

To DIY or Not to DIY?

Many a bride before you has attempted to DIY any number of projects for her wedding, sometimes with great success—and sometimes with great heartache. Listen to the advice of Confetti & Co. event planner and designer Sara Murray before deciding what you'll tackle yourself—and what should definitely be left to the pros. —A.L.

THE PROJECT

Making and packaging your favors

THE PROJECT

The calligraphy on your invitations

THE PROJECT

Doing your own hair and makeup

THE PROJECT

Putting together your bouquets and centerpieces

THE PROJECT

Making your wedding gown or bridesmaid dresses



THE PLANNER SAYS ...

Go for it!

THE REASONING ...

This is a stress-free way to add a personal touch to your Big Day—especially if you're treating your guests to a family recipe, like your grandmother's famous cookies. It's also a great way to channel your nervous energy.

THE PLAN OF ATTACK

Package them beautifully, and make a day of putting it all together. Employ family and friends, and crank up the music or pop in your favorite movie. (For bulk orders of festive cellophane bags, boxes and gift wrap, Paper Mart is our go-to.)

THE PLANNER SAYS ...

Take a class!

THE REASONING ...

If you take a lesson or two and find you're good at it, try your hand at addressing your invites. It's an important (and tedious) project, though, so if your skills really aren't up to par, hire a professional.

THE PLAN OF ATTACK

Beware of misspellings, smudges and inkblots; you'll want to have a ton of extra envelopes on hand in case you make a mistake.

THE PLANNER SAYS ...

It could happen.

THE REASONING ...

If doing your makeup is your thing, then give it a go—at least if you mess up, it's easy enough to start fresh. Your hair is a bit trickier, though, and likely better left to an expert.

THE PLAN OF ATTACK

As you would at a makeup trial with a pro, test a variety of products to see what colors look best on your skin. Practice makes perfect, and remember to generously pad your wedding-day timeline so you can fix mistakes and not get flustered.

THE PLANNER SAYS ...

Ehhh.

THE REASONING ...

If you're keeping it super simple—say, a single peony to carry down the aisle, or terrariums on the tables—go ahead and DIY. When flowers are a significant design element for your party, however, leave this job to the professionals.

THE PLAN OF ATTACK

Bouquets can be challenging, so if possible, set aside some money and let a professional take care of them. To DIY your centerpieces, find a local market that sells bulk blooms, place your order far in advance, and make sure you have a way to keep the flowers cool.

THE PLANNER SAYS ...

No. No. No. No. No.

THE REASONING ...

This is a huge responsibility, so spare yourself the extra pressure. Plus, if you change your mind after a few attempts (or worse, disaster), it takes time to order from a bridal shop, and options become limited as you get closer to your date.

THE PLAN OF ATTACK

If you're looking for something custom, work with a dress designer; that way, you can have lots of input without the burden of all the manual labor. If you really have that DIY itch, tackle a smaller project, like sashes or another accessory.

Turn to page 190 for more information.