

Wedding dresses come in a dizzying amount of options. Here is a glossary of wedding dress terms to help you find the style that's perfect for you!

Silhouettes



A-line: Fitted at the bodice and flows out to the ground, with an unbroken line (resembling the outline of an uppercase A).



Ball Gown: Fitted at the bodice and has a waistline that leads to a full skirt



Mermaid: Fits closely to the body from the chest to the knee, then flares out to the hem



Sheath: Fits very closely to the contours of the body. Has a straight skirt with no waist



Trumpet: Fits closely to the body until the mid-hip then widens gradually to the hem. (Resembling the mouth of a trumpet). Often confused with mermaid, but trumpet flairs from mid-hip, whereas mermaid flairs below the knee

Necklines



Square: Has a straight horizontal bodice that meets with straps in a 90 degree angle



Scoop: U shaped neckline with varying depth



V-neck: Dips down in a V-shape



Sweetheart: Neckline is shaped like the top half of a heart



One Shoulder: Strap across one shoulder only



Off the Shoulder: Sits below the shoulders and highlights the collar bone and shoulders



Sheer: Semi sheer net or lace



Halter: Has straps that wrap around the back of the neck



High Neck: Features high neck/t-shirt neckline



Queen Ann: High rising collar at the back of neckline that sculpts low across the chest



Bateau: (boat neck): Follows the curve of the collarbone to the very tip of shoulders



Strapless straight across: Straight across neckline with no curves and no straps



Strapless slight curve: Neckline curves slightly up or down with no straps



Strapless sweetheart: Neckline is shaped like the top half of a heart

Waistlines



Basque Waist: Waistline features a low U or V shape



Dropped Waist: Features a waist line below the natural waist at the mid-hip



Empire: Has a raised waistline that sits just below the bust, from which the rest of the dress flows down to the hem

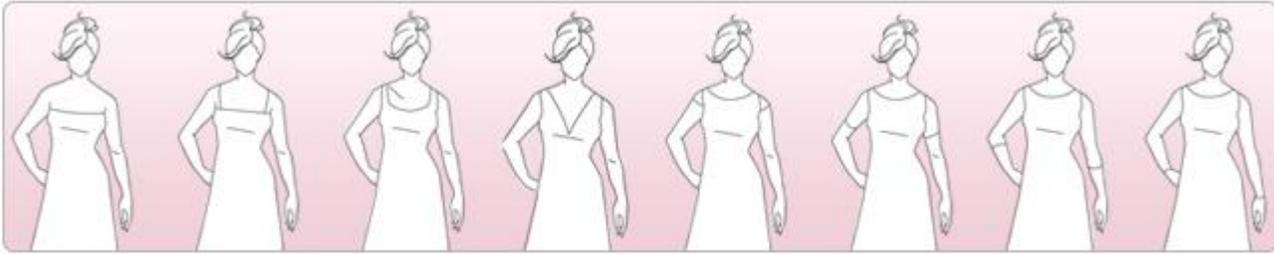


Natural Waist: Waist line that hits at the natural waist (the indentation between the hips and the rib-cage)



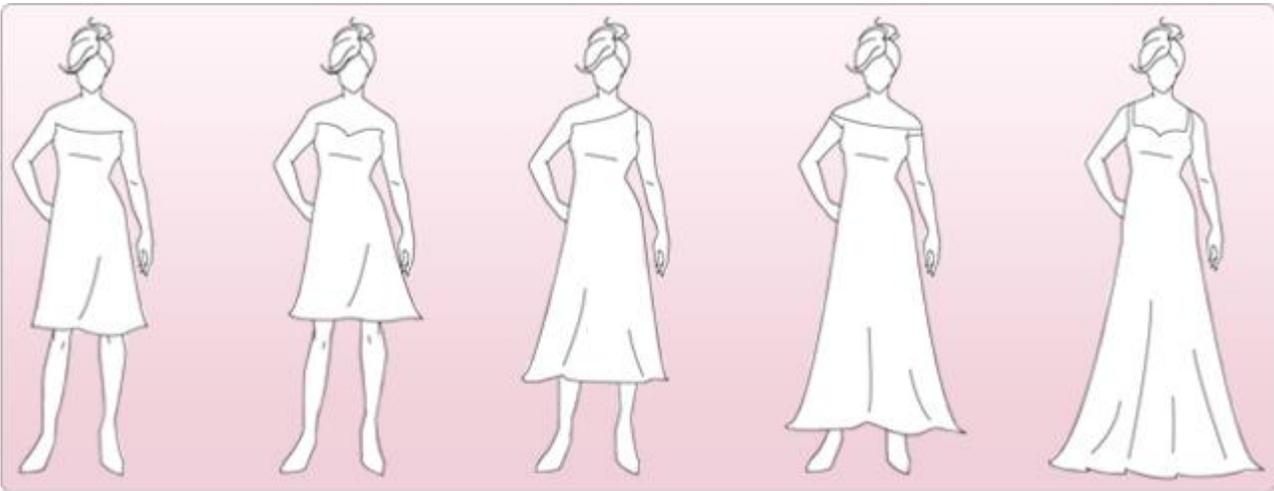
Princess: A-line silhouette with vertical seams down the front

Sleeve Style



Strapless **Spaghetti Straps** **Straps** **Sleeveless** **Cap Sleeve** **Short Sleeve** **3/4 Sleeve** **Long Sleeve**

Dress Length



Knee Length **Above Knee** **Tea Length** **Ankle Length** **Floor Length**

Trains

Sweep: (also called brush) the back hem is only a few inches lower than the front hem

Court: Slightly longer than the brush, extending approximately 3 feet behind the waist

Chapel Length: Generally 1 1/3 yards or 4 feet from the waistline

Cathedral Length Train: Generally 2 1/2 yards or 7 1/2 feet from the waistline

Fabrics

A wedding dress can be made from either silk or polyester. How the fiber is woven determines if the dress is:

Charmeuse: Lightweight, semi-lustrous soft, is satin-like to the touch

Chiffon: Delicate, sheer, and transparent, with a soft finish. Often layered because of its transparency

Crepe: Light, soft, and thin, with a crinkled surface

Duchesse Satin: A lightweight hybrid of silk or polyester and rayon woven into a satin finish

Dupioni: A finish similar to shantung, but with thicker, coarser fibers, and a slight sheen

Georgette: Sheer and lightweight fabric with a crepe surface

Mikado: A brand of blended fibers, usually heavier than 100-percent silk

Organza: Crisp and sheer like chiffon, with a stiffer texture similar, but more flowing than tulle

Satin: Heavy and smooth with a high sheen on one side

Shantung: Similar to a raw silk, characterized by its rough/nubby texture

Taffeta: Crisp and smooth, with a slight rib

Tulle: Netting (just like ballerina tutus)

Lace

Alençon: Delicate needlepoint lace with a distinct floral pattern outlined with corded detail.

Guipure: Heavy, large patterned decorative lace

Chantilly: The most romantic type, this delicate lace has a sheer quality and features flowers ribbons.

Point D'Esprit: Lightweight lace with small dots woven into a scattered pattern. Often layered with over a dress for a whimsical feel.

Schiffli: This machine made lace is a type of embroidery. Also known as chemical lace.