

# ***14 Tips That Make a Difference at Your Wedding!***

208-571-9807

[www.djdaves.net](http://www.djdaves.net)



Being a DJ/MC professional for over 20 years, I have participated in literally hundreds of wedding celebrations. As a result of these experiences, I have developed tips that make for a better reception. The more you can adhere to these tips, the more likely your reception will be a success!

## **Set Expectations**

Let your guests know in your "save the date" that there will be dinner and dancing at your reception. I've done numerous weddings where the guests say, "I didn't know there was going to be a DJ?" and they didn't prepare to invest the whole evening at the wedding. Let your invited guests know what to expect when they arrive and communicate "spend an evening with us."

## **Darker is better than lighter for dancing**

People feel less of a spectacle, less on stage when they think they are harder to see. If you are having an outdoor reception in the summer, consider having it later in the evening when the temperature is more comfortable and the sun has gone down and there is less light. One great advantage of an indoor reception is you can generally control the lighting in the room to achieve this effect.

## **Keep the exit doors closed**

If you're having an indoor reception, having doors open at the venue invites people to their cars. It also lets light into the room which works with the same psychology as tip #2. You want to keep the focus in the reception room as long as possible. Brides and grooms should never stand by the exit door unless they want people to leave. I've seen rooms drain rapidly when the bride and groom stand by the exit door.

## **Too small of a dance floor is better than having one that is too big**

It creates the illusion whether real or not that the floor is full. People are more likely to dance when the crowd is dense rather than feeling they are the only ones out there. If people end up dancing on the carpet or grass, the story of how your dance floor was so packed that they couldn't even fit on it, only adds to the memories.

## **Have all formalities done before you begin dancing**

It's best to have all traditions, speeches, and photographs done and out of the way before the dancing begins. I have seen more parties lose steam because the bridal party has pictures taken after the bridal dance. I have found any activity that results in drawing people off the dance floor is also counterproductive to a great dance party. We suggest doing the cake cutting, bouquet and garter toss before any dancing begins so we can build momentum throughout the open dancing portion of the evening.

## **Happy music keeps things going**

Avoid choosing any songs that have a negative message. Your reception is not a good place to play obscure music that can negatively impact the dance floor. Let your DJ exercise his tools and really work his craft. A fundamental rule is people will not dance to music they do not know. Playing songs people know and love draws them to the dance floor to have some fun!

## **Consider not doing a dollar/money dance**

Why? When the bride and groom are doing this, the guests realize they can't be seen leaving and can definitely reduce the momentum of a great party. If you want to do a dollar/money dance, do it immediately after the special dances and limit it to a few songs. A modern day twist to this tradition is for those guests who pay money to dance get to also pull out their smart phone and get a photo with the bride and groom.

## **Bar & desserts should be in the same room as the entertainment**

These are popular draws for people's attention and can pull from the dance floor. If possible, have the bar and/or dessert table near the dance area as part of the whole entertainment experience. Oftentimes when the bar closes, people get the impression that the party is over. We strongly encourage you to keep the bar open the full length you plan on having entertainment.

## **Where you seat your older guests is important to their enjoyment**

Older guests tend to be more sensitive to volume. We encourage you to seat your older guests away from the speakers and dance floor to increase their enjoyment.

## **People remember the beginning and end of an event**

This is why we strongly recommend having your DJ play during the cocktail hour and have them do a powerful grand entrance to begin the reception. This helps the disc jockey build rapport early and puts them in a more positive position to work the crowd all night long.

## **Consider having your rehearsal dinner two nights instead of one night before the reception**

Why? I have seen bridal parties that were hung over the next day. They were already burnt out and it makes it difficult for the disc jockey to build any inertia throughout the event.

## **Avoid an iPod Wedding**

If a dance party is an expectation for your wedding, an iPod is a poor choice for entertainment. A great DJ will utilize his MC, music programming, timing, humor, lighting (optional), and interactive dance skills (optional) to create a fun environment that an iPod cannot create. Energy and excitement comes from people, not iPods. Hiring a skilled DJ brings out the energy and interaction in your guests that help make the evening a night to remember.

