in the children's playroom with babies in

their laps, hotly engaged in a video game tournament with the ring bearer.

The Wedding Day: Food & Drink

We described in the previous chapter the training tradition of having a vintage style wedding breakfast or brunch. The advantage to this arrangement is that your meal can be far more simple, and will not need to provide as much or any alcohol. For a wedding breakfast, you could serve premixed mimosas for example and skip the cost of an open bar altogether.

Consider too, the classic old-fashioned reception where lovely punch and cake are served. In times past this was a perfectly acceptable way to celebrate with your guests, and for a smaller wedding, is a cost-effective way to keep the focus on what's important on your wedding day.

You may want to research some traditional wedding menus but take into consideration the additional expense this may pose with a caterer and the dietary needs of your modern guests. It may be more fun to have classic good comfort food everyone can recognize and just give it a fun name like “Bing’s (Crosby) Favorite Potatoes” or “Winston’s Signature Prime Rib.”

To offset the cost and sometimes unhappy consequences of an open bar, we recommend instead that you offer your guests a signature cocktail or two that goes along with the theme of your event. This will

help trim costs for the liquor served at your wedding. To save even more money, you may opt to serve only wine at your wedding and just enough champagne for each guest for a toast. Purchase it ahead of time and have your caterer serve it for you. The caterer will likely charge a corkage fee, but this will still be cheaper than having your caterer provide the wine for you.

While your bridal party may want to make the most of the free liquor, it is not unreasonable to ask all of them to moderate how much they drink so your memories of the day are not tarnished with bad behavior that can result from excessive drinking. In Western culture, weddings are often celebrated with excessive drinking and partying, but think about the consequences and the comfort of all of your wedding guests.

We have seen so many things go terribly wrong when people are inebriated and ruin a special day. One of the most unforgettable problems at a wedding we've seen was a bride left with no wedding photographs after one of the groomsmen decided to repeatedly harass their photographer. The photographer had a clause in her contract stipulating that after three warnings, harassment constituted a breach of contract. So she walked out of the event taking her photos and videographer with her. The following business day, the bride and her parents were provided with legal notice and high resolution video of four instances where she had been assaulted and harassed by the member of the wedding party, the warning being given, and her departure from the event. When taken to court, the judge upheld the photographer and the bride and her rowdy bridal party were left with

nothing but cell phone pictures of their twenty-thousand-dollar wedding. You don't want any videos of your beautiful wedding going viral for all the wrong reasons.

If you want everyone to have free reign to get rip-roaring drunk, it might be wiser to have a shorter reception, save the money you'd have spent on a free bar, and schedule an after-party.

Review:

- ◆ Remember the purpose of the wedding day and keep it the forefront of your planning.
- ◆ No wedding will ever be perfect. Do not sacrifice happiness and relationships in your pursuit of perfection.
- ◆ Appoint a person to be your right hand to field inquiries, interface with your vendors, empowered to help where needed, make decisions, and step in if anything is running behind.
- ◆ Appoint one person to pay your vendors at the end of the event any outstanding fees and tips. Have this money already put in labelled envelopes.
- ◆ Make it a priority not to be separated from your partner after the ceremony.
- ◆ Try to get everything done as far in advance as possible keeping the wedding day free and clear.

- ◆ Trust your vendor suggestions for your timeline- especially your photographer's requests.
- ◆ Structure your day carefully with detailed timelines and itineraries and share these with the bridal party, your vendors, and any other key family members.
- ◆ Keep your wedding under six hours.
- ◆ Carefully plan for the very best photos and have your photographer work with you on this timeline.
- ◆ Consider all the factors when building your timeline: travel time, hair and makeup, receiving line, curfews, vendor contracts, toasts, setting the marriage license, eating, reception events, etc.
- ◆ Consider renting or borrowing a classic car for your transportation.
- ◆ Plan for snacks and drinks and possible meals the day of the wedding for those preparing.
- ◆ Avoid any heavy drinking before the ceremony.
- ◆ Equip your bridal suite or preparation space with all the essentials so nobody will have to leave and buy them for you.
- ◆ Keep your vows short and sweet and do not use this as an occasion to roast your new partner.
- ◆ Write your vows ahead of time, read them aloud multiple times, and do not write them at the last minute.
- ◆ Do not have an open mic at your reception. Make your requests ahead of time for people to speak and asked them to stay on topic.
- ◆ If your event is to be child friendly, consider having the room within the venue staffed with entertainment and a babysitter or two.

