

# Here Comes the Bride

*This free tip sheet was produced by the Cheapskates Club –  
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The main feature of the wedding (for a bride anyway) is the wedding dress itself. When it comes to wedding dresses there is a lot to be said about something borrowed in this category. Borrowing or even re-creating a wedding dress from a family member to make it your own was once a tradition, these days it is a growing trend. You can find beautiful gowns, new and used, on the Internet as well.

Before you buy your wedding dress, stop. Think. Ask yourself if there is any way you can have the dress of your dreams without blowing the entire wedding budget - there are other ways to have the gown you really want as you walk down the aisle.

## Freecycle

Search in and around your neighborhood to find the best deal.

## eBay

Shop around for the best deals on a used or even new dress that someone never got the chance to wear.

## Hire it

Simply hiring a dress for the day costs around \$350 - \$600. Outfits need to be returned on the next business day. Prices usually (but not always) include dry cleaning costs.

## Get it made

Save money by using a local dressmaker. Find a ready-made pattern from Lincraft, or pictures from a magazine, and get a dressmaker, Mum or friend to copy it. You generally supply all the fabrics and linings, and give strict instructions on what you want. The advantage of this is that you can have a few fittings as the dress is made to ensure the dress is made correctly and fits properly in all the right places. This choice for a wedding dress costs from approximately \$300 to \$1,000 including fabrics.

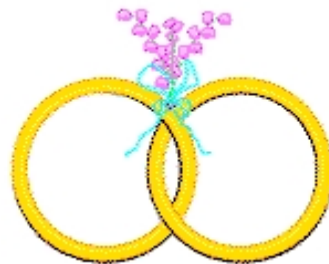


## Buy off the rack

This means purchasing ready-made dresses in boutiques or department stores or at markets or consignment stores....costs from \$100 to \$1,000 plus depending on budgets. Remember that if the bride is not a standard size, alterations may be needed, and can cost around \$30 to \$100 extra.

## Go couture

If you love couture gowns, have a designer make your wedding dress, either using a style from their existing range, or by designing an exclusive gown especially for you. The designer would generally supply all fabrics and trims, offer a wide range of colours, and the finished dress would be of very high standard in quality and fit. You would need to attend at least 4 and up to 6 fittings to ensure a perfect fit. This option costs from \$1,000 plus, depending on fabrics, styling and amount of labour involved.



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and energy and still have fun!  
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