

BRIDES & GROOMS

Couples can personalize their wedding with engraving

Gifts, goblets, vases, bottles: They can engrave most everything

Story and photos by Edith Decker

After the wedding or anniversary party is over, you'll have some great photos and a dress in a box, but what about something you can use for every new anniversary, or just for every day to remind you of the day?

The answer is to have something engraved, etched, sandblasted or otherwise personalized.

Recognition Specialties in Grants Pass is known for making name badges for businesses such as Safeway, but they also engrave all kinds of things for weddings, whether it's a case of wine bottles, a pair of toasting glasses — or several hundred of them — or a cake server and knife.

"We do lots of bridal party gifts," says Sarah King, who recently organized a booth at the Bridal Fair at the Josephine County Fairgrounds. "People bring in their own items to be engraved."

Grooms will bring in pocket watches for their groomsmen, or even knives or shot glasses as a gift. Brides bring in lockets or bracelets for their bridesmaids to wear on the day, and thereafter, King says.

One family has a sterling cake server that has been used by generations for their weddings, and every new couple brings it in, King says.

And it's not all that expensive. Depending on the size of the jewelry and amount of lettering, a watch or locket can be engraved for \$15 to \$30 on average.

Wine bottles are sandblasted for \$35 each and champagne flutes or wine glasses are around \$15 each, although if you order in quantity so all your guests can have one as a wedding favor, the cost can go down to a couple dollars each. Don't forget pint glasses for beer lovers, too.

Nothing is too odd to engrave.

"We just finished a set that they called 'redneck champagne flutes.' They were Mason jars on stems," King says.

Lately, they've engraved many unity sand ceremony sets for families that are combining not only a bride and groom, but children. Each small vase has the family member's name and will hold their choice of sand colors.

Then, the main vase the sand is poured into to symbolize the family's new unity is often engraved with the date of the wedding and the couple's names or a favorite quote.



Sarah King of Recognition Specialties in Grants Pass shows some of the items the business has specially engraved, etched or sandblasted for weddings.



Vases for centerpieces for the reception can be engraved and kept by members of the wedding party.

Beckie Bradley actually does most of this unusual engraving, once the lettering

has been designed and laid out by the department that does all those badges and name tags.

When her daughter married earlier this month in Rogue River, she had a special chance to add to the wedding

by engraving a cake server and knife for the couple's big day.

Bradley runs the machines that engrave or sandblast glass, while metals such as a silver server or gold watch are personalized with a laser or, if the job requires an "old school" approach, Bradley uses a diamond cutter.

So far, she's never broken an expensive item, but then she's never gotten over being nervous when she's handling an expensive watch or bracelet.

"I don't think I'll ever get over that," Bradley says with a smile.

A new item for the company is photographs printed on canvas, King adds.

One last idea for those looking for a one-of-a-kind wedding gift: a rock or stone sandblasted with the couple's new name for their home or garden.

Just remember — it may be a challenge to wrap.

Reach reporter Edith Decker at 541-474-3724 or edecker@thedailycourier.com.

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Above: Wine glasses for toasting the couple can be etched with names, the date and a symbol for just the couple or for every guest, as a favor.

Left: Beckie Bradley recently finished engraving a silver cake server for a couple who will wed in May. After the wedding, the server will be a keepsake of the day.

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