

Wedding Budget Made Easy

Tips & Tricks to Help You Save Money!

Stephanie Cox



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How To Save Money On Audio/Video For Your Wedding

You definitely don't want to skimp on something as important as the photos and music that you have at your wedding; however, you also don't to break the bank on it either. This article is meant to show you how you can save money on your audio and video etc. for your wedding.

Not everyone can afford a professional to take pictures and play music for their wedding. Many would rather get married in city hall rather than pay all of that extra money. Here are some great tips to saving money on your audio/video at your wedding:

1. Place an ad in a college for students who are majoring in audio/video to come and do your wedding. When you do this, you can find people who have professional equipment and training at bargain basement prices. Let them know that you are hosting bidding for the project and watch them fight for the honor.
2. Get student photographers and amateurs to take some pictures for you by using the same means as above
3. Hand out disposable cameras at your reception so that your guests can share their experience at your wedding for you.
4. Get a friend or family member to videotape the ceremony for you as well in lieu of a wedding gift
5. Hire students and hobbyists to play the music at your reception
6. Use an MP3 player to play the music so that you don't have to hire anyone at all. Just place CDs into it that automatically plays the songs that you want in the order that you want. Use burned CDs rather than buying a bunch of them

You do not have to hire a professional but if you want to, here are some tips for getting a good deal: Choose a [photography package](#) instead of purchasing all of the

services separately. If there is something you want that isn't included, ask the photographer if you can make an exchange that won't make the price higher.

Be careful about choosing the smallest or cheapest package. You may end up spending a lot more money after the wedding for all the extra prints alter. Check out any extras you are offered. Do not be fooled by the words “deluxe, premium or Ultimate”.

How To Save Money On Food For Your Wedding

When it comes to a wedding one of the most expensive parts of it is the food. This is particularly true if you are hiring a caterer. When you sit down to create a wedding budget, you will be spending most of it on the food per person.

This money can quickly add up beyond your wildest dreams. Of course, it doesn't have to. It seems as if weddings are just a cause for much feasting and merriment, and that requires a great deal of food.

One of the most expensive parts of a wedding is the food served at the reception. This is particularly true if the bride and groom want to serve their guests food that is theme based or that is on the more extravagant side.

This can include foods such as fancy appetizers, sushi, tapas, or gourmet meals. The bride and groom that are on a tight budget will want to avoid fancy foods and stick with a menu that is more within their means.

There are many things that you can do to help cut the cost of your wedding food. Let's look at some of them:

1. Be careful on how many hors d'oeuvres you order if ordering from a caterer. You don't need eight different types. If you must serve appetizers offer cheese and crackers or mini items.
2. When you are choosing your menu, be careful to only get what is really needed. Do not binge on a five course meal if you can't afford it. Know what your per person budget is and stick to it no matter what.
3. Have your friends and family prepare appetizers, side dishes, bread, and meals and salad.

4. If you're trying to keep costs low, stay away from certain foods that are very expensive such as shrimp, salmon, lobster and beef tenderloin. If you have your heart set on one of these dishes only serve them as appetizers and not the main course.
5. Instead of a full meal, serve only hors d'oeuvres. It is easier to dish out and cheaper to provide.
6. Food stations can offer your guests variety and save you money. These can include stations from around the world like pastas (Italy), Mexican foods, etc.
7. Offer a buffet style meal rather than a sit down dinner.
8. Offer lunch instead of dinner because it is much cheaper.
9. You can have barbecue if you are throwing an outside wedding ceremony and reception.
10. Choose a specific theme for your food, because this will make it easier to select your food items.

Most caterers will charge by the plate, such as \$20 per plate. This means that if you have 100 guests at your reception that you will be paying about \$2000 in catering costs. This can be too much for many couples to afford. Get estimates from a few caterers and determine which one best fits your budget and the style that you're looking for.

Trim The Guest List To Stay Within Your Budget

When you need to watch how much money that you spend on your wedding the one thing that you might need to do is trim your wedding guest list. This can sometimes be a very hard thing to do, especially if you have a large number of family and friends on both sides of the wedding party who really want to attend your special day.