## **A party should end when it shouldn't**

Ending a party before it dies down leaves everyone the impression the floor was packed all night and nobody wanted to leave. It just feels better when people leave wanting more verses being totally burnt out with only a few guests staying to the end and strolling out of the venue.

## **If you have to cut corners, don't compromise on your entertainment**

I have heard from many of my clients who attend weddings prior to their own where there is no DJ/MC present and they described how dead and unorganized the reception can become. A survey conducted several years ago at a top national wedding website polled guests who recently attended a wedding and were asked, "What was the most memorable thing about the wedding you attended?" 80% responded that the number one thing was the entertainment. It's not just the music, it's also the interaction, announcements and dancing that makes hiring a skilled DJ an excellent choice. We Emcee your event and help transition smoothly from one event to another. We also offer a variety of fun activities that can enhance your event. (See our entertaining wedding reception ideas) Also consider how a DJ can enhance the experience not just for you and your guests, but also the photographer and videographer to capture some really great images of your celebration.

## **Why DJ Dave's?**

Ultimately it's people who make the difference. Our DJ's will entertain, motivate, and energize your guests. We know how to interact in just the right way to make everyone feel comfortable. We strike a balance between elegance and fun without the cheese. We are experienced professionals who will make your celebration better.

# 20 Entertaining Wedding Reception Ideas!

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Over the years we have developed a list of creative ideas that can enhance the enjoyment of your wedding. These are all optional and you can let your DJ/MC know which ideas you may want to include in your wedding.

## Have Artist Paint the Ceremony

Wouldn't it be a great display in your home afterwards?



## Send your Guests Mad Lib RSVP's



## Music Requests and Pearls of Wisdom

During the dinner hour we can set small request cards out on the tables and invite your guests to write down 1 or 2 songs they would like to dance to later on in the evening. This helps them have ownership in the music selection and lets them know we want them to stay for the dancing portion of the evening. We can also invite them to write down their Pearls of Wisdom. Pearls of Wisdom are words of advice or inspiration that your guests would like to share with the bride and groom as they start their new married lives together. They will be witty, humorous, sincere, and inspirational! This is a great activity that allows your guests to participate in your wedding reception and a great activity leading into the toast.

## Wedding Trivia

Wedding Trivia is questions you ask the audience to test their knowledge of you and your fiancé. For example, “Where did the bride and groom go on their first date?” “Where did the groom propose to the bride?” or “What city was the groom born in?” The correct response could result in that table getting to go through the buffet line first or the bride and groom having to share a kiss.

## Future Anniversary Cards

An alternative to the Pearls of Wisdom activity is future anniversary cards. Your MC will ask your guests, “what will occur 365 days from today’s date?” The response will be your anniversary! The MC will then let everyone know that we are going to get a heads start on writing the bride and groom an anniversary card and direct them to the card and pen placed on each table. The twist is we let each table choose which year you open up the card. It could be a 1, 10, 25 or 50 year anniversary card. This card will serve as a time capsule that potentially will be opened years from now.

## Have a Food Truck at your Reception

Very unique option that your guests will love!

## Center Piece Giveaway

Some couples like to give away their centerpieces to their guests. We can make this into a fun activity at the end of dinner. To determine which person at each table gets to take home the centerpiece, we can ask who traveled the farthest to get to the wedding, or whose birthday is closest to today. You can also ask one person at each table to volunteer a \$10.00 bill. Then the DJ will start the music and the guest must pass the bill around the table. Once the music stops whoever has the ten dollar bill gives it to the bride and groom. The MC will announce whoever volunteered the ten dollar bill gets the centerpiece!



## The Shoe Game

This is a fun game to play at the end of dinner leading into the toast. The bride and groom come to the front of the room and sit in chairs back to back. They both remove their shoes and keep one of their own and take one of their spouses. Your MC will ask a series of questions and you raise the shoe of the person you feel is the best response. You guests will roll with laughter!

