

Who pays for what?

Today, with weddings as with most other facets of life, the rules no longer apply. Just who pays for what portion of the wedding expenses is no longer governed by a list of rules. But for those who need a little guidance, here is a breakdown of the traditional rules for paying for the expenses of a wedding:

The BRIDE:

1. Wedding ring for the groom.
2. A wedding gift for the groom.
3. Presents for the bridal attendants.
4. Personal stationery.
5. Accommodations for her out-of town attendants.
6. Physical examination/blood test.

The GROOM

1. The bride's rings.
2. Wedding gift for the

3. The marriage license.
4. Gifts for the best man and ushers.
5. Flowers: bride's bouquet and going away corsage, corsages for mothers, boutonnieres for the men in the wedding party.
6. Accommodations for out-of-town ushers or best man.
7. His blood test.
8. Gloves, ties or ascots for the men in the wedding party.
9. Fee for the clergy.
10. The honeymoon.
11. Optional: bachelor dinner.

BRIDE'S FAMILY:

1. The entire cost of the reception: food, wedding cake, beverages, gratuities for the bartenders and waiters, decorations, music, flowers.
2. A wedding gift for

- the newlyweds.
3. The wedding invitations, announcements and mailing costs.
4. Bride's wedding attire/trousseau.
5. The fee for engagement and wedding photographs.
6. Ceremony: rental of sanctuary, fees for organist, soloist or choir, and sexton (sometimes included in charge for premises, but if not, these people have set fees) aisle carpets and/or canopy and any other additional costs for decorations.
7. Bridesmaids' bouquets.
8. Gratuities to those directing traffic as well as parking costs and coat check fees.
9. Transportation for bridal party to the wedding ceremony and from ceremony to reception.
10. Bridesmaids' luncheon.

11. Optional: rehearsal dinner.

GROOM'S FAMILY:

1. Clothes for the wedding.
2. Any traveling expenses and hotel bills they incur.
3. Wedding gift for bride and groom.
4. Optional: the rehearsal dinner or other expenses they elect to assume.

The GUESTS:

1. Traveling expenses.
2. Wedding gift for the couple.

The ATTENDANTS

1. Wedding attire.
2. Travel expenses.
3. Wedding gift for the couple.

(Information provided by leisofhawaii.com)

For weddings or anniversaries Diamonds say, 'I Forever Do'

(BNN) What does Steve Young know about rings? Well, a lot, actually. The Hall of Fame quarterback, who earned his championship ring with the San Francisco 49ers in Super Bowl XXIX, used the occasion of a recent star-studded Super Bowl party to surprise his wife, Barb, with a stunning three-stone Elara diamond and platinum ring. The diamonds were a gift marking the fifth anniversary of that magical night the Youngs' wed in Hawaii and recaptured perfectly their "I do" moment.

"Anniversary Diamonds" are quickly becoming the hot new trend among spouses of both genders as many newlyweds begin thinking about their future anniversaries. Just as the marriage proposal and the receiving of the diamond ring was a glorious moment, that same feeling of surprise and joy can be recaptured time and time again with diamond anniversary presents.

For centuries, diamonds have been deemed the ultimate symbol of eternal love. Like the couples who wear them, every diamond is unique and with each anniversary, husbands and wives are re-discovering the importance of that enduring symbol.

According to the Diamond Information Center's research, diamonds are the most desired luxury anniversary gift and are available in a breathtaking variety of designs.

So called "three stone diamond jewelry"—featuring a trio of diamonds representing the couple's past, present and future—is considered to be the most romantic anniversary gift, whether designed in a ring, earrings or pendant. An especially impressive setting for one or more diamonds is platinum, which is prized for its pure, rare and eternal qualities. With its natural white luster, platinum allows the true radiance of a diamond to shine.

Among the most popular diamonds are the classic solitaire pendants and stud earrings. These versatile and enchanting jewels are sure to delight young women in their early years of marriage or those celebrating later anniversaries. Sophisticated and elegant, they can be worn with an evening gown, but also look smashing with jeans and a tee-shirt when the schedule calls for casual dinner and a movie.

Another favorite is the chandelier earring—the new classic and even more stunning in dazzling diamonds. What a stellar way to add sparkle to a beloved's face and enhance her beautiful smile.

