

## Alterations

Congratulations! Your gown has arrived at A Little Something White, and we are so excited to work with you to help you achieve the perfect fit. The bridal alterations process is a special and wonderful time, when the gown you fell in love with truly becomes yours and you begin to see your whole wedding day look come together beautifully. Below we have included a snapshot of “what to expect” during your fittings. As always, please don’t hesitate to call us at the boutique with any questions.

### *Scheduling Tips*

- You should expect a minimum of four total visits to the boutique during this time - three fittings as well as a final appointment to pick up the gown. Each fitting will last approximately one hour, during which time the seamstress you are working with will determine what changes need to be made to the gown in order for it to fit perfectly. Several weeks will pass in between each fitting, during which time the seamstress will make the necessary changes.
- Your first fitting will take place about 9 weeks prior to your wedding. Your second fitting will take place about 5 weeks prior to your wedding. Your final fitting will take place about 1 ½ weeks prior to wedding. After your final fitting, we require several days to press and package your gown before it can be taken from the boutique.
- Fittings take place at the boutique on Mondays (10am-5pm), Tuesdays (12pm-8pm) and Wednesdays (12pm-8pm). Fittings are scheduled on the hour every hour, with the last appointments taking place one hour prior to close (so 4pm on Mondays and 7pm on Tuesdays and Wednesdays).
- If you are unable to come to the boutique on one of these days, three of our seamstresses own private studios where they can see you during other weekdays and on the weekend. One studio is in New Canaan, one is in Milford (near New Haven) and the last is in New Milford (near Danbury).
- We will assign you to one of our talented seamstresses depending upon our availability at your preferred time slot. You will work with the same seamstress for all of your fittings, and that seamstress will be the person who makes the changes to your gown.
- All three of your fittings will be booked on the same day of the week, so you will need to let us know which day you prefer.
- The most coveted time slots for alterations are at lunchtime and evenings. Please know that those time slots tend to book up several months in advance. Once a time slot is full, no other fittings can be booked at that time.
- Our goal is always to accommodate your busy schedule. However, there are a limited number of evening and lunchtime slots available. Because of that, we advise you to book your fittings as early as possible so that if it is necessary for you to take a day off of work or adjust your schedule, you have as much time as possible to do so.





## *What to Bring*

For all fittings, you must bring the shoes and undergarments you plan to wear. Even if you think you might like to have bust cups sewn into the gown, we suggest bringing a few returnable bra options with you. If you arrive at any of your fittings without these items, your fitting will be rescheduled. Due to the high volume of alterations we perform at the boutique, the rescheduling of a fitting for this reason may result in the need to rush the alterations process (a fee), therefore it is incredibly important that you remember to bring these items with you.

## *The Process*

**First Fitting:** At this fitting, we focus on the overall fit of the gown (as opposed to the length or the bustle). The seamstress will determine what changes need to be made so that the gown fits your body as close to perfect as possible. Examples of things she will review include (but are not limited to) adjusting the cup size, taking in the gown at the bust, waist, or hips, or shortening any straps or fabric that cover the shoulder area. Depending on the amount of work that needs to be done for the fit, she may adjust the hem or start working on the bustle. However, the hem and bustle may be left to the second fitting.

**Second Fitting:** The second fitting is an interim fitting to both check the work that has already been done and begin any additional work. We will first check the new fit based on all of the changes we made during the first fitting. If the fit is not perfect, we will make additional adjustments to the fit at that time. At this appointment, we will also address the hem length and bustle if they were not adjusted during the first fitting. Please note that if any important details have been removed from the gown to achieve the correct fit, they will not be put back onto the gown until after this fitting when we have had the ability to determine that this is the correct fit. For example, if we have to remove any lace from the gown in order to fit your gown perfectly, it will be added back to the gown after the second fitting. Don't let this surprise you!!

**Third Fitting:** This is usually the final fitting for most brides. At this appointment, any details removed from the gown will be replaced, and we will do one last review of the overall fit, the length of the hem, and the bustle in case any small tweaks need to be made. At this appointment, we suggest bringing the two most reliable members of your wedding party to learn how to bustle the gown. Bustling a gown is not difficult when you know what you are doing, but it requires practice. It is also at this fitting that you will typically pay for the alterations.

**Final Pickup:** We request that you give us at least one day after your final fitting to press and package the gown. This can be a time consuming process and is not a step that we want to rush. If for some reason you require a same day turnaround, you must let us know in advance of the fitting so that we can ensure we have the proper amount of time scheduled.

## *The Pricing*

Alterations on a bridal gown require significant time and skill, and we have hired among the best in the industry for what we think is a critical element in making sure your gown fits and looks perfect on your wedding day. You will *only* be charged according to the degree of difficulty and time involved in tailoring your gown, ensuring you only pay for what is absolutely needed. The standard alterations we perform on a bridal gown entail any of the following – taking a gown in through the bust, bodice, and hips, adding bust cups, reducing the length of the gown (also known as “hemming” the gown), and creating a bustle. Fees for standard alterations average \$600-\$800.

Some brides will find that they would like to perform custom, or “non-standard” alterations to their bridal gown. These involve changes to the actual pattern of the gown itself (e.g. narrowing a skirt or changing the neckline shape), removing lace from a mother's bridal gown and adding it to the gown, adding straps to the gown, creating a custom piece to cover the neck and back, taking the gown in several times due to continued weight loss, altering an accessory such as a sash or

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veil, and changing the length of the gown an additional time as a result of the decision to wear different shoes. Because each custom request is specific to the bride and her desires, there is no way to provide a price range for such changes. If at any point during the process you request something, and it is not covered in the standard alterations quote above, we will make sure to let you know before proceeding with the work. If you would like an estimate at that time, we would be happy to provide you with one.

Our seamstresses require a six week window in order to complete gown alterations. Consequently, if the work must be done in less than six weeks, rush fees will apply. Rush fees are as follows: 4-6 weeks (\$75) / under 4 weeks (\$150).

If you have any concerns about the price estimates listed above, please discuss them with us. At A Little Something White Bridal Couture, we want you to not only completely love your gown and the way you look but also be comfortable with everything about your experience. Our seamstresses would be happy to provide you with more detailed information about the alterations process if that would be helpful.

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