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Today’s Bride Is “Headed” for Happiness

by Pat Rigler
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Selecting headpieces for a wedding party is like choosing the frosting for a cake. They must have flattering qualities in themselves, and also add just the right finishing touch to make the costume look delectable. A becoming hat is often a difficult item to find, especially when it must flatter two, four or six different face and figure types, and blend with the bride’s headpiece as well.

This problem has been minimized considerably by the trend toward the tiny, simple headpiece that fits the head closely. You will still find a variety of the queen’s crown style for yourself and your attendants, but this recent favorite is being partially replaced by the half-bonnet, bandeau and plateau. The half-bonnet is particularly attractive atop a hairdo with bangs. For spring it is featured in lace-edged with pleated tulle. Delicate tulle petals are shaped into halos, crowns or plateaus for the bride and bands or caps for her attendants.

The currently fashionable headpieces will complement a close-cropped hairdo as a delicate cap or enhance longer tresses in the form of a halo and a whisk of veiling. Regardless of hairdo, face shape or height there is one variation that will be suitable for several individuals.

The bride with a sleek chignon has no problem, for at her request a florist can create a circle of shiny green leaves to enclasp her chignon with enchantment. Her veil can be caught to the lower half to cascade from beneath the chignon. This gives a chic appearance from all angles, is unique and inexpensive. For continuity the leaves can be repeated in a graceful bouquet. A similar creation can be used for the attendants as bands or halos with bouquets made entirely of greenery.

If any member of the wedding party is handy with a needle, the attractive butterfly-bow design can be constructed inexpensively for bride and/or attendants. This is simply a double bow attached to a comb or band and caught at the center to appear knotted. It is placed on top of the head with the bottom two loops barely hitting the top of each ear; the upper two are slightly shorter. One length of 2-inch ribbon or fabric is looped over four times. A few inches of the same ribbon are wrapped around the center of the four loops and is caught underneath to form a knot on top of the head. This is another ideal design for bangs, but can be adapted to any hair style. It can be used with or without veiling.

The semi-formal or informal bridesmaid can have that special wedding look by choosing a simple, veiled headpiece. It might be a narrow halo with a flimsy gathered brim or a plateau with a circular veil falling to chin level all around the head. Both might be dotted with tiny sequins, pearls or rhinestones to add an extra sparkle, and are appropriate for the ballerina-length dress or even the street-length sheath.

The well-loved picture hat is many a bride’s dream, but you may have to choose attendants to fit the headpiece if you insist upon having it.

Whether you prefer caps or picture hats, tulle or lace, you should consider the individual appearance and taste of your attendants in making the final selection. Although it may take time and patience to find a headpiece to satisfy everyone, it is well worth the effort. The prettiest bridesmaid is the one who feels pretty and knows her costume is right for her.