- ◆ Manage expectations ahead of time with your bridal party to avoid any problems with your vendors or other guests.

Chapter 8: Wedding Photography & Memories

Of all your vendors, put your photography first and foremost. Plan your entire wedding day around your photography. Trust your photographer, but feel free to ask plenty of questions so that you have the best possible outcome. Stay in close communication with your photographer to plan timelines, the lighting, the time of day, specific locations at the venue, if there are other locations, to ensure that you get the most beautiful and memorable photographs possible. Your photographer will thank you for making their job easier.

Getting The Right Shots:

While we do not recommend providing an exhaustive list of shots to your photographer, please do give them an idea of must-have shots that you would like captured. It is also good idea to not expect your photographer to perfectly re-create images other photographers have made. This will not only detract from the spontaneity and uniqueness of your day, it can waste a lot of time trying to set something up just right.

If beautiful and cinematic photos are important to you, you might want to consider a photo shoot shortly before or after the wedding. This will give you and your photographer plenty of time away from the crazy rush of the wedding day, expectations of guests and

family members, and allow you to focus on one another and make it an enjoyable, memorable process.

Depending on how long your photographer is scheduled for, you may want to be strategic with how you structure your timeline. Most photographers who are covering the entire day will come an hour to 45 minutes before the bride is ready to capture some of the styling, preparation etc. This will also give the photographer time to capture beautiful details such as your jewelry, dress hanging up, attendants, and the emotional moments together you'll be spending with your family and bridesmaids as you prepare for the ceremony.

Meaningful, Intimate Photos:

One thing that is not vintage style that we would recommend is getting a lot of really good, poignant photos. Traditional wedding photos from 80 years are typically very stiff and posed. The beauty of modern technology and changing tastes is that it's now possible and culturally accepted to take these amazing photos that show us during these important moments in our lives. The photos of the love between you and your partner will be treasures in coming years. They will help pull you through the dark times and remember why you got married in the first place when you struggle over rocky places with your partner.

It is increasingly popular to do a first look with your partner. For the best effect, it should be just the two of

you for the first 10-15 minutes. The groom typically stands with his back turned as the bride approaches him and turns around to see her all dressed up. Let the emotions flow. Keep *everyone* else away. This is *your* time. After you've had a few private moments, then consider taking some photos with your wedding party before the ceremony, but don't overdo it.

If you don't want to do a first look, consider an old-fashioned tradition: Write one another a short sweet letter. Ask your photographer to help you both to a place where you can hold hands briefly but not see one another. Standing on either side of a partially closed door could work. Your photographer should be able to capture both of you at the same time during this beautiful, poignant moment. Share your letter with the other. If you don't want any contact with your groom or bride to be before the ceremony, at least write one another letters and a small meaningful gift. Your photographer will capture the beauty of your emotions as you read these during the getting-ready portion of the day.

The Family Photos:

Appoint a family member who knows everyone to work with the photographer on the wedding day to help them identify and speedily arrange groups of family members to get everybody photographed quickly and painlessly. Be sure to inform them ahead of time of any circumstances or complicated situations with family members, dynamics or relationships. Typing up a list of all the family members and their

names will be useful to the photographer as they assemble everyone.

Remember that family photos are time consuming and stressful for both the photographer and the family members who just want to go eat and drink. Plan on 3-5 minutes per shot to get everyone set up and posed. You may even want to discuss with your photographer taking photos of large groups for the reception when the DJ can help you gather everyone. There's nothing more frustrating than trying to track down people when they're hungry and looking for the bar. Have a plan ahead of time where you want your group photos taken and plan this in advance with your photographer.

DIY Photography:

Wedding photography is not something that we recommend you do yourself unless you have a professional photographer in the family who is willing to work for free. In the past a common way to get candid photos was give the guests disposable cameras. Nowadays a similar scenario would be everybody taking pictures on their phones or tablets and using a hashtag so that you could find all of your favorite photos.

If you do not intend to hire a professional photographer be aware that key moments may be missed during the day or everyone will be clamoring to document those moments and that is all you will see is cell phones. Imagine a sea of held up phones in

every image though as everyone competes with one another for the perfect shot.

You cannot guarantee the results or the quality of photographs being taken by amateurs with their cell phones. Having everybody in the wedding ceremony and reception with their cameras out also detracts greatly from the day. Most of your photos will show everybody taking snaps of everyone else with their phones or cameras in their hands. The unplugged wedding is an awesome compromise that will allow you to gently encourage your guests to put away all of their electronic devices and enjoy the day and the memories and one another without having feeling the need to document all of it themselves.

