

# Two types of gowns, hundreds of variations

By Jeri Young  
THE CHARLOTTE POST

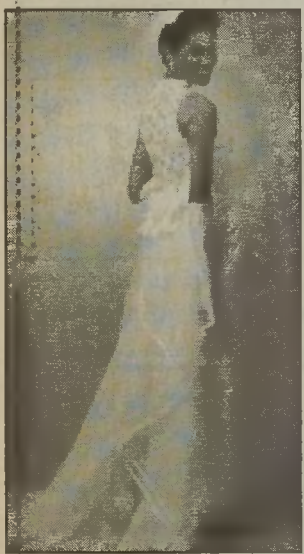
There are two basic types of gowns, says designer Laverne Ellerbe Chisolm.

While there are literally hundreds of variations on each, the basic shape remains the same.

"It's really a matter of getting the gown that best accentuates your positives and draws attention from the negative," she said. "After you've shopped around, you'll realize there are two basic types—straight and full."

Straight gowns are fitted from the neckline to the floor, while full gowns are fitted only from the neckline to the waist. Each has benefits.

"Most people don't want a



poofy gown," Ellerbe said. "But a full gown can actually be very flattering on certain figures."

For women with large busts and small hips and legs, Chisolm suggests a fitted bodice with a sweetheart neckline.

The rounded neckline will minimize the bust line and draw attention downward. The bottom of the gown depends on the size of the hips. If the bride wants, she can wear a gown that's fitted all the way down, but a fuller skirt will give the illusion of balance between the bust and hips.

A proportioned fuller figure woman's best gown choice depends on height.

"If she's taller, a she could easily wear a fitted gown," Chisolm said. "It's just a matter of fitting it to them. But fuller women should stay away from full gowns. They can make you look much larger."

A straight gown for a fuller figure should taper slightly from the hip down to give the illusion of thinness.

"Straight gowns can be very flattering on fuller women," said Vernell Funderburk, owner of Bridals by Vernell. "It's just a matter of having it fitted properly."

Chisolm suggests thin women with a small bust line and hips choose fuller gowns, which will give the illusion of proportion.

A woman with small breasts and full hips can go either way.

"A padded top will balance out full skirts or straight skirts," Chisolm said. "It just depends



on what illusion you want." As a rule of thumb, gowns bought off the rack should be fitted by a professional seamstress.

# Manners mavens answer tough questions

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It's no secret. Planning for the big day is not easy.

Uncle Fred from Albuquerque needs a place to stay for the wedding weekend and Mom's harping about the guest list leaving you to ponder the eternal question — "Where do I begin?"

Then of course, there are the answers to the myriad questions that arise with planning.

But fear not. Reasonable priced help is available.

The last few years have seen the publication of several excellent wedding guides which, in addition to helping you plan, also take into consideration cultural differences.

Perhaps one of the most worthwhile is "Basic Black" (Doubleday, \$24.95, 1997). Written by Charlotte native Karen Grigsby Bates and Karen Elyse Hudson, the book is sort of an everything you need guide that answers those nagging questions that you've always wanted to know but were too embarrassed to ask.

Here's how Bates and Hudson answer the most pesky questions about proper wedding etiquette in "Basic Black."

**Q. Help—my mother kept her maiden name and I'm not sure how it should be listed on my invitations. She's also a judge.**

**A. List both your parents by their entire names. For example, Dara Jenckyn Goolsby and Eric Paul Young. If your mom is a judge or a doctor, the listing can go two ways. You can use the traditional Mr. and Mrs. Steven Wesley Washington. If you think your mom might want her title listed, it is also correct to say Judge Sarah Baker Washington and Mr. Steven Wesley Washington. The same is true if your mom is a doctor and your dad is not. If both your parents are doctors, list them separately with their title or simply list The Doctors Johnson.**

**Remember, the use of the word "and" implies the people giving the word are married. If your parents are not, list them on separate lines.**

**Q. What is the correct way to address an invitation to a couple who are not married but live together?**

**A. The woman's name comes first followed by the gentleman's name. Address the**

woman as Miss or Ms. Address the inside envelope the same way.

**Q. I'm invited to the wedding and reception of a friend. I don't mind going, but I really don't want to stay for the entire reception. When is it polite for me to leave?**

**A. If you must go to the reception, you should stay through the cutting of the cake.**

**Q. I'm an usher at a wedding and a little worried about what my responsibilities are.**

**What exactly is that I'm supposed to do?**

**A. Make sure all the guests are seated where they should be quickly and comfortably. The bride's guests are seated on the left, the groom's guests are seated on the right. Escort female guests by offering your right arm and walk on the left side of male guests. With couples, offer your right arm to the woman, and the gentleman walks a step or two behind. If a group arrives at the same time to be seated, the eldest woman is seated first.**

**Q. My wedding is getting closer and I'm not sure what to give my bridal attendants.**

**A. Bridal attendants' gifts range from a piece of jewelry to wear on the wedding day to a frame for wedding pictures. The gifts should be meaningful keepsakes of the event.**

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**Potts - Burton**

Yolunda Danette Potts and Myron Toran Burton were joined in Holy Matrimony on February 14, 1998 at a family residence. Rev. Lincoln Lee and Rev. Hazel Potts officiated.

The bride is the daughter of Mrs. Betty C. Potts of Charlotte, and the late Johnny W. Potts. She is a graduate of Harding University High School and attended North Carolina A & T University. Yolunda is currently employed by Young World Daycare Centers as an Assistant Director.

The groom is the son of Mr & Mrs Robert Burton of Charlotte. Myron is a graduate of Independence High School and is presently employed by NAPA Auto Parts.

The Matron of Honor was Bridget Potts-Andrews. Bridesmaids were: Carolina Price, Charlene Gallman, Lalyza Burton, and Rosie Cooper. Junior Bridesmaids were: Shatavia Barnett, Chrisheena Gray, Yolanda Chisolm, and D'Moya Potts. Chastity Gallman was the flower girl.

The Bestman was Saunte' Burton, with Willie Guy, Jeremy Hayes, Derrick Glover and Patrick Young serving as groomsmen. Christopher Stradford was the ring bearer.

After the reception, held at Silver Mount Baptist Church, the couple enjoyed a honeymoon in Charleston, South Carolina.

Myron & Yolunda have made their home in Charlotte.

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