

GOOD THINGS



FAUX SURE

Once upon a time, a cake with artful sugar flowers and fruit like this one would take countless hours and expert skills to create. But thanks to a new crop of sources, you can order realistic-looking decorations in materials like gum paste and fondant, then apply them to plain tiers for a truly wedding-worthy confection. Turn the page for more sweet ideas.

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MORE BLOOMING BEAUTIES

1. If you're using larger flowers, you don't need a lot of them to take a cake from bare to beautiful. Try a single fondant orchid per tier for a look that's both elegant and effortless. **2.** Bundle white parrot-tulip and white cosmos sugar flowers to make a timeless and simple topper. **3.** For smaller blooms, like these happy-making daisies, play with scale and pattern to make the most impact: We used a different size and arrangement on each tier, working from largest at the base to tiny, airy ones at the top.

THE DETAILS: (Previous page) Lemon and blossom fillers, \$69 for 14, caljavaonline.com. (This page) Orchid fondant flowers, \$24 for 3, sugargardencupcakes.etsy.com. White parrot-tulip sugar flowers and white cosmos sugar flowers, \$35 for 3, juliekonsewicz.etsy.com. Petit gum-paste daisies, \$27 for 36, caljavaonline.com. Wilton daisy icing decorations, from \$6 for 12, joann.com. Wilton mini daisy icing decorations, from \$11 for 32, amazon.com. Martha Stewart Collection cake stand, 12", \$65, macys.com.



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IN THE BAG

Wedding packing is unlike any other kind. You've carefully planned out ensembles for the rehearsal dinner, brunch, and more, from hair accessories down to your lingerie. Keep each event's look organized with this clever packing trick: Put outfits in lightweight coat bags, one per ensemble. Each accessory gets its own drawstring pouch, which is then looped around the corresponding look's hanger. Zip them up together, and attach a label to the outside indicating which outfit is which (so there's no need to sneak a peek).

THE DETAILS: Natural-cotton gusseted hanging bag, in Coat Size, \$20, containerstore.com. Shoe bag with light-pink drawstring, \$9, essentialsbycrystal.etsy.com. Muslin bags, 2.75" by 4", from \$8 for 25; and 5" by 8", from \$12.25 for 25, celestialgifts.com. See The Guide for outfit details



Martha's Packing Tip: Place clothes that are prone to wrinkling in a plastic dry-cleaning bag first—the slick material will help keep outfits crease-free.



Air plants need no soil; postwedding, place them in a terrarium or shallow vessel for an easy keepsake.

OUTSIDE-THE-BOX BOUTONNIÈRES

Here's a Pin-worthy boutonniere idea: Swap fresh, thirsty blooms for dried botanicals or pint-size plants that need little water (like succulents or air plants). They're long-lasting, so they can be made or ordered ahead of time, and they won't wilt midway through the big day. For a never-fail DIY arrangement, bundle a few sprigs of a single plant, like lavender or wheat, with a solid ribbon in your wedding palette. Or opt for premade designs from online sellers that use unexpected materials, like hops (a fun nod to beer-loving grooms).

THE DETAILS: 1. Pink preserved rose, \$29 for 15, save-on-crafts.com (tied with dried bay leaves). 2. Dried lavender, \$10 for 90 stems, save-on-crafts.com. 3. Air plant-wildflower boutonniere, \$13.50, eucca.etsy.com. 4. Eryngium thistle, \$80 for 25 stems, flowermuse.com. 5. Succulent boutonniere, \$13, eucca.etsy.com. 6. & 8. Hops-and-wheat boutonniere kit, \$27, blackcreekhops.etsy.com. 7. Meadowlark boutonniere, \$16, eucca.etsy.com.



PUT A RING ON IT

Being in charge of getting the rings to the altar is nerve-racking, whether you're elementary-school age or a full-grown member of the wedding party. Enter these clever holders: They're easy to carry or wear and more secure than a pillow or pocket—and, when it's time for the handoff, they provide quick access to the bands.

THE DETAILS: (Above) Gold-filled chain, \$15.50, firemountaingems.com. (Throughout) "Trio" micropavé diamond ring, \$1,170, and "Mid-Weight Comfort Fit" band, \$340, bluenile.com.



A thin pouch is less bulky than a ring box, and the bands won't be loose in your best man's pocket.

THE DETAILS: Mini leather pouch, from \$38, klesdesign.etsy.com.



Pin bands to your ring bearer's pillow with a kilt pin—it will keep them safe and is simpler to open than a knot of ribbon.

THE DETAILS: Kilt pin, \$10 for 10, firemountaingems.com.



A gold bangle lets your MOH "wear" the rings (and makes a nice gift for her, too).

THE DETAILS: Peaked cuff, in Gold, \$175, eddieborgo.com.



FRUIT AND CENTER

Want to bring a little zing to your reception tables? Add dwarf citrus trees. Pint-size saplings come in dozens of varieties and, in sleek metallic planters, are a fresh way to branch out from traditional floral centerpieces. (They're more economical, too.) Tie the look together with the same fruit at each place setting. At the end of the party, send the trees home with guests to be planted.

THE DETAILS: "Improved Meyer Lemon" premium tree, \$40, fourwindsgrowers.com. Antiqued hammered brass planter, from \$25, jamaligarden.com. J. L. Coquet "Hemisphere Marine Blue" presentation plates, \$195 each, and pasta plates, \$125 each; and dessert plates (from "Marine Blue" 5-piece place setting, \$520), michaelcfina.com. "Fete" cloth napkins, in White, \$28 for 8, crateandbarrel.com. Gold flatware, \$140 for a 20-piece set, westelm.com.



CORRESPONDENCE CLASS

It's been a minute since you hand-addressed an envelope (much less hundreds of them). But between save-the-dates, invites, and thank-you notes, you've got a lot of putting pen to paper ahead of you. If your penmanship is less than perfect, try the Original Lettermate (\$10, thelettermate.com)—a simple but genius addressing tool that prevents slanted scribbles, thanks to die-cut windows that ensure even line spacing. Personalize your stationery further with a make-your-own-envelope kit (\$15, papersource.com); use the traceable templates to create different sizes of envelopes and liners out of any paper.

