



# ARIZONA BRIDE

{ buy now on newsstands }



## Is a custom gown really within my budget?

 printer friendly format  email page

**Meghan Lawlor**

The words custom and couture are very intimidating. Not only are there endless possibilities, many think it is also very expensive. In fact, it's all about balance.

### 1. Budget

Think about your budget first. The gown style and fabric you choose will impact the final price of your gown. Next, go and try on pre-designed gowns. This is a great way to know what kind of neckline, fit and silhouette are the most complimentary. The most challenging part about a custom-made dress is getting exactly what you want because a custom design provides endless options.

### 2. Look

If you know what you want your gown to look like and how much you want to spend, you can tailor your budget to get the dress of your dreams. For example, if you have a limited budget and want a gown that is very full with a lot a complicated construction, your dressmaker will know to use synthetic fabrics and put more expense into constructing the gowns. Don't fear—many synthetic fabrics are beautifully weaved with the same drape as 100 percent silk so they're a great way to save money. If it is luxurious fabric you are going for, you can either provide your own to your dressmaker or do a simpler style gown that requires less construction.

### 3. Experience

Whatever style you choose, don't choose your dressmaker based on price alone. Make sure whoever you work with is trained and experienced. Whenever commissioning a custom gown, a prototype should be done first. A prototype is an exact replica of the finished piece but in a very inexpensive fabric. This will give the first look of what the gown will be. This is the part of the process where fit and style is corrected to achieve the "dream" design. If you work with a dressmaker or seamstress that skips this process, you could be in for a big surprise at the end (and it may not be a good one). This is a crucial step when all the "kinks" are worked out.

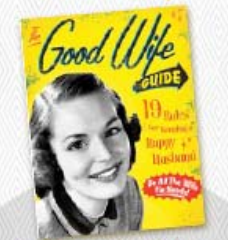
### 4. Go for it!

All in all, no one should be afraid of the custom route. It is a great way to get exactly what you have dreamed of, for what your budget will allow. Custom designs are also a great option for the rest of your wedding party, your accessories and any gifts you would like to give, ensuring your one of a kind personal touch.



Meghan Lawlor is the co-owner of Lillian Lottie Couture [www.lillianlottiecouture.com](http://www.lillianlottiecouture.com). She is a master designer and seamstress, not to mention an all-around cool gal. For more advice or questions, you can reach her at [meghan@lillianlottiecouture.com](mailto:meghan@lillianlottiecouture.com) or 480.941.6041

## Arizona Bride Giveaway



- ENTER TO WIN -  
the  
**Good Wife Guide**

