

To Relieve Wedding Tension: Apply Advice, Repeat As Necessary

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By Lesley-Ann Graham

For increasing the all-around tension of at least two families, there's nothing as effective as a

wedding. You're throwing strangers together in a situation that may be alien to all of them. You're encouraging a clash of styles and tastes, with you and the person you love most right in the middle of it.

It seems like a situation wrought with danger, disaster, and debt. But there are ways of defeating all the monsters between you and the wedding of your dreams.

How about - organization?

Yes, the old-fashioned concept of organization can stand you in good stead. Writing everything down. Keeping detailed forms with lists of caterers, musicians, guests, tasks, things to pick up on shopping expeditions.

Organization can be better than a purple-haired, Miss-Manners-reading great aunt. When you get organized, you find yourself in control again. You know what's going on, and you know you haven't forgotten anything in the shuffle - like the ring, or the table and chair rental.

And the best organization comes from a genuinely complete book.

The Ultimate Wedding Planning Toolkit

This is a new book on the scene. The Ultimate Wedding Planning Toolkit gives you advice on every aspect of your wedding, from how to do an outdoors wedding to how to manage your budget, how to keep your RSVPs in order, how to keep your divorced parents in order, and how to keep your mental state in order.

How about these bits of advice:

- Keep an emergency kit at hand for last minute medical issues (Benadryl to treat those hives!) or

fashion emergencies.

- If you have unruly relatives, enlist your minister or other officiant to help you maintain peace within the family using a neutral party.
- Plan your wedding budget early, and take advantage of discounts by catching venues and caterers at off-peak times.

But the Toolkit has more in it than just advice. It's a complete repository of all the checklists you'll need for your wedding. From the master checklist of everything that needs to be done, to later checklists of things you need to do for photography, the day of the wedding, and the honeymoon, the Workbook you'll find included in the Ultimate Wedding Planning Toolkit will help you through the whole ordeal - and help you turn it into the event of your life.

The Workbook's lists are also included in the form of Excel worksheets, with handy calculations that help you easily keep track of RSVPs, of your music playlist, and of your budget. You can modify them

in any way necessary for your wedding.

The earlier in the process you find the Toolkit, the more useful it will be. It covers everything from the day you say "Yes," to the day you say, "I do," and afterward.

You know the feeling you have when you get in the car and know exactly where you're going? The Ultimate Wedding Planning Toolkit gives you the same feeling with your wedding. What better way to start your marriage than with a beautifully-planned ceremony? For more information please visit

<http://www.weddingtrix.com>

Lesley-Ann Graham runs WeddingTrix.com -- a valuable wedding planning resource with bridal guides, articles for the bride and bridesmaid, wedding etiquette advice for brides, tips for brides, bridal checklists, wedding planning worksheets, and more! The Bride, Groom, Best Man, Bridesmaids and Groomsmen can find it all at the

<http://www.WeddingTrix.com>

site.

The Benefits And Drawbacks Of Tension Set Wedding Rings

By Kirsten Hawkins

As an alternative to the traditional channel set wedding and engagement rings, rings created with a process called tension setting have started to become popular in recent years. Tension set wedding rings and engagement rings have a stone (typically a diamond, although tension setting can be used with any precious gem) that is set in an opening in the ring itself and held by tension of the open ends

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of the ring pressing against the stone. Jewelers agree that there are both positive and negative aspects to choosing tension set rings.

The Benefits

Tension set rings are beautiful. Because the design is so unique, your tension set wedding or engagement ring will definitely draw people's attention. The rings are available in all the typical styles one would expect, including rings of gold, platinum, titanium, and white gold, but the tension setting gives them a stylized and modernistic look that channel set rings are simply not capable of. People will examine the ring up close and, if they've never seen a tension setting before, will wonder how in the world that stone stays in place. You'll find that your tension set wedding ring will be a topic of conversation at many a social gathering.

Makers of tension set wedding rings insist that the stone is immovable and will never be lost. Whether this is actually true is the topic of some debate, but it is a claim that can not be made for channel set rings as we know that channel set stones can sometimes work their way loose and be lost.

The Drawbacks

It is difficult for a jeweler to effectively resize a tension set ring of any kind. The process of resizing a ring actually alters the shape and thickness of the metal and this will cause a change in the amount of tension holding the stone in place. This is particularly troubling for someone with a tension set wedding ring, since the ring is meant to be worn forever. As a person ages, their body changes so, even someone who doesn't gain or lose weight over the years (and that's a scant few of us) will still likely have a different ring size when he or she reaches the age of fifty than he or she did at age twenty five.

While proponents of tension settings do make the aforementioned claim that the stone is immovable, opponents of the process say quite the opposite. Several jewelers claim that they have been approached by people looking for advice on how to replace a lost stone from a tension set wedding ring. The jury is still out, therefore, on whether tension settings really are more effective than the more traditional channel settings.

The final drawback is for the jewelers themselves. Jeweler Keith Farley states on the InForm web site that it is very easy for a person to intentionally remove the stone from a tension set ring. This, obviously, makes it that much easier for a dishonest customer to remove the stone and then come back to the jeweler seeking a replacement under the terms of a warranty, claiming that the setting was lost.

Kirsten Hawkins is an event planner from Nashville, TN. Visit

<http://www.wedding411.net/>

for more

event planning tips, strategies, and resources.

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