

BRIDAL TIPS and TIMELINES ~ by LYNDSEY HAMILTON

INVITATIONS : Use cards using perforations to the invitations so guests can tear and send. This also saves on the cost of paper, postage, and envelopes!

STATIONARY: Whether it is formal, casual, colorful, classic, stationary sets the tone of the wedding and gives guests an idea of the type of wedding they will be attending.

TABLE NUMBERS: Place photos of the bride and groom at each age, corresponding to the table numbers. This works well with large receptions, where there will be photos from many stages in the couple's lives.

A THOUGHTFUL TOUCH: At each place setting, create a tiny thank you note written to your guests using calligraphy or stationary matching your invitations and place cards.

PHOTOGRAPHER: After finding a location, look for a photographer. It is important to have someone whose work compliments your style and who is unobtrusive and efficient.

BRIDAL PARTY: Choose a color for dresses, but let each bridesmaid select the dress that flatters her body.

BAND OR DJ?: Four to five months before the wedding should be enough time to find musicians. Be clear with your expectations, music preferences, and selections. The band or dj should complement the reception, not dominate it!

FLOWERS: About six months in advance, begin planning for the flower design for the event. Remember that a floral designer is different from a florist - a designer can often help with the overall décor, including table design and linen selection.