If the cost per guest is going to be an issue then you'll have to get ruthless with your trimming; otherwise, you're going to break your budget in no time. This means that you'll have to skimp on other wedding items, such as your wedding dress, the food that you serve at your wedding reception, or your honeymoon.

Start by crossing names off your list of guests who you feel might attend only because they feel obligated to come. There are always a few of these people on your list you can eliminate right off the bat.

These people won't have their feelings hurt since they will most likely be relieved that they have not been asked to attend. This can include people like coworkers or old friends who you have lost touch with.

Reception Tricks, Tips And Cutbacks

One of the ways that you can save money on the total cost of your wedding is to learn a few tricks that will keep down the cost of your reception. One of the most important things that you can do is stick to the schedule that you've set up for your reception.

If you have hired a DJ or musicians they will charge you more if they have to play for longer than the time than you have hired them.

This includes limo charges if you've decided to rent a limo to take you from the church to the reception. The longer you drive in the limo the more money you'll end up paying.

Another way that you can cut back on costs is to have your wedding ceremony and wedding reception in the same place. This can not only make things much simpler for you, it can also save you some money. You won't need to rent transportation to take you from the wedding to the reception.

You'll find that many churches and other places where weddings take place usually have a hall that they rent out for wedding celebrations. You'll often be able to get a reasonable fee for the use of the hall if you're also having your wedding ceremony in the same location.

The Day Of Your Wedding Can Save You Money

The most expensive day of the week to have your wedding is on a Saturday. This is because most weddings take place on this day of the week. This automatically raises the cost of anything that you have to rent or anyone who you have to hire to help you on your special day.

The month that you choose to get married also plays a big role in cost. November to April weddings are much cheaper than weddings that take place in the summer.

Fridays are the second most popular day so this isn't a good day as your second choice. Once again you'll pay a higher cost than if you were married on any other day of the week.

If you want to save money you might want to consider having your wedding take place on a day of the week that is less popular. A weekday evening wedding can save you a great deal of money.

If you do decide to have a weekday evening wedding keep in mind that you need to allow your guests plenty of time to get to your wedding at the end of their work day. As well, many people may be unable to your attend your wedding if they live out of town and can't get time off from work during the week.

Planning A Honeymoon You Can Afford

Every bride and groom wants to have the perfect honeymoon to follow the perfect wedding reception. But for many couples, once they've paid for the wedding ceremony and wedding reception, there is little money left over to plan an expensive honeymoon.

However, there are some things that can be done so that the bride and groom have the wedding they want and the honeymoon that they want as well.

- Talk to your travel agent well ahead of time so that you can find out about any specials that are going to be available at the time of your wedding. If you don't have a specific destination in mind you may find that there are some great locations that offer some exceptional deals at certain times of the year.
- Plan your wedding around your honeymoon. If you have your heart set on a particular honeymoon destination find out when the cheapest flights and accommodations are available. Once you have some dates in mind you can plan the rest of your wedding around this time. This strategy will only work if you're flexible about when you can have your wedding ceremony and reception. Keep in mind that there are some guests that just won't be able to make it to your wedding at certain times of the year, such as at Christmas time.
- Have the wedding that you want and postpone your honeymoon for a few months until you can afford the honeymoon that you dream of. This is a little like having the best of both worlds. If you have a limited budget you might want to plan your wedding without thinking about your honeymoon. This means that you can spend a bit more on your wedding ceremony and reception. Plan a couple of days away somewhere close just to celebrate your marriage in private. Then start saving for a honeymoon to someplace exotic. This can even turn into a first year anniversary celebration.

- Have your wedding exactly where you want to have your honeymoon. For example, plan your wedding in Hawaii. After your family and friends have celebrated your special day you can stay for your honeymoon in one of the most incredible states in the country. This is the ideal way to have your cake....and eat it too.

Planning your honeymoon doesn't have to be a daunting and difficult task. No matter how much money that you have to spend there are options for you. Even if it means that you have to settle for a location that is less than perfect the main thing is the you and your loved on are together to celebrate your union.

Where to Buy Value-For-Money Save The Date Magnets

I searched online and locally for a reputable printing company that could help me with my save the date magnets. Let me tell you, it was not easy finding a company that I was willing to trust. And I never thought I would trust an online company for anything that was as important as my save the date notices. That was, until I was told about Magnet Street Weddings.