There are diamonds, too, for the "fashionista" on her anniversary. The shoulder-dusting stiletto earrings have the "red carpet" drama that will light up her dressed-up evenings.

Some anniversaries are very special as they signal an important passage of time and a span of wonderful years together. For those important occasions, there are spectacular diamond pieces. One of the most desired is the graceful diamond encrusted wristwatch. Others include glamorous diamond riviere necklaces, line bracelets and vintage-inspired brooches. All will be lovingly worn, treasured forever and passed along to family members as heirlooms.

The anniversary diamond trend extends to men, too, as many have demonstrated a greater interest in owning jewelry. Most husbands would be thrilled to be presented with diamond cufflinks, tie clips or lapel pins which add dash and flair to every suit. And the impact of a diamond studded wristwatch cannot be over-stated.

Echoing the sentiments of Barb and Steve Young, modern couples feel that diamonds are a perfect way to reaffirm their vows each year—and wow their partners in the process. Because of their special symbolism, diamonds can help keep the romance alive in marriage by saying, in effect, "I forever do."

An exciting way to pop the question

(BNN) For centuries male suitors have agonized over how to surprise their girlfriends with a marriage proposal. Should he "pop the question" during a quiet picnic in the country? Or kneel down in a romantic European piazza to pose that surprise question—"Will you marry me?" In recent years, madly in-love guys have conjured up ever more novel ways to ask for their chosen one's hand—ranging from aerial banners flown over crowded beaches to "I love you" signs lighting up stadium scoreboards.

Now, enamored men will have yet another unconventional venue to surprise the lady in question: Princess Cruises "Engagement Under the Stars"—a pre-arranged proposal on a giant shipboard movie screen, on the high seas under the stars, displaying the gentleman's proposal. Starting in June, with the launch of its newest ship, Crown Princess, the program will complement line's successful "Tie the Knot" shipboard-wedding program.

Not only will the new program surprise the unsuspecting lady, it will also turn the couple into instant shipboard celebrities, starring in their own real-life show—by having the prospective groom make his wedding proposal via a personal video displayed on the ship's top-deck 300-square-foot LED movie screen, before an audience of fellow cruise passengers. A photographer standing by will capture the couple's special moment when he surprises her with the ring on deck.

Princess Cruises, one of whose ships was famous as the romantic setting for The Love Boat television series, will coordinate the surprise proposal to take place just prior to one of the ship's nighttime outdoor feature



Choctaw Sun photo by Dee Ann Campbell
It wasn't on a cruise ship, but Jacob Jenkins found an exciting place to 'pop the question' when he asked Holli Cornett to marry him during lead-out at the South Choctaw Academy prom last Saturday evening. By the way, she said 'yes'.

films. At a prearranged time, the proposer will bring his girlfriend to the scene under the guise of watching the movie. The proposal, in fact, will have

been filmed in a secret session with the ship's videographer to create a personalized and unique segment.

On that special

evening, the couple will receive a celebratory glass of champagne and a red rose immediately following the proposal and a bottle of champagne and chocolate-covered strawberries in their stateroom that night.

Throughout the voyage they will be treated to a series of special amenities including a dinner for two at one of the ship's intimate dining venues, a romantic balcony breakfast and participation in a pottery class offered through the ship's learning program, ScholarShip@Sea, at which the couple will design a commemorative "engagement plate."

Other super perks include candid photographs of the proposal, plus an engagement portrait session, a pampered, couple's massage in the shipboard Lotus Spa and a \$100 credit toward a wedding-at-sea package on a future voyage.

After its debut on Crown Princess, "Engagement Under the Stars," will later be extended to all Princess ships that feature Movies Under the Stars. Those intrigued by the magic of an engagement at sea may visit www.princess.com or call 1-866-444-8820 for more information.

In effect, after arranging for the innovative setting, any "Regular Joe" will be able to proffer, to his prospective bride-to-be, an unforgettable marriage proposal—without having to do any of the heavy-duty planning. Says Jan Swartz, Princess' senior vice president of customer service and sales: "All the gentleman has to bring is the ring and the question." And if he forgets the ring? "Not to worry," adds Swartz. "The shipboard boutique has a range of fine jewelry—including engagement rings—just in case he overlooked that important detail!"

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