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Lighting the Way when Two Become One

By M J Plaster

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Whether you want to add a little extra romance to an evening reception or a little glow to your house of worship, candles are a natural, effortless addition to your wedding theme. You'll have no trouble finding a role for candles at the wedding ceremony, at the reception, and even as part of the floral displays.

Unity Candles

Join the growing number of couples who include a unity candle as part of the wedding ceremony. Perhaps you think that unity candles are steeped in a rich history of religious tradition, or perhaps you think that unity candles are the invention of the candle makers to sell an extra candle or 10,000. Neither is the case. The exact evolution of the unity candle is uncertain, but since it began 30–40 years ago, it seems that we have that ever-lively 60s generation to thank for yet another custom that has wormed its way into modern life.

I'd like to propose my own idea of the unity candle's origin—an unlikely science experiment. You can perform this experiment yourself. Light two tapered candles, or use whatever candles you have handy. Note the height and brilliance of each flame. Now, join the two flames together and look at the single flame. The united flame is taller, stronger and brighter than the sum of the two individual flames. Isn't that what marriage is supposed to be—a single unit stronger than the sum of its parts?

The most traditional of the variations on the theme is the tall, thick white candle in the center of a candleholder surrounded on each side by a white taper. During the wedding ceremony, the bride and groom light the center unity candle with the two tapers, creating the stronger flame as a symbol of the stronger unity gained through marriage.

Beyond the traditional unity ceremony, today's weddings provide the opportunity for many variations, particularly second weddings that include children. If each partner has children, the children may light the unity candles. Sometimes, parents from each family light the unity candle. You'll want to preserve the moment in a picture, because it's unlikely you'll find this level of cooperation again.

Lighting the Way when Two Become One

If you carry a hand-tied bouquet, incorporate a white taper into the bouquet, and carry the taper up the aisle. The groom can hold his taper until you reach the altar, when you each place your taper into the unity candleholder to accentuate the unity theme.

If your house of worship doesn't allow unity ceremonies, conduct the ceremony at the reception right before the toast.

Candles for Your Wedding Decor

Consider candles an integral part of your floral displays to add warmth to a sterile reception hall environment. Select your candles first, and then select flowers to complement the candles. If you maintain the candle as the focal point, you'll spend a lot less money on bridal flowers.

Place a single sculptured candle by the guest book, for example. Incorporate candles into your table displays at the reception. You can actually use candle displays in place of floral displays. Consider the idea of floating candle displays at the center of each table. They're low enough to allow conversation without talking through flowers.

You're not limited to white candles. Work the candles into your color scheme: silver and gold for holiday weddings. Nor do you have to limit yourself to unadorned candles. Ribbons add a nice accent to simple candles. Select elegant candles for a formal wedding and less formal sculpted, marbled, or otherwise embellished candles for less formal weddings.

Candles as Wedding Favors

Candles always make nice gifts, and you can capitalize on this by selecting a candle for your wedding favor. A small, beautifully wrapped candle makes a wedding favor that your guests will appreciate and display at home—something to remember your special day.

However you choose to add candles to your wedding, their warm flame will add to the ambiance of an already glowing moment.

M J Plaster is a successful author who provides information on shopping online for http://www.candles-4-u.com/unity_candles.htm and http://www.candles-4-u.com/scented_candles.htm. M J Plaster has been a commercial freelance writer for almost two decades, most recently specializing in home and garden, the low-carb lifestyle, investing, and anything that defines la dolce vita.

Which Lamp should I choose?

By Mike Yeager

With all the lighting choices out there, you may want to reconsider just purchasing a lamp for your lighting needs. Whether you are looking for interior lighting or outdoor lighting, you can find many options pretty easily. Lighting fixtures have become more than just a means for gaining light. They are

Lighting the Way when Two Become One

stylish and fun. They can be useful, but also are decorations for your home. There are many types to choose from as well.

Some things to consider when choosing lighting are what your needs, tastes, and desires are. You will want something that will fulfill all these elements. Let us talk about outdoor lighting for a minute. Outdoor lighting can be many things. It can be posts or landscape lighting. You can outline the path to your home or put spot lights on certain points within the landscape. You can choose from many different styles and types, colors and designs. Solar or not. Bright or faint.

Home interior lighting is also quite versatile. If you are looking for kitchen lighting, you will want something that is bright and will cover the entire surface. While you may also want to add a dimmer switch in your dining area. The bathroom lighting can be relaxing and soothing by using subtle lights and lighting fixtures. In hallways, track lighting is a good option as it is many lights that can be pointed in any direction.

With so many options, it is easy to see why the average lamp isn't used as much any more. Now, that is not to say that lamps aren't part of your homes interior lighting scheme. There are many stylish, elegant, lamps that will fit into your plans. But, it is to say that they are not the only thing out there anymore. Now, to find these great types of lighting, try checking at local home improvement stores and even lighting specialty stores. Or, if you would rather check out your options at home, check online at the numerous online retailers.

There you can order hard to get items or specially designed items. There is no excuse, therefore, to not knowing what your options are. Trying new and exciting things will benefit your home for years to come.

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