The Unplugged Wedding:

Especially because you will be having a vintage wedding, you should consider an unplugged wedding. We cannot tell you how many beautiful photographs have been ruined by the number of phones being held up by everybody recording or snapping photos of the proceedings. When people are focused on trying to capture the moment with their mobile devices and cameras, and then be the first to share on social media, this can get in the way of your vendors, especially your photographer. Most importantly, people will not be wholly present for your special day when they are viewing your beautiful event through small screen on their phone or point-and-shoot camera. We have noticed that during unplugged weddings there is more joy, emotion and

connectedness among the couple being married and their guests. If you want an unplugged wedding it's a good idea to have small printed placards given to your guests and a prominent sign as they enter gently reminding them put away their devices, be present and enjoy the wedding. Ask your officiant to also announce this rule at the beginning of your ceremony.

You may have a family member who enjoys photography, works as a professional photographer, or wants to assist you by taking photographs on your wedding day. It is critical to discuss this ahead of time with the professional photographer that you have hired to cover your wedding. Some photographers do not mind family members taking photos.

However, most will not only object but have a clause in their contract stipulating that they are to be the exclusive photographer covering the day. This is not because they are unreasonable, it is because having multiple photographers on site who are not coordinated, will make coverage extremely difficult. We have seen so many wedding photographs, particularly group photographs, that are full of guests looking in many different directions. This is often because there are people standing behind the photographer asking to take photos or otherwise distracting the group being photographed. Nothing is more frustrating for a photographer to upload their photos and discover the bridal party being photographed was distracted and they will have to spend hours swapping heads, and making everybody's eyes point in the correct direction.

Review:

- ◆ Plan your entire wedding day around your photography.
- ◆ Ask lots of questions and establish a good rapport with your photographer.
- ◆ Try to plan your day around the best lighting, great photo opportunities, giving your photographer time they need so that you have the photographs you've dreamed of.
- ◆ Create a general shot list containing must have images and any specific family groupings needed for your formal family pictures.
- ◆ Consider a first look.
- ◆ Appoint a family member to help your photographer identify and position family members.
- ◆ Consider having an unplugged wedding.

Chapter 9: The Aftermath & Gratitude

Nothing could be more fun than taking a vintage-themed honeymoon as the icing on the cake of your wedding. Consider a traditional location and seek out historic hotels or rentals. When you return, be available for family members who may want to visit you at home. For older generations this is a tradition. As the flowers fade, the bills come in, and life begins to return to normal (only with a new spouse!) it can be easy to get caught up in the momentum. Remember to show your appreciation for those who worked so hard for your special day.

Write your thank you cards promptly and from the heart. Be sure to address them with the same care and flair that you did the wedding invitations. Always try to write a personal note acknowledging that person's specific contribution to your special day and how much they mean to you and your spouse. Be sure to thank them for the specific gift as well.

For the family members or friends that really went above and beyond for your wedding, it could be a nice gesture to include them in a thank you brunch or dinner a few weeks after the wedding when you've returned from your honeymoon. If there have been family members or friends who contributed to your honeymoon, be sure to send them photos, souvenirs or postcards from your trip.

Also remember to show your love for the vendors who contributed to your wedding. Ask your photographers permission to share photos with your florist your

venue and other vendors who may benefit from being able to share your photos on their websites or in portfolios. Your photographer may already have a clause in their contract stipulating that they be allowed to use your photos for this purpose. Unless you are extremely private or have a good reason to not have these shared, consider that this will help other people find them and have as good of an experience as you did.

If you experienced issues with your vendors, it's a good idea to try and resolve any outstanding problems as soon as possible. Make sure that you have all your contracts and documentation and that you can clearly explain to them what went wrong or why you are dissatisfied. It is in very poor taste and dishonest to enjoy and make use of a vendor's services, only to turn around and accuse them of something they did not do or express dissatisfaction with the sole intent of receiving a refund because you were able to afford the services in the first place. Unfortunately, we know from experience this is a common problem that vendors experience with a bride who suddenly realizes her wedding cost far too much and is trying to recoup her costs after the fact.

If you have a *legitimate* grievance or complaint for a vendor, be professional, friendly, and firm in your correspondence with them. Sometimes a frank and honest conversation had in person can clear up misunderstandings but also be cognizant of the need for documentation if you anticipate more problems down the road. When speaking in person or over the phone, be sure to follow up with an email summarizing the conversation for documentation.

