

Buttons & Bows
Headband with large
tulle and lace bow,
finished with 3 large
pearl buttons

Head Candy

Finding the perfect headpiece

By Lisa Robertson

Photos by Belinda Bradley, Smash Photography



In my quest to find the perfect heady candy for my own wedding, and inspired by the giant turquoise feather worn by fashion icon Carrie Bradshaw (aka Sarah Jessica Parker) in her wedding to Mr Big, I went on a journey to find the perfect headpiece.

Without question, nothing finishes a bridal look like a fabulous headpiece, although careful consideration should be given to the right piece and how it can complement your gown, jewellery, hairstyle and the theme of the wedding.

For centuries the veil has been a traditional headpiece worn by many brides, with a choice of length, width and stylish embellishments. If you're set on wearing a veil, take a look at all the different and fresh ways you can add to a modern veil. Remember there's always the option of swapping your veil for a headpiece at your reception. Headbands, hairclips, rosettes, tiaras and hair flowers can all be worn on their own or combined with a veil.

First things first: select your gown and then go exploring for a way to bring a splash of individuality to your ensemble.

1. Victory Veil - Extravagance with bridal tulle
2. Gypsy Nights - Silver French leavers lace handbeaded with Swarovski crystals and pearls, tied with a silk taffeta bow
3. Seeking Beauty - velvet handmade flowers with peacock feathers. A really lovely, sweet head piece to wear out and be seen in
4. Handmade oversized peonie rose on headband, made from 100% ivory silk taffeta, silk organza and tulle
5. Dancing dreams - Silk white headband detailed with hand beaded organza lace
6. Birdcage n blush - Large silk flower with birdcage in different shades of blush detailed with swarovski crystals



10 tips for selecting the perfect head candy:

1. Do not buy something just because it's a perfect match to your gown - it may be too big, or the wrong shape or colour for your face.
2. Design a custom piece - talk to your wedding dress designer about creating something that matches your gown. Rebecca Iona says: "It can be a lot of fun designing a unique piece for a bride's special day."
3. Do your research - find stores that have a range of styles, shapes and colours available. Try on a range of options to see what might suit you.
4. Take photos while you're shopping. Get your bridesmaids to take a few pics of you while you're trying on different styles; it's a great way to check out how it might look in the photos.
5. View from all angles - how does it look from the side, front and back, remembering that you will be photographed from all sides throughout the day.
6. Seek advice from your hair stylist - decide what's most important, the hairstyle or headpiece, then schedule a trial so you can decide on how best to fuse the look.
7. Ensure the headpiece is comfortable, not too tight or loose. The last thing you need is a headache on your big day or to continually need to adjust it.
8. Add a hint of colour - reds, blacks, champagnes, blush pinks, silvers and gold's, then match your shoes and handbag.
9. Choose an embellishment from your gown and use this as a feature or to complement your headpiece. Crystals, pearls, beading, feathers, sequins, lace or ribbons. Crystals reflect light and can give you that little bit of extra sparkle - my favourite are Swarovski crystals.
10. Choose a simple headpiece for a gown that has lots of exquisite detail. Be wary about overwhelming the look and vice versa. If you have a simple gown, you can afford the luxury of being a bit more adventurous with your headpiece.

Headband

Covered with fabric, pearls, sequins, lace or feathers, you can design a stunning headpiece that works well with an updo or soft wavy curls. By adding some gorgeous French tulle you can create a twist on the traditional veil.

Statement Headpiece

Not for the faint hearted why not try a statement headpiece. Be bold, chic and distinctive.

Birdcage

A stylish alternative to the veil is a birdcage, a romantic and vintage inspired bridal addition that's become a fashionable accessory for today's modern bride. Wear off to one side with the delicate netting across the entire face for a bit of mystery, or just over one eye for a seductive twist.

Tiara

Perfect for all hair types, short or long, it can be worn with or without a veil. A tiara sits on top of your head, usually featuring crystals or diamantes; it adds some bling to your updo. Nestle a tiara at the front with lots of volume at the top.

Rosettes

Soft fabric flowers or rosettes are a simple but elegant accessory to add to any hairstyle. They can soften a slick bun or French roll. Wearing multiple rosettes together can create a cascading effect down the side of the hair. Natalie Chan suggests purchasing one for your bridesmaids and presenting them the night before the wedding. What a great thank you gift that they can wear again after the big day.

Combs and Hairclips

Delicate pieces will polish your bridal look by simply adding some interest to your hairstyle. Adorned with pearls, feathers, diamantes, Swarovski crystals or beading, this will add glamour that transforms a bridal look.

A headpiece adds elegance and beauty to your bridal look. My favourite is definitely the birdcage; I love the timeless pretty look and vintage feel. Enjoy your own head candy journey. ♥

7. **Sugar Dust** - Beautiful blush pink tulle facinator heavily detailed with large crystal jewels along with beautiful Swarovski crystals and pearls
8. **Silver Jewel** - Silver silk satin covered facinator heavily detailed with large crystal jewels along with Swarovski crystals and pearls - a touch of art deco
9. **Beautiful Bride** - traditional tulle veil

Modern Mantella - Tulle veil edged with beaded French leavers lace, tied to one side with silk taffeta sash

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Photography is by Belinda Bradley at Smash Photography www.smashphotography.co.nz

All headpieces created by Rebecca Iona, W: www.rebeccaiona.com, except the posy of teal velvet roses and peacock feathers which was the creation of Natalie Chan, W: www.nataliechan.co.nz

Hair & Make Up by Kerry Franks, The Boutique Bride W: www.theboutiquebride.co.nz

Models: Danielle Forsman and Lisa Robertson

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