

The Shape of Things to Come

FLAPPING AROUND ON THE STYLE OF THE WEDDING DRESS JUST NOT ON. OUR REALITY CHECK PUTS THE BRAKES ON. SURPRISINGLY THERE ARE ONLY FIVE BASIC SILHOUETTES TO CHOSE FROM, ONCE YOU HAVE NAILED YOUR FAVOURITE, MAKE IT TRULY YOURS WITH JAWDROPPING FABRIC.



Ball gown

GLAMOURPUSS

It's the dress favoured by teeny waisted, romantic Royal brides from Queen Victoria to Princess Diana and even pop princess Victoria Beckham. The tight bodice, corseted waist and billowing skirt are pretty and ultra feminine. A bustier will most often be involved.



A-line

BABYDOLL

From the skinny bodice with an under-bust trim, the dress skims the waist to a wide ungathered skirt. This hip-slimming cut gives a look that's sweet and innocent. Devotees of his flattering style have included Britney Spears and Jessica Simpson.

MISS UNPREDICTABLE

Short is back for perky brides, the knee length shows off lovely legs and puts pretty feet and enviable shoes in focus. It's a less formal choice, perfect for beach weddings and cocktail hour nuptials. Cindy Crawford wore this raised hemline and made the confident look enviable.



Mini

ICE QUEEN

Princess Mary put this shape into the spotlight. Flattering and slimming, the boned dress hugs the bust and waist tightly then flares into an ungathered skirt giving a long, lean look. An elegant cut for the ultimate sophisticate, minimal in a strapless version.



Princess



Empire

FEMINISTA

The tight bodice is the focus, often with a deeply scooped neckline; the fabric then falls to the hemline. Nicole Kidman's wedding dress followed this comfortable empire line in a cloud of French lace and silk chiffon, with an up to the minute miro-pleated sleeve detail.

GODDESS

Sexy and slinky but the most unforgiving shape of all, the bias cut hugs the figure all the way from the bust to the ankles and highlights every curve and bump. Carolyn Bessette's cigarette-thin frame suited this daring and deadly sexy line.



Slip dress