If you're working with your wedding photographer to design your wedding album, be sure to follow up with them promptly and be specific with your requests so they can complete this within a reasonable timeline and you will have your photos to enjoy and share.

We wish you the very best luck as you plan your wedding. Remember, no wedding will ever be perfect and always try to live in the moment even if that means laughing at the things that go wrong, and loving family members even when they make mistakes. Enjoy your day, and cherish every moment of it. The hours and minutes will fly by faster than you can imagine and we hope it will be a warm, pleasant blur of memories that you can relive with beautiful photos and shared recollections with your new spouse.

VINTAGE MUSIC PLAYLISTS

These are by no means complete playlists; they are a great starting point for you to explore music from the various eras we've covered in this book. Keep in mind that the earlier recordings are often remastered but some are digitized directly from records that are nearly a hundred years old.

Be sure to listen to all the tracks you choose for your DJ and be aware that a lot of recordings from the 1910s, 1920s and even early 1930s may even have record hiss and static on them because those are the only copies that exist of those recordings. Many original recordings from the 1910s are very rough and may not translate well. Consider using recordings by an orchestra like I Salonisti who study and specialize in playing arrangements and in the style popular in the 1910s. They were so authentic they were featured in the movie "Titanic." Musicians like these are historians in their own right and their beautiful, haunting recordings would certainly lend an air to your wedding.

Beginning in the late 1940s and 1950s there is a great selection of "mood music," that began to surge in popularity in the 1950s with popular mellow instrumental recordings by ensembles such as the Jackie Gleason Orchestra. The Jackie Gleason recordings would be wonderful for your cocktail hour.

1920s

*Sunny Skies- The Piccadilly
Players*

*Stardust- Isham Jones (Various
other versions)*

*Dancing With Tears in My Eyes-
Ruth Etting*

*You're The Cream In My Coffee-
Ruth Etting*

Always- Irving Berlin

Vilia- Guy Lombardo

April Showers- BG DeSylva

*Lady Be Good- George & Ira
Gershwin*

*A Precious Little Thing Called
Love- Ipana Troubadours*

*Orange Blossom Time- Cliff
Edwards*

It Must Be Love- B.A. Rolfe

Blue Skies- Irving Berlin

*Building A Nest For Mary- Al
Friedman & Orchestra*

*Let's Do it (Let's Fall In Love)-
Various*

*Who's Your Little Who-Zis- Ben
Selvin*

Broadway Melody- Ben Selvin

My Blue Heaven- Gene Austin

*Reaching For The Moon- Ipana
Troubadours*

*Barbara- Ted Weems & His
Orchestra*

*'Leven Thirty Saturday Night-
Sam Brown*

*When Eyes Of Blue Are Foolin'
You- Howard Lanin*

*What A Day- Ted Weems &
Parker Gibbs*

Red-Headed Baby- Gene Kardos

*The Night When Love Was Born-
Debroy Somers*

Kitten On The Keys- Zez Confrey

*Morning Will Come- Zez
Confrey*

*When You And I Were
Seventeen- Nick Lucas*

<i>Glad Rag Doll- The Golden Gate Orchestra</i>	<i>My Baby Just Cares For Me- Ted Wallace</i>
<i>Happy Days Are Here Again- Ben Selvin & Orchestra</i>	<i>Shaking The Blues Away- Harry Reser's Syncopators</i>
<i>The Wedding Of The Painted Doll (Various)</i>	<i>Makin' Whoopee- Eddie Cantor</i>
<i>Say It With Music- Paul Whiteman</i>	<i>Broadway (Manhattan Mary)- Cass Hagan</i>
<i>The Man I Love- George & Ira Gershwin</i>	<i>Sleepytime Gal- Gene Austin</i>
<i>Dream Sweetheart- Cliff Edwards</i>	<i>Tonight You Belong To Me- Gene Austin</i>
<i>Put Your Arms Where They Belong- Nick Lucas</i>	<i>Come On Baby!- Allister Wylie & His Hotel Coronado Band</i>
<i>Bright Eyes- Various</i>	<i>Cuddle Closer- Cole McElroy's Spanish Ballroom Orchestra</i>
<i>You And The Night and The Music- Debroy Somers</i>	<i>To Know You Is To Love You- High Hatters</i>
<i>Song of India- Paul Whiteman</i>	<i>What Wouldn't I Do For That Man- Charleston Chasers</i>
<i>When You Said Goodnight- Nick Lucas</i>	
<i>Don't Wake Me Up Let Me Dream- Howard Lanin</i>	

