

## Understanding Shapes and Wedding Dresses

Just like a certain style of skirt or top doesn't work with every woman's figure, not all wedding dresses will look good on all women as well. This means that the first step in selecting the proper wedding gown is to begin with an assessment of your figure and the impression you would like to make on your wedding day.

Today, wedding dresses are not cut in a limited number of styles, and this makes it very easy to choose the one that will work best with your body type. For example, someone who is broader at the hip than at the shoulder (pear shaped) is going to want an A-Line gown that emphasizes a narrow waist line. Additionally, the neckline should be of the spaghetti-strap or V-neck style to pull the eye upwards to the shoulder too.

Women with a larger bust area will want to consider looking at a scooped neckline as this draws the eye to the neck and face, rather than the chest. Strapless is okay, but only if it offers a "sweetheart" neckline instead of one that draws a straight line across the chest – as this makes the bust appear even fuller.

Women who fall into the plus-sized category will do well with an "Empire" styled gown that has a skirt falling just below the bust line and creating an A-Line shape with the skirt. This dress should not be too loose, however, since that will add pounds. This is also a good style for a taller person too.

Someone who has an "apple" shape in which their waist is not very defined should look for something that actually draws in at the waist and then flares into an A-Line skirt. Such a gown will also benefit if it has a V-neckline, which elongates the torso.

This is only a brief look at the general cuts and shapes that some women might want to consider when they begin looking for a gown. The availability of tailoring is also going to mean that almost any dress can be custom fit for the bride's figure too.