

Happily Ever After

PART 3 OF 7

In the last issue, the fundamental logistics of time, date and place were discussed for an at-home wedding. Now comes the creative fun: the invitation. An invitation sets the tone for a wedding. It gives a glimpse of what is to be expected.

If being eco-conscious is a concern, instead of sending out invitations, consider having a dedicated wedding website. Let the computer be a friendly tool. A wedding website can serve as a porthole to provide guests everything from basic wedding information (including a save-the-date, registry links and hotel options for out-of-towners) to a history of the couple and a blog to reach out to friends for resources on wedding vendors.

However, if you're looking to send out the traditional paper invitation, here are some ways to send something that is inexpensive yet creative. When designing handmade invitations, a good source for materials are Blink Art Materials on Beverly Boulevard and Pearl Fine Art Supplies on La Cienega. These stores carry everything from handmade papers to watercolor or acrylic paint and brushes. Not only can you pick up some great art supplies, but roaming the aisles can help trigger unique ideas.

For your printing needs, Kelly Paper on La Brea Avenue is open to the public. Kelly Paper serves as a good source for having paper cut to the desired size of an invitation. Order the thickest cover weight stock and use it as a base to build a design like an artist uses a blank canvas to paint. An example of thick cover weight stock is Classic Crest, 110# Smooth Finish in Avon Brilliant White. A 5-by-7-inch postcard will cost \$36 for 250 pieces, which is the minimum order. If you don't need all 250 pieces, use the extra paper for note cards, thank-you cards, future invitations or place cards when having a dinner party. In addition, Kelly Paper stocks Classic Crest Duplex Covers which are thicker than the Classic Crest 110#. The Duplex Cover has one color on one side and its complementary color on the flip side. An example is white on one side and tarragon on the other. Standard size for an invitation is 5-by-7 inches, with matching envelopes of 5.25-by-7.25 inches. The industry name for this envelope size is "A7 Announcement Envelopes."

UV/Ultra II Translucent paper is a good choice for a secondary paper. Because of its translucence, printing the wedding text from a home printer on this paper helps to layer an invitation. It can also give great flexibility to an invitation. Use glue to adhere the papers, staple the papers together, wrap the translucent paper around the cover weight postcard or lay the papers on top of each other. Consider ordering a custom rubber stamp. It might sound dated but with the right design, it could create a modern look. Another option for an interesting invitation is to incorporate greenery. The backyard can serve as a source of great things like twigs, bark or leaves. Another source are flea markets around Los Angeles. There, one can search for anything and everything. Something old, something quirky or something costing little money. There are items to be found that, when combined with modern designing, could make for a fantastic looking invitation.

Remember to spend some time on wording for the invitation. You can be simple, minimal, descriptive or semi-traditional. The wording should match the feel of the invitation (i.e. unconventional invitations should have unconventional wording).

Invitations are either electronically sent or computer generated. Handmade invitations have become a lost art and because of that, guests will notice an innovative invitation design that was made by hand. Lastly, sending wedding announcements to your broader mailing list serves a valuable role. It reminds people that someone they know is gay or lesbian and got married, which serves to personalize the potential impact of the anti-gay marriage Prop. 8.



Give your invitation an inspired look by ordering an interesting rubber stamp, shopping local flea markets or raiding the backyard for greenery.

Wedding
invitations
made simple

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Jason Murakawa's *Small Masterpiece* stands alone in rentable antique china, flatware and stemware. Inspiring personal style and redefining the 'etiquette' of setting a table, his professional team coordinates, start to finish, all aspects for intimate events. For more information, visit SmallMasterpiece.com