1930s

Learn To Croon- Harry Roy & His Orchestra

Sweet Dreams, Sweetheart- Carroll Gibbons

Midnight, The Stars, And You- Al Bowlly

I'm In The Mood For Love- Louis Armstrong

Accent On Youth- George Hall & His Orchestra

Lovely To Look At- George Hall & His Orchestra

Midnight, The Stars, And You- Ray Noble

June In January- Ted Fio Rito

Hang Out The Stars in Indiana- Al Bowlly, Ray Noble

They Can't Take That Away From Me- Nat Brandwynne

Happy Times Are Here Again- Debroy Summers

Two Sleepy People- Geraldo & His Orchestra

Everything I Have Is Yours- Billy Merrin

I've Got You Under My Skin- Hal Kemp

Stardust On The Moon- Tommy Dorsey

On The Beach at Bali Bali- Maurice Winnick

You Must Been A Beautiful Baby- Bing Crosby

Deep Purple

Pennies From Heaven- Teddy Wilson with Billie Holliday

Solitude- Duke Ellington

Tea For Two- Tommy Dorsey

The Echo of A Song- Al Bowlly

You And The Night & Music- Debroy Summers

Smoke Gets In Your Eyes- Phyllis Robins

Close Your Eyes- Roy Noble

Painting The Clouds With Sunshine- Jack Hylton

As Time Goes By- Vera Lynn

<i>Star Dust- Bing Crosby</i>	<i>Blue Moon- Ella Fitzgerald</i>
<i>Over The Rainbow- Judy Garland</i>	<i>Goodnight Sweetheart- Jack Payne</i>
<i>April In Paris- Freddy Martin</i>	<i>I'll See You In My Dreams- Alice Faye</i>
<i>Oceans Of Time- Ray Noble</i>	<i>It Had To Be You- Dick Haymes</i>
<i>You Were Never Lovelier- Fred Astaire</i>	<i>Jack, I'm Mellow- Trixie Smith</i>
<i>Between The Devil & The Deep Blue Sea- Ben Selvin</i>	<i>I Only Have Eyes For You- Scott Wood</i>
<i>Me And The Man In The Moon- Cliff Edwards</i>	<i>In The Middle Of A Kiss- Connee Boswell</i>
<i>Tailspin- Paul Whiteman</i>	<i>Harbor Lights- Guy Lombardo</i>
<i>La Conga Blicoti- Josephine Baker</i>	<i>The Waltz You Saved For Me- Wayne King</i>
<i>My Baby Just Cares For Me- Ted Weems</i>	<i>I Like To Go Back In the Evening- Jack Jackson</i>
<i>That's My Weakness Now- Alex Mendham</i>	<i>All Of Me- The Blue Lyres</i>
<i>Mr. And Mrs. Is The Name- Debroy Somers</i>	<i>April In Paris- Henry Hall & The BBC Dance Orchestra</i>
<i>Let's Call The Whole Thing Off- Fred Astaire</i>	
<i>I Used To Be Color Blind- Ginger Rogers</i>	
<i>Moon Glow- Benny Goodman</i>	