A friend of mine referred me to them after she had ordered her save the date magnets for the adoption of her son. My wedding was just as important to me as her son's adoption was to her. So I knew if she trusted them and recommended them that I could at least look into them a little.

After browsing around on the website for a few hours, I decided I would check out what other websites were saying about them. I found all happy brides, grooms and newly weds raving about them. So I went the next step, to the BBB.

There was not a single complaint registered with the Better Business Bureau about Magnet Street. I instantly knew this was going to be the company for me. So I then began to more than browse. I was now a bride on a mission - A mission to find a save the date wedding magnet for a destination wedding.

We were only inviting a handful of people to our wedding so we were not in need of 100 or more magnets. Magnet Street gave me the option to order in smaller numbers which saved me a lot of money and I didn't have any magnets left over.

The price for our magnets was less than \$50. Truly amazing if you ask me. You are not going to find save the date magnets any cheaper, especially not made with such precision and care as these are made. For the price, I was a little concerned about the quality. But I took the chance and figured in the worst case scenario I was out a few bucks.

Thankfully, Magnet Street did prove my concerns to be a waste of time. But my time was not wasted when I began working with Magnet Street. I am grateful that they took the

time to help me and make me feel comfortable. The magnets were absolutely beautiful, well made, designed just as I wanted them. My needs were met and exceeded continuously as I worked closely with them for my magnets.

Get high quality yet affordable save the dates magnets or postcards from [Magnet Street](#). To browse for more designs and information, [click here](#).

Affordable Wedding Photography From My Experience

I came across [Studio Blue](#) completely by chance. I had been researching another wedding photography company. I was intrigued from the get go. I browsed through their portfolio and immediately knew this was the company I wanted to use. I did continue researching them and looked at the various wedding photography packages they offered.

To my surprise, they were more than affordable. My wedding was more intimate of a setting and we did run into a few mishaps on my wedding day. The majority of my pictures were supposed to be taken outside in my yard before the wedding but unfortunately, Mother Nature was no cooperating with us. **My photographer from Studio Blue went above and beyond my expectations and made sure I had some amazing photos to look at over the years.**

Because of the rain I thought my pictures would be limited. Thankfully, my photographer was very **creative in coming up with some unique shots** that I cherish. My favorite shot of my without my husband is one of me gazing out of the window at the rain. It has a soft elegance to it that I never would have imagined could have been captured.



The Studio Blue photographers cannot be topped. No matter what the situation or chaotic mess you think you have gotten yourself into, [Studio Blue](#) can and will

capture the elegant aura you are going for. Truly breathtaking photos are exactly what you will get if you hire them.

The only flaw about Studio Blue is that you can only touch base with your photographer and do a check-in call with him about 2 weeks before your wedding (though your photographer is already assigned 60 days before your wedding). But I am glad it turns out fabulous for me. Because of the “style assessment” I had done previously from Studio Blue, they knew what I want. Hence, it’s not really an issue for me.

If you are looking for a wedding photographer that is going to do everything within their power to ensure every special moment is captured for you, **Studio Blue is definitely the way to go.** The only regret I have is not ordering larger prints to remember my wedding day.

They were very **professional and knowledgeable** from the very first time I called them. I will recommend Studio Blue to anyone and everyone that is looking for a high quality photographer that truly loves their job.

From finding your perfect photographer, to capturing your day, to designing your album, [Studio Blue's](#) streamlined process makes it easy. [Click here](#) for more information.

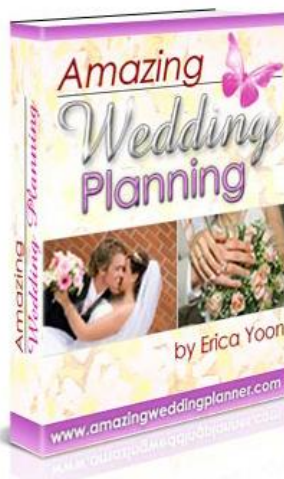
Recommended Services/Products

1. [Save The Date Cards](#)
2. [Save The Date Magnets/Postcards](#)
3. [Wedding Photography Packages](#)
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