### Sample Questions

- Who made the first move?
- Who said I love you first?
- Who will control the remote?
- Who will balance the checkbook?
- Who is the better driver?
- Who spends more time of face book?

## Love Story

The Love Story is your opportunity to have your story told the way it should be – with romance, humor, sentiment and surprises, all set to music and delivered at your reception. In order to help us create your Love Story, we will have you fill out our Love Story Planning form on our website. Your MC will read your story as part of one of the following events of your choosing; grand entrance, lead into the toast, or as a transition to your first dance.



## Audible Memories

Occasionally there are people that are important in your lives that cannot make it to your wedding. They can still be a part of your special day by recording a message we will play back during dinner. We call this our audible memories hotline. Your friends and family can call 208-795-7385 and leave a recorded message for you! We will edit and play it back for everyone to hear on your wedding day. This service is free and adds a personal touch to your wedding.

## Kissing Games

Everyone wants to see the bride and groom kiss on their wedding day. A traditional signal is when guests use their fork or knife to hit their glasses, “Cling, Cling, Cling”. Here are several options you can get your guests involved in the process.

- **Golfers** – If you enjoy golf you can have a putting green at the head table and if any guests get a hole in one would result in the bride and groom having to kiss.
- **You Kiss First** – Since it’s your first day as husband and wife, you may need some lessons on how to kiss. So in order to help you learn, other couples must first go up in front of the head table and demonstrate how it's done!
- **Money to Charity** - Select your favorite charity. If the crowd wants you to kiss, they have to make a donation. The bigger the donation the better and longer the kiss!

## Cake Cutting Activity

**Paparazzi** - With your permission we will invite everyone who has a camera to participate in this activity. Just before you go to cut your wedding cake your MC will say something like this over the microphone, “Steve and Susan, I apologize but the Paparazzi has snuck into your wedding and they need to get photo’s for their magazines and so we are going to give them the opportunity to get those photos right now!” We will play an upbeat song as your guest come up from their chairs and surround you to take photos like you are movie stars on a red carpet. This is your opportunity to pose and have fun while all the cameras are flashing!

## Alternatives to Bouquet Toss

### • Counting For Flowers

Rather than tossing your bouquet to the bridesmaids, set up a jar of marbles in colors that match your wedding reception decor. Make an announcement during speech time that each unmarried female attendee must guess how many marbles are in the jar. The guests should write down their answers placed near the jar. Near the end of the evening, enlist in the help of your bridesmaids to collect the answers and determine the winner. You can then go and personally present the winner with the bouquet.

### • Bouquet Presentation

Instead of throwing your bouquet you can choose who you would like to have it. The MC will provide the bride with a microphone and she can proceed to tell everyone why this person is important to her and presents the bouquet to her.

### • No Single ladies

Here is an alternative if there are no single ladies to throw the bouquet to. The MC will invite all the married ladies to one end of the dance floor and the bride will be at the other end. The MC will start by saying, "If you been married less than one year you have to move to the other end of the dance floor." The DJ will increase in years until the lady who has been married the longest is left and the bride will meet her in the middle of the dance floor to present her bouquet.

### • Bouquet & Garter Giveaway – Anniversary Dance

Some brides and grooms do not want to throw their bouquet and garter at their reception. An alternative is to give them to the couple who has been married the longest during the anniversary dance. The Anniversary dance is when you invite all married couples to the dance floor and we discover who has been married the longest. "If you have been married less than 4 hours, you have to leave the dance floor. If you have been married less than 1 year, you have to leave the dance floor." We will work our way up in years until we get to the last couple on the dance floor. An enthusiastic congratulation will be given to the couple that has been married the longest and the bride and groom can present them the Bouquet and Garter. A photo opportunity with the couple would be a great way to remember the event.

## Alternatives to Garter Toss

- Have the groom wrap the garter around a football and then throw the football
- Have the groom pin a \$20 dollar bill on the garter to entice the guys to actually catch the garter
- Have the groom use a miner's hat to remove the garter. The light will illuminate the when he is under the dress
- Mary Poppins trick: Have the bride sit in a chair next to a table that is draped to the floor. When the groom goes under the dress to remove the garter, have someone feed the groom from under the table unusual items like, an umbrella, iPod, cell phone, golf club, granny panties etc. The crowd will laugh hysterically.