1940s

*You'd Be Hard To Replace- Fred Astaire
At Last- Glenn Miller*

There Are Such Things- Tommy Dorsey & Frank Sinatra

Moonlight Serenade- Glenn Miller

Long Ago and Far Away- Jo Stafford

Orange Blossom Lane- Glenn Miller

Yours Is My Heart Alone- Helen Forrest

Sunrise Serenade- Bobby Hackett

Pearls & Velvet- Glenn Miller

Blues In The Night- Woody Herman

All The Things You Are- Artie Shaw, Helen Forrest

A Nightingale Sang In Berkeley Square- Glenn Miller

On the Sunny Side Of The Street- Tommy Dorsey

All Through the Night- Gene Krupa

I Get A Kick Out Of You- Tommy Dorsey

I've Got My Love To Keep Me Warm- Les Brown

A Garden In The Rain- Blue Barron

I've Heard That Song Before- Harry James

Moonlight Becomes You- Bing Crosby

The Last Time Time I Saw Paris- Tony Martin

It's Only A Paper Moon- Benny Goodman

Deep Purple- Wayne King Orchestra

Straighten Up And Fly Right- Nat King Cole Trio

Begin The Beguine- Artie Shaw

Hit The Road to Dreamland- Four Vagabonds

Moonlight Cocktail- Glenn Miller

All The Things You Are- Artie Shaw

Tea For Two- Benny Goodman

Dear Hearts & Gentle People- Bing Crosby

All The Things You Are- Tommy Dorsey & Jack Leonard

Mad About The Boy- Helen Forrest

<i>All This and Heaven Too- Raymond Scott</i>	<i>Dream- Pied Pipers</i>
<i>This Time The Dream's On Me- Glenn Miller</i>	<i>All The Cats Join In- Benny Goodman</i>
<i>Symphony- Benny Goodman, Liza Morrow</i>	<i>Forever And Ever- Perry Como</i>
<i>Flying Home- Woody Herman</i>	<i>Put Your Dreams Away For Another Day- Frank Sinatra</i>
<i>Moonlight Becomes You- Glenn Miller</i>	<i>It Had To Be You- Artie Shaw</i>
<i>No Other Love- Jo Stafford</i>	<i>Don't Be That Way- Jimmy Dorsey</i>
<i>Skylark- Helen Forrest</i>	<i>Tampico- Stan Kenton</i>
<i>Stars Fell On Alabama- Guy Lombardo</i>	<i>Shoo-Shoo Baby- The Andrews Sisters</i>
<i>It's Been A Long, Long Time- Harry James & Helen Forrest</i>	<i>Ain't Misbehavin'- Fats Waller</i>
<i>Tain't What You Do (It's the Way You Do It)-J Lunceford</i>	<i>I Had The Craziest Dream- Four Vagabonds</i>
<i>Seems Like Old Times- Guy Lombardo</i>	<i>Hey Good Lookin'- The Four Vagabonds</i>
<i>Two Sleepy People- Kay Kyser</i>	<i>In the Blue Of Evening- Tommy Dorsey</i>
<i>Ole Buttermilk Sky- Mike Douglas</i>	<i>Skylark- Gene Krupa</i>
<i>Silver Wings In The Moonlight- Anne Shelton</i>	<i>Let Your Hair Down Baby- Louis Jordan</i>

1950s

Stranger In Paradise- Tony Bennett

How Long Has This Been Going On? Louis Armstrong

Love Me Tender- Elvis Presley

You Send Me- Sam Cooke

I'll Never Stop Loving You- Doris Day

Because Of You- Tony Bennett

Moments To Remember- The Four Lads

Autumn In New York- Billie Holiday

Blue Moon- Mel Tormé

Come Rain Or Come Shine- Count Basie, J. Williams

People Will Say We're In Love- Ella Fitzgerald

Too Marvelous For Words- Billie Holiday

I Hear Music- Blossom Dearie

Pick Yourself Up- Anita O'Day

I Concentrate On You- Ella Fitzgerald

Some Enchanted Evening- Jo Stafford

Such A Night- Johnnie Ray

La Vie En Rose- Louis Armstrong

When I Fall In Love- Nat King Cole

I've Got You Under My Skin- Frank Sinatra

Moonlight In Vermont- Rosemary Clooney

True Love- Wayne King Orchestra

Seems Like Old Times- Rosemary Clooney

Dear Heart- Wayne King Orchestra

Sleepy Lagoon- Harry James

Unforgettable- Nat King Cole

Flying Home- Charlie Barnet

It's A Wonderful World- Frank Sinatra

Shangri-La- Jackie Gleason

<i>Bewitched, Bothered and Bewildered- Doris Day</i>	<i>You're All The World To Me- Fred Astaire</i>
<i>You Were Meant For Me- Jackie Gleason</i>	<i>Sleepy Time Gal- Buddy Cole Trio</i>
	<i>Glow-Worm- Bing Crosby</i>
	<i>September Song- Rosemary Clooney/Bing Crosby</i>
	<i>Goodnight Sweetheart- 101 Strings Orchestra</i>

About the Expert

Celia Morrissey is a historian, vintage enthusiast and designer. She has worked for over 10 years as a professional photographer and event designer. When it comes to weddings, she has been in the trenches on the wedding day with her clients through both extraordinary, heartwarming and also the unthinkable events. Celia has written this book because she wishes somebody had given her this kind of advice many years ago when her own wedding day was ruined. She has seen her clients struggle through navigating the planning and implementation process as well. Since her wedding day, one of Celia's missions in life is to help other couples emerge from the wedding planning process to enjoy a successful, beautiful wedding day and enjoy beautiful photographs to remember it by for years to come.

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