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### Personal touch makes day special

Every couple wants their wedding to be different. So, for those with the inclination and time, making your own decorations, wedding favours, flowers or invitations can add a personal touch. Wedding planners Sonya Yeung and Leini Ireland offer creative do-it-yourself ideas to make it extra special.

'DIY projects are time-consuming, but a lot of brides like to add that personal element,' says Yeung, creative director at Bliss Creations ([www.blisscreations.net](http://www.blisscreations.net)).

'It also gives friends and family who want to help out, something to do. And it's not as easy to get DIY projects done professionally. I mean, who is going print out photos, then put them on a clothes line and hang them up?'

Many couples make their own wedding favours. Yeung recalls some of her former clients making a CD of their favourite music and giving them out as gifts to their guests.

Another idea is to put photos of the wedding couple into frames. Alternatively, Yeung remembers a bride who printed out a few candid snapshots of each guest at the wedding, and then sent them along with a photo frame as a thank-you gift. 'This was for a wedding of 150 people. The bride was hyper-organised, but this put her personal touch [on the gift],' Yeung says.

For decorations on the day, the wedding planner has seen photographs of the couple and attending guests hung on a clothes line with simple wooden pegs around the venue. A variation is photographs wrapped around a tree.

As lighting is one of the most important elements at any big event, Yeung offers the easy task of placing a tea light inside a paper bag. 'It's a great reasonably priced idea, and you could even cut patterns into the bag like a little lantern. Then you could place them all over the grounds of an outdoor wedding.'

According to Yeung, a novel idea is to make bridal bouquets and buttonholes out of fabric, paper or buttons. 'This is for someone who is environmentally friendly or who wants a long-lasting bouquet.' With low-priced accessible materials and items in Shenzhen, Sham Shui Po and the flower market a short distance away, Ireland ([leinispears@yahoo.com](mailto:leinispears@yahoo.com)) says it's easy to create your own special touches. With her partner Kate Green at Pop Limited, the duo specialise in making customised wedding decorations, everything from centrepieces, table settings, buttonholes, backdrops and lighting.

To cut costs on buying expensive wedding favours, Ireland suggests making bags of fudge to give out, which is 'sweet and very easy to make'.

Making your own confetti is another option, Ireland says. 'Go to the flower market about a week in advance and buy some roses. Then make newspaper cones instead of using baskets, and put the confetti in it.'

Ireland also loves using ribbons. 'Ribbons are very cheap and plentiful in Hong Kong. You can put them on napkins, decorate your venue and make everything look very pretty,' she says.