## Photo Montage/Slide Show

The DVD Photo Montage is a unique way to tell your life story through photos set to music. Typically the montage starts with the Bride and Grooms photos from birth to engagement. This presentation can be shown at a rehearsal dinner or at the wedding reception. It can be shown throughout the event or as a special presentation recommended after the toast.

## Personalized Music Videos

Using the power of photos and videos, we can customize a first dance, Father/Daughter or Groom/Mother Dance. This can serve as a powerful backdrop for the guests as you participate in these special dances.

## A Surprise Choreographed Dance

Surprised your guests by doing a pre-rehearsed choreographed first dance or a flash mob dance with your wedding party. You can also customize the father/Daughter or Groom/Mother dance with choreography also.

## Video Guestbook

Take your guestbook to a whole new level of interaction. We can place an iPad kiosk near your gift table where guests can record video messages. After the wedding we will put these messages together and make a highlight video to give to you.

## Lawn Games

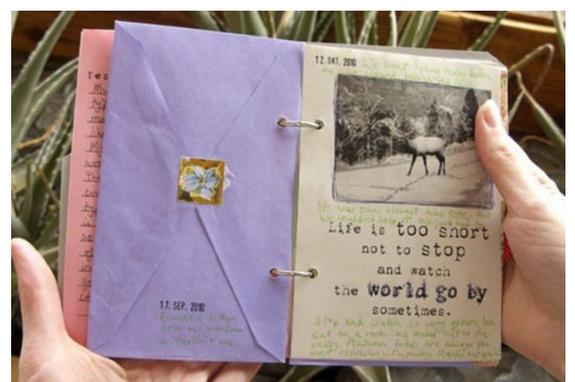
If your wedding is outdoors during the summer, we can offer your guests outdoor games to play. We have Giant Jenga (Supersized Jenga Blocks) Ladder Ball, Corn Hole (Bean Bag Toss into Target), Croquet, and Bocce ball. (See pricing sheet)

## Save Wedding Cards as a Book

Did you get tons of heartfelt, sweet notes with your gift and don't want to throw them away? Simply 3-hole punch the cards and put binder rings through them to make a simple but meaningful book of all the cards from your wedding day.

## Killer Late Evening Snack

Just when everyone thinks the fun is winding down; liven up the party with late-night nibbles that will leave everyone ready for an after-party. Think about it: crinkle French fries, fresh chocolate chip cookies and milk shooters, or grilled cheese sandwiches!



# 5 Reception Time Savers & 8 Toasting Tips

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## 1. Take as many photos as possible before the Ceremony

I've seen agenda's get derailed quickly because the bride and groom elect to take all their pictures after the ceremony. In extreme cases I've seen guests wait up to two hours for the bride and groom to arrive and then discover the majority of their guests have already gone. Maximize your time with your guests by doing your photos in advance. You may have to invest a few hours earlier in the day but it will be well worth it. It's appropriate to take 30-45 minutes after the ceremony for photos. This time can serve as cocktail hour leading up to the grand entrance.

## 2. Double Side your buffet table

Buffets are faster than plated meals. A double-sided buffet with two service lines represents the fastest food service option for weddings. Talk to your caterer and suggest moving the table away from the wall and allowing guest to flow on both sides. You can cut your food service time in half by making this simple change.

## 3. Limit your receiving line or consider not doing one at all

The modern day receiving line is for the bride and grooms to lead everyone through the buffet line and once they are done eating go from table to table during dinner and visit with their family and friends. If you are considering a traditional receiving line at the reception, consider having only the bride & groom and their parents in the lineup. This will speed up the flow and will allow your guests to get through the line quicker. Also, consider doing the receiving line immediately following the ceremony at the ceremony site as guests file out.

