

Bridal Dress

Contributed by Betsy Willis
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My best friend's daughter is getting married. Her fiancé is in the armed forces so they are trying to plan the wedding in three months so the vows will take place prior to him being deployed. They have arranged for the church and the reception will be held at my friend's backyard. The most difficult thing was finding a bridal dress that could be available in this short time.

My friend and her daughter had been to a number of bridal shops and were consistently told the same thing; a special ordered bridal dress would not arrive in time for the wedding. My friend's bridal dress would not fit her daughter. They wanted to know if she could try on my bridal dress. I was flattered that they would have thought of my wedding dress as a possibility for her to wear on her special day. After my wedding I had my bridal dress cleaned and boxed for safe storage. The day my friend and her daughter were to come over to try it on I broke the seal on the box and removed the dress. There were a few loose beads on the trim, but otherwise the dress was in perfect shape.

My friend and her daughter arrived to try on the bridal dress. My friend's daughter is slightly taller than me, but I had worn three inch heels on my wedding day so the dress would be the right length if she wore flat heeled shoes. The sleeves were slightly too short, however the rest of the dress fit perfect. We thought that if she wore gloves no one would notice the length of the sleeves. We took the dress to an alteration shop to have the loose beads sewn. I mentioned the short sleeves to the seamstress. She thought she could lengthen the sleeves by adding another row of beads that matched the rest of the dress. I allowed her to make the alterations because it would not make too large of a change in the dress. My friend's daughter was very pleased that she would not have to wear the gloves for the day.

My friend and her daughter have many details to attend to in order to prepare for the wedding in such a short time. The bride is having one bridesmaid, this way they do not have to worry about special ordering several dresses. I have helped with as many of the details as I can. It is fun to be around someone that is so excited about getting married. I hope that the couple will enjoy their special day even though it is being arranged in a rush.