

'They're ideal for bigger busts. A good corset will tighten up the figure and give support.'

JO'S VIEW: 'It's a little too "grown up", but great for a glamorous evening do.'

PERFECT FOR: Tall brides with elegant shoulders.

5 THE CUT: SHORT

Jo stays at London Brides to try on a short dress by Kate Sherford for Brandon Couture. 'Short dresses often give a more informal look, worn on or above the knee,' says Camilla. 'Younger brides can look elfin and Twiggy-esque in shorter mini styles, while smart shift shapes suit more mature brides.'

JO'S VIEW: 'I like showing off my legs, but a longer, more romantic gown is more my style.'

PERFECT FOR: Slim brides, petite or tall.

6 THE CUT: A-LINE

Next, it's on to Sharon Cunningham, where Jo tries on an A-line design, with a fitted bodice and flared skirt. 'A-lines hide the bottom, hips and legs, and a boxed bodice really defines the waist,' explains Camilla. 'But beware if you're top-heavy, as this style can make you look bigger.'

JO'S VIEW: 'The coat is stunning, but I wouldn't mind showing my arms and shoulders more.'

PERFECT FOR: Pear shapes.

7 THE CUT: EMPIRE

Still at Sharon Cunningham, Camilla picks an empire-line dress to finish. 'With a raised waistline cut just beneath the bust, empire lines have a gorgeous romantic quality,' says Camilla. 'They hide any lumps and bumps, and enhance or minimise the bust, depending on the tailoring.'

JO'S VIEW: 'I love the beaded neckline and long train - I feel very ethereal.'

PERFECT FOR: Full or smaller busted women, or pregnant brides.



Column

Dress £725 Victoria Jane at London Brides



Dress from £3,550 Sharon Cunningham

A-line

CAMILLA'S TOP FIVE BRIDAL TIPS

You've spotted the dress, but that's just the start...

- 1 TIMING:** 'If you need your dress fitted and altered within less than three months, you may be asked to pay extra. Rush jobs cost, so get in there early.'
- 2 ALTERATIONS:** 'When buying off the peg, you'll probably need alterations - whether it's a simple hemline or waist-cinch, which can really add to the final cost. Some shops offer packages - Johanna Hehir's alterations start at £100.'
- 3 ACCESSORIES:** 'Sashes, belts and buckles may look like part of the dress, but aren't always included in the price. If you want to add a personal touch, build it into your budget.'
- 4 JEWELLERY:** 'Real bling or the costume look can be dazzling for your wedding. But if you're investing, make sure it's an item you'll wear again.'
- 5 UNDERWEAR:** 'Underwear makes a huge difference to your shape, so it's worth splashing out. La Perla's seam-free thong, £28, is VPL-free, or for ultimate luxury, head to the Queen's corsetier, Rigby & Peller, or chic lingerie label Myla.'



Empire

Dress from £4,250 Sharon Cunningham

'It was great trying on all the dress styles - they look different once you're wearing them. My favourite? Ironically, it was the first one I set my eyes on - the Morganthaus outfit - it's just so glamorous.'

JO'S FINAL VERDICT



Short

Dress £800 Kate Sherford for Brandon Couture at London Brides