



Albany by Maggie Sottero is available with a choice of detachable trains



MiaMia's Avril bodice, Pearl skirt and Gemini sleeves offer a fresh combination



We love this dreamy jacket paired with the Yates gown by Maggie Sottero

MULTI-LOOK DESIGNS

Separates and detachable elements are big news this season. We take a closer look at the options for two-in-one styling...



Hellena by Abella features a detachable train for extra effect



Chic and elegant, Rosa Clará's Barbados can be styled with a removable overskirt



Sottero and Midgley's Gibson is a modern jumpsuit with a tulle overskirt

With weddings back on, and engagement season in full swing, the new year promises an exciting time for the industry. At the autumn fashion shows, we were treated to a taste of what's in store for 2022 – and, as always, the designers delivered.

The landscape of weddings has changed drastically since 2020 – and with this, the wants and expectations of modern couples has shifted. Now, more than ever, couples are looking for versatile and unique choices for their special day, so the latest collections have been filled with outstanding gowns, fit for every bride.

In terms of trends, we're seeing two distinct looks for the coming year: styles that are informal and relaxed, as well as those created to turn heads. And it's with this in mind, that the multi-look gown has found its resurgence.

With so many brands delivering exceptional choices, multi-look gowns are a perfect option to offer extra versatility to your store's selection. "The pandemic has demanded a flexibility in bridalwear that means being able to pare back a look for a scaled-down ceremony, or elevate attire for a larger than expected

celebration," explains Tim Dunbar of Allure Bridals. "As trends progress, we're also witnessing a demand for additional extras that can turn subtle bridal styles into versatile showstoppers."

So what in particular are brides asking for, and what elements should you be looking out for in the coming months? Tim explains: "Accessories, such as overskirts as well as detachable trains and sleeves, are all very popular options for us because they take simple styles into a new realm of classic romance. In particular, in our Abella and Wilderly lines, we've created many looks for brides who want to be both sleek and contemporary, as well as classic and feminine – all without buying two gowns or compromising on style."

For South African label, Elbeth Gillis, this sentiment also rings true. "Detachable elements such as sensational sleeves, timeless collars, beautiful bows and overskirts have all been highly desirable," explains the designer. "These elements can be added to classic styles so that brides can put their own stamp on the dress, allowing everyone a chance to embrace their uniqueness and difference."

From removable trains to detachable sleeves and dramatic capes, there are plenty of options for brides who want to add a special touch to their big day look. ▶



A detachable skirt adds drama to Galia Lahav's Jamie dress



Maxi bows pair perfectly with sleek styles like 2350 by Mikaella Bridal



The detachable collar on Elbeth Gillis' Ophelia creates a completely unique look

In the latest collections from Maggie Sottero, Casablanca Bridal and Halfpenny London, detachable elements have been sprinkled throughout, giving retailers and their brides lots to fall in love with.

“Our ethos has always been about choice. It’s been a key part of the brand since we launched in 2005 and has only grown and grown,” says designer Kate of Halfpenny London. Similarly for this brand, offering multi-look pieces ensures their brides can update their dress in any way they like – giving them the freedom to be as traditional or alternative as they’d like.

And while individuality is key in the demand for this trend, for many brides, the option to switch their look from day to night will undoubtedly be the huge draw. “We know that not all brides can afford a second dress, so elements that can be taken off for dancing, or to create a new look for the evening, are really a win-win,” says Ronald Joyce’s Veni Infantino, whose latest line is filled with a host of beautiful convertible styles.

These designs give brides extra wearability – something which is understandably crucial in bridal fashion. But in addition to this, the multi-look trend also plays a part in bridal’s fight against fast fashion. “As we move towards more sustainable fashion, brides

want to know that they have the option to re-wear their wedding gowns,” explains Anna Georgina’s founder, Kobus Dippenaar. “Multi-way and detachable styling is one way that brides can repurpose their gown after they walk down the aisle.”

Whether it’s a princess gown that transforms into sleek and sexy evening attire, layered, mix-and-match multi-wear separates, or detachable lace jackets and capes, there are options that make each customer’s investment a long-term win. “We don’t want our brides to think about their wedding dress as a single-wear item,” agrees Kate Halfpenny. “Becoming more sustainable is something we’ve been working on for a really long time. The beauty with this is that brides can pick and choose the look they want and can then incorporate it into their wardrobe to be enjoyed again and again in the future.”

With an extensive and innovative choice across a range of price points, this is definitely a trend to watch if you want to stay on top of the game for your brides this year. Ticking all the right boxes and delivering on versatility, wearability and style, there’s no doubt it will capture the hearts of brides across the country for seasons to come. ■



Oscar by Evie Young is an ultra glam gown, complete with a removable sleeve



This beaded overskirt turns Ronald Joyce's 69713 into a princess ballgown



Halfpenny London's Luna skirt adds dimension to the form-fitting Cosmic gown

RONALD JOYCE TOP THREE: Veni Infantino discusses her favourite new styles



"69712 is a showstopper with a real sexiness. The whole dress is heavily pearl-beaded on top of glitter tulle, while the boned bodice is inspired by the lingerie bridal trend. To transition from day to night, it's available with a matching A-line overskirt, as well as a matching cape."



"69715 is my couture look piece, inspired by catwalk trends. It's an affordable style with a high-end look. Again, it has a sheer boned lingerie-inspired bodice, shimmering sparkle tulle and floral lace appliques. The icing on the cake is the fabulous, detachable blouson sleeves."



"69721 is a classic fit-and-flare with a plunge neckline, cap sleeves and open back. Some of the lace bodice panelling is sheer, as another nod to the lingerie-inspired look, but it also comes with a modesty bodice if needed. It also has a detachable train; remove for dancing!"