

# I Wore A Versatile Wedding Guest Dress

By Jen (<http://abbeypost.com/blog/author/jena/>)

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I've written several posts about how you don't need to buy a brand new [wedding guest dress \(http://abbeypost.com/blog/spring-wedding-guest-dresses-made-easy-fabulous/\)](http://abbeypost.com/blog/spring-wedding-guest-dresses-made-easy-fabulous/), even if you're only going to one wedding this year. A truly versatile dress will work for a [wedding \(http://abbeypost.com/blog/what-to-wear-to-a-beach-wedding/\)](http://abbeypost.com/blog/what-to-wear-to-a-beach-wedding/), the office and dinner with friends, albeit with a change of accessories.



(<http://abbeypost.com/shop/cynthia-kelly.html>)

All blinged out.

But I was a little afraid to wear a versatile dress myself at my cousin's wedding this past weekend. My family likes to sparkle at weddings – beading and sequins galore. So as

much as I knew that no one cares what the bride's cousin wears, I had this nagging feeling that my cousin's feelings would be hurt. After all, she'd been asking the aunts to wear something sparkly and buying crystal hair clips for anyone and everyone.

I felt a twinge of guilt every time I wore my Cynthia dress (<http://abbeypost.com/shop/cynthia-kelly.html>) before the big day. How would my cousin know how happy I was for her if I didn't buy a dress that I'd never wear again?

Since that last thought was clearly cuckoo, I went ahead with my plan to wear my Cynthia dress (<http://abbeypost.com/shop/cynthia-kelly.html>) with sparkly jewelry. I already had a vintage crystal pin, and bought earrings (<http://www.baublebar.com/essential-tear-drops.html>) and a necklace (<http://www.baublebar.com/slinky-chain-collar-necklace.html>) from our friends at BaubleBar.

Getting ready for the wedding, I worried about being underdressed. Once we got to the church, I knew I looked fine. I got enthusiastic compliments galore – even from friends of the family who haven't seen me since I was much younger and thinner.

You know what? I did look better than in those formal, only one-time wearing dresses I'd worn to family weddings in the past. I'd been wearing dresses that fit a certain image I had in my head – and that image had nothing to do with how well the dress fit, or whether it complimented my body shape (<http://abbeypost.com/blog/abbeypost-guide-buying-clothes-when-you-have-a-triangle-shaped-body/>). But put me in a dress made to my measurements (<http://abbeypost.com/blog/history-of-fit/>), in a color (<http://abbeypost.com/blog/best-ways-figure-colors-flatter-skin-tone/>) that works with my hair color and skin tone, and zowie. Instead of, "It's so nice to see you," and "I haven't seen you in ages," it was, "You look great!" and "I love that color!"



(<http://abbeypost.com/shop/cynthia-kelly.html>)

I was super comfortable because my dress fit so well. I didn't give a thought to my clothes once I started mingling and chatting with people. (My shoes were a different matter. I'm so out of practice wearing heels that I had to ditch my fabulous silver pumps for sandals so I could think of something besides how much my feet hurt.)

With the drape neckline, I knew that if I dropped anything (<http://abbeypost.com/blog/best-ways-keep-food-clothes/>) on myself during the cocktail hour, it was likely to hit a part of the neckline that was facing my body. So I didn't have to

Apparently I looked so good that no one noticed that my belt was riding up.

pay more attention to my food than to the conversations I was having. I got lucky anyway, and didn't spill a drop.

I didn't even have to worry about my dress when the kid sitting next to me splashed some of his shrimp scampi in my direction. Like all AbbeyPost dresses, it's machine washable, so a little garlic and oil wouldn't have been the end of the world.

My concerns about wearing a versatile re-wearable wedding guest dress weren't all in my head. I complimented one aunt on her top and she whispered conspiratorially that she'd worn it once before at another wedding, like that was scandalous information.

After this weekend, I'm completely converted to shopping in my closet for special occasions. And considering that the [costs of being a wedding guest \(http://www.marketwatch.com/story/cost-of-attending-weddings-soars-75-2014-04-23\)](http://www.marketwatch.com/story/cost-of-attending-weddings-soars-75-2014-04-23) have gone up 75% in the past two years, not buying a single-wear wedding guest dress is only going to get more popular.

## When you attend a wedding, do you always buy a new dress? Or do you go with something versatile so you can keep wearing it?



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