

# frequently asked questions

## HOW EARLY SHOULD I SCHEDULE MY ALTERATIONS?

I recommend reaching out AT LEAST 4 months before your wedding date to book your 1<sup>st</sup> alterations appointment. Your 1<sup>st</sup> fitting should take place 8-10 weeks before your wedding date. Keep in mind I am a one-woman operation, so it never hurts to reach out early to ensure you get an appointment. You do not have to wait for your dress to arrive in order to book with me, so plan ahead and reach out for an appointment any time.

## CAN YOU ACCOMMODATE RUSH ALTERATIONS?

Rush alterations are charged an additional rush fee based on how close we are to your wedding, and cannot always be accommodated. It depends on the number of current clients I have scheduled, so please reach out and I can let you know on a case-by-case basis if I am able to help you.

## HOW MUCH DO ALTERATIONS COST?

Pricing depends on your specific dress and the type of alterations that are required. On average, "standard" bridal alterations typically cost between \$500 - \$800. "Standard" alterations refer to a hem, French or American bustle, shortening straps, and possibly taking in the dress in 1 spot. If you are requesting more custom alterations (such as changing necklines, detachable sleeves, jackets, adding slits, adding lining, and other dress design changes), or your dress must be resized in multiple areas or by more than 1 dress size, pricing is typically between \$800-\$1000+. Please keep in mind these are general averages. Pricing increases when lace and/or beading is present, or if your dress has numerous layers. If you are concerned about pricing, or if you are on a tight budget, you are welcome to reach out to request a complimentary email/phone consultation where I provide a rough estimate. In-person consultations are available at \$50 for a 30 min appointment. This fee is to cover time spent working with you to give you a more accurate quote. If you move forward with alterations with me, the \$50 will be put towards your total alterations cost.

## WHERE DO YOU HOLD FITTINGS?

For brides who have purchased from Bridal Elegance, fittings are held at the salon on Fridays between 10:00am-6:00pm. Please reach out to Bridal Elegance directly to schedule. For all other brides, I hold fittings Mondays and Thursdays between 9:00am-6:00pm at my home studio. Please fill out my appointment request form to schedule an appointment: <https://www.courtneychiang.com/bridalalterations>

## WHAT SHOULD I BRING TO MY FITTING?

You must bring your wedding shoes to your fittings. I cannot pin your hem and bustle without your shoes, so this is the most important thing to remember. You should also bring your wedding undergarments, since all of these things (Spanx, hosiery, bras, tape, etc.) will affect the fit of your dress.

## WHAT IF I DON'T HAVE MY SHOES YET?

Unfortunately, I WILL NOT work on your hem or your bustle without your wedding shoes, so please plan ahead. I also strongly recommend that you do not use a substitute shoe, as even shoes with the same heel height can be slightly different. My goal is to make sure we do not have to hem your dress multiple times, and that you don't end up with a dress that's too short. If you insist on using substitute shoes, I will have you sign a release form stating that you requested to move forward without your actual wedding shoes.

## CAN YOU CREATE CUSTOM ACCESSORIES?

YES! I can create custom veils, sleeves, lace toppers, you name it. If you are interested in this service, please be sure to have plenty of reference/inspiration images so I can ensure I capture your vision accurately. If you are able, please have your bridal salon order you matching fabric so your accessories match your dress.