



Spirit Unlimited Professional DJ Entertainment Wedding Planning Newsletter #8

"Traditionally" Who Handles Specific Duties, Expenses & Historical Trivia.

Budget Tip

Saturday night is the most expensive time to hold your reception and the hardest night to find everything you want available. To save money and frustration, consider a Friday or Sunday night, Saturday or Sunday afternoon or a week night. Morning and afternoon weddings also call for lighter fare, so you'll be able to save on the menu as well.

Best Man

The best man walks down the aisle with the maid/matron of honor and stands next to the groom during the ceremony. An alternate option is for him to already be up front waiting next to the groom as the wedding party enters. He holds the bride's ring until the officiate asks for it and he signs the marriage certificate as a legal witness. At the reception, he proposes the first toast to the bride and groom.

Maid/Matron Of Honor

Before the wedding, she helps with addressing the invitations and plans the bridal shower. On the big day, the maid or matron of honor helps the bride get ready, adjusts her train and veil during the ceremony, holds the groom's ring and the bride's bouquet, and signs the marriage certificate as a witness.

Groomsmen

These friends or relatives of the groom walk with the bridesmaids down the aisle. They pay for their own attire rental.

Bridesmaids

You may have up to 12 bridesmaids (depending on the size and formality of the wedding). The bridesmaids pay for their own gowns, share the responsibility for the shower, contribute to bride's gift from all bridesmaids and attend the rehearsal and dinner.

Flower Girl

This young lady carries the basket of flowers down the aisle or sprinkles flower petals down the aisle for the bride to walk upon.

Ring Bearer

He carries the ring pillow down the aisle. He can walk with the flower girl or after her.

Ushers

These gentlemen lead all the guests to their seats and unroll the aisle runner before the processional. You should have one usher for every 50 guests.

Rehearsal Dinner

The groom's parents traditionally host the rehearsal dinner, but depending on your situation, you may have to host or be involved in the planning of it. To save money, there is no reason why you couldn't host a lunch or rehearsal party in one of your parents' homes, and save on restaurant costs. In fact, a home is quite often intimate and pleasant for a small - to medium size group.

Ceremony

A wedding ceremony can be held anywhere from your local church to a park, lake or backyard. You can invite as many guests as you wish as cost is not determined by head count. The type of ceremony -Civil or Religious- will have an impact on the cost. To save money consider having an officiate perform your ceremony at the reception site so you can avoid paying an additional location fee.

Dress

Traditionally, brides did not wear white wedding gowns. Through the 18th century, most brides just wore their Sunday best to their wedding. Red was a favorite during the Middle Ages in Europe. Other colors were worn for symbolic reasons: blue meant constancy and green meant youth. As years passed, white was worn as a symbol of purity. Today, white merely symbolizes the wedding and is worn by any bride, no matter if it is their second marriage.

Veil

Mystique and romance has surrounded the veil for more than one thousand years. Originally, the veil is thought to have been used to hide the bride from abductors, just as the similar dress of her bridesmaids was meant to do. But a more romantic interpretation evolved later which believed that concealment (as the bride's face beneath a veil) rendered what was hidden more valuable. Another early interpretation of the veil was that it symbolized youth and virginity.

Ring

The wedding ring has traditionally been worn on the third finger of the left hand because it was believed that a vein in this finger ran directly to the heart. The third finger of the left hand has become the customary wedding-ring finger for all English-speaking cultures.

Bouquet

For ancient Greeks and Romans, the bouquet was a pungent mix of garlic and herbs or grains. The garlic was supposed to ward off evil spirits and the herbs or grains were to insure a fruitful union. In ancient Poland, it was believed that sprinkling sugar on the bride's bouquet kept her temper sweet.

Kiss

The first kiss a bride and groom share at the close of the ceremony has carried special significance through the centuries. Many cultures believed that the couple exchanged spirits with their breath and part of their souls were exchanged as well.

Throwing Rice

One of the oldest wedding traditions, the custom of throwing rice, originated with the ancient Hindus and Chinese. In these cultures, rice is the symbol of fruitfulness and prosperity. Tossing it after the ceremony was believed to bestow fertility upon the bride and groom. Eating rice and other grains was thought to guarantee health, wealth and happiness for the newlyweds. Today, rice tossing is being replaced by the more ecologically friendly birdseed tossing or the blowing of bubbles, because uncooked rice is damaging to birds that eat it off the church lawn.

Cake

The wedding cake has always played an important part in the wedding. Ancient Romans broke a cake over the bride's head to symbolize fertility or abundance. Many other cultures dropped wheat, flour or cake on the bride's head, and then ate the crumbs for good luck. The early British baked baskets of dry crackers and every guest took one home after the wedding. In medieval times, guests brought small cakes and piled them on a table. The bride and groom then attempted to kiss over the cakes. Eventually, a young baker decided to put all the cakes together and cover them with frosting, thus the tiered wedding cake was born.

Disc Jockey

You should call on DJ as soon as you know the date of your wedding. This will help make sure you can secure the best there is as some DJs are booked up to one (1) year in advance. It is a good idea to make sure the D.J. you hire is a professional. Once you have selected the DJ they should sit down with you and go over the entire event. (i.e. first dance, bouquet toss, garter throw, best man toast, etc.) The DJ is much more than background and dance music. He is the one person with the power (the microphone). He is the one who motivates and moves your guests.

Flowers

You will purchase more flowers for your wedding than most any other occasion in your life. In addition to the bridal bouquet, you will need the following:

- * Bouquets for bridal attendants
- * Boutonniere for groom
- * Boutonniere for ushers and fathers
- * Corsages for mothers
- * Flowers to decorate the church
- * Centerpieces for reception
- * Bouquet and flower petals for flower girl
- * Additional floral decorations for buffet tables & cake

Money Saving Tips

- * Choose flowers that are in season at the time of your wedding
- * Use hand-tied stems rather than structured bouquets
- * Use loosely cut flowers in vases rather than sculpted centerpieces

Tipping

Most gratuities will be included in the fees, but it is customary to tip some of the following professionals who helped to make your day special. The following is a list for proper tipping protocol:

- * Clergy Member -- usually a \$10 and up donation.
- * Limousine, DJ, Photographer -- 15%
- * Waiters, Waitresses -- 15%
- * Captains -- 1 to 2%
- * Maitre D' -- 15%

Honeymoon

The first weddings comprised of a groom taking his bride by capture. He would take her somewhere hidden away so her relatives and villagers couldn't find them. There they stayed for one moon phase and drank mead, a wine made from honey, to make them more amorous. Thus, the word "honeymoon" was born. Today, the honeymoon is the time when the couple can get away for awhile.

www.SUentertainment.com

This guide is provided by Spirit Unlimited Professional DJ Entertainment to assist new couples as they navigate their way through the year leading up to their wedding day. Included are only suggestions and ultimate decisions need to be made by the couple. Spirit Unlimited Professional DJ Entertainment is not responsible for negative outcomes as a result of following guidelines.