

DRESSED,
STYLED, *and*
DOWN *the* AISLE

Becoming a Stylish Bride

CHAPTER 12

HOW TO ACHIEVE MISMATCHED BRIDESMAIDS DRESSES WITHOUT LOSING YOUR MIND

brought to you by

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It was not so long ago that bridesmaids' dresses were often **one-wear wonders**, all in the same style and color, individual body type and style be damned. Thankfully, wedding fashion has since evolved, and the outfits worn by today's bridesmaids are not only chic, stylish and worthy of an encore, but they are often **highly individualized**.

MISMATCHED BRIDESMAIDS DRESSES are at the forefront of this movement, and with good reason. When done right, the style allows you to highlight each individual, ensuring that she looks and feels great while blending in seamlessly with the rest of your wedding party. However, there is a caveat (and be warned- it's a big one): It must be done thoughtfully. Matching different colors, styles, and fabrics isn't for the faint of heart, regardless of how fashionable they are, and one mistake can make the entire party look sloppy and disjointed. Nobody wants that, so here are my top tips.



CHOOSE YOUR SHADES WISELY

Make sure to see the dress **in person** instead of going by a photo or a small swatch of fabric. Then, place all of the dresses next to one another so that you can see how the overall look will come together. This is a laborious process but is the **only way** to guarantee they all look good together.

KEEP IT SIMPLE

While we use the word '**mismatched**,' it doesn't mean entirely different dresses with loads of different accessories and details. Think of it more as several different strokes of color that make up one larger masterpiece. This is achieved by **keeping differences under 3** (a different color, neckline and fabric, for example).

KEEP HEMLINES ONE LENGTH

Yes, there have been brides who have pulled off a mismatched look with different hemlines, but it can be a challenge to have them look **cohesive**.

MAKE EVERYTHING ELSE COHESIVE

Jewelry, shoes, hair pieces and overall style should look the same (you don't want someone with boho hair and jewelry standing next to five other women who look super formal).

TAKE CONTROL

While it would be nice to let bridesmaids dress themselves, the reality is that, unless you have a lot of time to answer texts, look over photos and engage in some form of conflict resolution, **make some decisions before you give them the go-ahead**. Choose the fabrics, shapes and colors you like and then place your final choices in a deck with clickable links and have them pick a first and second choice.

BE SMART ABOUT RETURNS

Make sure you buy them from stores that have a **good return policy** so you aren't on the hook for any dresses you don't want.