



# How to buy a *wedding hat*

Love or hate them, a hat is a must for the mother of the bride or groom, so milliner Mary Spiteri is here to share her trade secrets

**T**he right hat will give you confidence, not make you feel silly. I love it when women come into my shop to get a hat for a special occasion – when they find the right one, you can see how it works with their personality and look.

Hats and head pieces are making a big comeback in 2010 as women are getting more adventurous. I believe there's a hat to suit everyone and I've always got a buzz finding hats for my customers.

The key to finding a hat is simple: it's about face shape and the proportions of the hat. A longer face suits a wide brim; round or angular faces look best with a higher crown; and small, heart-shaped faces can wear more angular styles. This applies regardless of how you wear your hair.

Head pieces, or fascinators, can look great, but I'd suggest trying the new trend for pill box hats with feathers or veils. With a head piece it's important to get the correct attachment

for your hair – a comb only works if you've got the thick locks to hold it in place, otherwise opt for a head band or hat elastic.

A hat can be an investment if you buy a classic shape and colour (such as black or neutral). If you look after it in a hat box with lots of tissue to support the shape, you can easily have the hat re-trimmed with feathers or a corsage to match another outfit. With this in mind, spending more on a quality hat doesn't seem so bad.

I often get asked about the dreaded 'hat hair'. A well-fitted hat won't squash your hair badly. If you're worried about the hat being blown away, don't go for a tighter fit, instead a hat pin works if you've got an updo, or a piece of hat elastic under the back of the hair if you're wearing it down. A tight fit is also a no-no as it will give you a headache – the last thing you want at the wedding.

So don't be put off wearing a hat to a special occasion, putting on the right hat is like putting on lipstick, it completes your look.

♥ Mary Spiteri runs her hat shop Tit Fer Tat in Richmond, Surrey. Contact her on 020 8332 1189 or go to [www.tifertat.co.uk](http://www.tifertat.co.uk).

*'Putting on the right hat is like putting on lipstick, it completes your look'*

## MARY'S THREE SIMPLE STEPS...

**1** If you're not used to wearing a hat, buy the outfit first. When you've got a look you love, you'll find it much easier to get a hat to work with it. Then take your outfit with you to find a hat – it will help the milliner to understand the style and colours you're going for.

**2** Putting on the wrong hat is like wearing bad underwear – and we all know how uncomfortable that is! That's where an experienced milliner comes in. Their expertise will help you to find the hat to complete your look, so try to go to a dedicated hat shop.

**3** Take a friend with you and have fun trying on the hats. The way to put a hat on correctly is to sit it straight on your head with the seam or label at the back. Then you'll get the full wow of the hat's design. When you've found 'the one' you'll feel like a million dollars. Good luck!