



Heather Erson Photography/Drew McElwee

Who Do You Thank? Now that you're married

By Klaus
Baer and
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Jenkins

WITH THE WHIRLWIND OF PLANS and arrangements spinning in your head, one important detail not to neglect is giving a proper nod of thanks to the individuals who are helping make your special day memorable. In addition to the normal cast of characters, there may be someone who was pivotal in the planning process, perhaps a close family member or a childhood friend who traveled across the country to be at your side. No matter what their involvement, it is customary to give a special thank you to those individuals.

There is a myriad of gift options, with unlimited price points. Choosing the proper thank-you gift can be a paralyzing experience that, quite frankly, can take the joy out of the actual gesture. But at its core, the decision of what to give should be based upon the relationship you have with the individual.

To help navigate these waters and minimize your anxiety, we offer a few tips that might help make this process less of a chore and more of a final exclamation mark on your wedding experience.

TRADITIONAL THANK-YOU GIFTS

What to give someone can be a challenge, but making the recipient list can be the trickiest part of the equation. Ask yourself this basic question: Was this person in my wedding? If you answer "yes," add him or her to your recipient list. This list will include the obvious participants—bridesmaids, grooms-

men, flower girl, ring bearer, parents of the bride and groom, and grandparents. However, be sure to recognize those other individuals with equally important roles, such as your friends who helped stuff welcome bags, drive guests around, or deliver supplies to the ceremony location. And, certainly, don't forget your wedding planner.

WHAT TO GIVE

It is not so much the cost of the gift, but rather the fact that the recipient will feel the item is special. For example, a set of Baccarat cut crystal highball glasses makes a stunning gift for that father-in-law who loves his afternoon drink. However, a beautifully monogrammed set of Scotch glasses (not necessarily Baccarat), is even more special because you monogrammed and personalized them. Monogrammed or engraved objects tell the recipient that you planned well in advance and gave thought to selecting something specific to their taste and interest. Alternatively, buying an object from the wedding location also serves as a memento or keepsake. Numerous retail outlets offer Tetons-specific merchandise (see "Local Delights" on page 105 for ideas).

Consider shopping locally first. If you choose to shop on the Internet, exercise your consumer sense and read buyer reviews prior to purchasing from any unfamiliar company.

The Apparels of Pauline



Arnica Spring

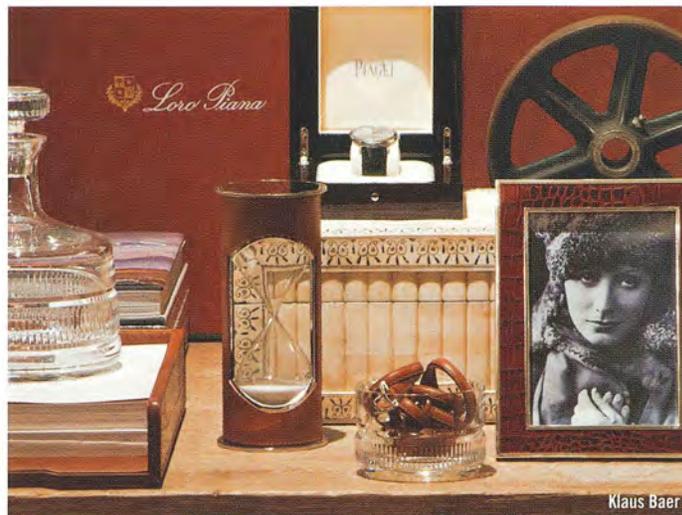
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Klaus Baer

WHEN TO GIVE

It is customary to give your gifts on the night before your wedding, typically at the rehearsal dinner when you have your entire wedding party present. You may choose to thank everyone publicly, or thank each person individually. The choice is yours and both are widely accepted.

BUDGET

You must give sensible consideration to the expense of gift giving. Your recipient list will grow quickly; you may have dozens of people to whom you would like to express thanks by giving a gift. Remain cognizant and realistic with your overall wedding budget. It might be helpful to create a simple spreadsheet with your recipients, gift-giving allowance per person, and overall budget. (You can never be too organized in your wedding planning!) You can track your purchases and spending and help take some of the emotion and impulse out of the question: "How much should I spend?" This may feel a little pragmatic and perhaps overly clinical, but even a simple spreadsheet will help you stick to a budget. Be careful not to fall into the mindset that you must spend a bundle of money for something to have value and meaning for the recipient.

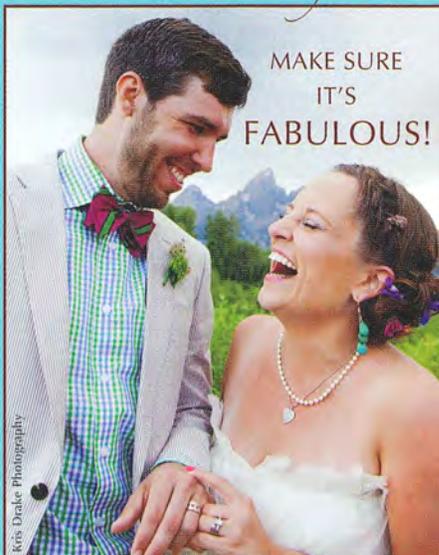
The items you give are a reflection of your grace and style, and most importantly, a heartfelt expression of appreciation for the recipients' involvement in helping make your wedding day extra special. ♥

Klaus Baer and Rush Jenkins own and operate WRJ Design Associates and WRJ Home. Trained in the classics with degrees in Fine Arts and Design, their style reflects a traditional yet fresh and contemporary approach to design. With over thirty years of combined experience, WRJ's services include interior, exhibition, and event design. To contact Klaus or Rush, call 307-200-4881, visit www.wrjassociates.com, or stop in their showrooms in Jackson and Victor to shop for gifts, furniture, or home décor accessories.

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