## 4. Have no more than 2 or 3 people give toasts

Take the time to consider the people you would like to provide a toast and extend them the invitation to speak in advance. Avoid having an open microphone where family members and guests may feel obligated to say a few words. In extreme cases I have seen toast scheduled for 10-15 minutes turn into over an hour of speeches.

### Toasting Tips

1. Write down a few words to remind you want to say
2. Introduce yourself & relationship to bride and groom
3. Speak slowly, clearly and loud enough for everyone to hear you
4. Keep the microphone near your chin
5. Talk to the entire audience
6. Use humor, but keep it clean
7. Keep your toast short, 2 or 3 minutes maximum
8. When finished have everyone raise their glasses, "To John & Susan...."

### Ideas to end Toast

1. To the bride: "May you share everything with your husband including the house work."
2. To both: "May you lie, cheat, and steal from each other. If you lie, may you lie in each other's arms. If you cheat, may you both cheat death, if you steal, may you steal each other's hearts forever."
3. To both: "Let's toast to the health of the bride, let's toast to the health of the room, let's toast to the person who tied, let's toast to every guest in the room."

## 5. Eliminate the dollar/money dance

The dollar/money dance is where your guests pay to share a dance with the bride and groom. The money is used to send the couple off on their honeymoon with some spending money. This event can become very time consuming at a reception and limits the ability to build momentum on the dance floor. Consider a money tree or a wishing well as an alternative to the dollar dance. If you would like to do a money dance, consider limiting to 2 or 3 songs.

# ***Our 10 Point Pledge!***

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## **1. We Meet with the Bride & Groom in Person**

Your DJ will meet with you in person prior to your wedding to do a final consultation. The purpose of this meeting is to take the information you planned online and create a final agenda. Every detail is discussed from start to finish as we customize every aspect of your wedding to meet your needs and expectations. If necessary, follow up calls will be made to obtain final details in the days leading up to your wedding.

## **2. We Arrive on Time**

Your DJ will arrive at least 1.5 hours before the start of your wedding. We set up on our time and are ready to perform before your guests arrive.

## **3. We Dress Appropriately**

Your DJ will dress in appropriate clothes for your wedding. Formal attire will be worn unless you request something different.

## **4. We Conduct Ourselves in a Professional Manner**

Our DJ's will always be friendly, open, and respectful to guests, clients, and all professional staff. We pride ourselves in being the most flexible person in the room.

## **5. We will not Smoke or Drink Alcohol**

We never smoke or consume alcohol before or during your wedding.

## **6. We will serve as your MC**

We will not just play music, but will serve as the MC for your event. We will communicate appropriate information in a professional manner over the microphone to inform and help transition from one event to another.

## **7. We Collaborate with other Wedding Professionals**

We go out of our way to communicate and work collaboratively with other wedding professionals. Our reputation is at stake and we strive to provide the best possible to service to everyone we come in contact with.

## **8. We Play your Music Requests**

We encourage our clients to use our website to create a customize playlist. We will strive to play all your music requests and not play those songs you specifically state your do not want played. With your permission we can also incorporate song request from your guests.

## **9. We Provide Overtime if Needed**

We are more than happy to play music beyond the time listed on the agreement letter. Your DJ will communicate with you approximately 15 minutes before the scheduled end time to determine your needs. Prepayment is not required. Overtime is always subject to venue policies.

## **10. We will follow up with a Satisfaction Survey**

We want to ensure the service we provide meets or exceeds your expectations. After your event, we will send you a satisfaction survey to receive feedback on our performance.

# *Ceremony Information Sheet*

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Planning for a wedding can be stressful, but it also should be fun! The following document includes ideas and suggestions as you fill out our online planning forms at our website. A login and password will be given to you when you book our services. A final consultation will take place with your assigned DJ approximately 1-2 weeks before your wedding.

## **Our Sound System & Set-Up**

One important element in the success of your ceremony is where our DJ sound system will be set up. The DJ will collaborate with you to determine the best location based on a variety of factors such as location of power outlet, configuration of chairs, and other environmental conditions. The DJ will arrive and set-up approximately 1-2 hours before the beginning of the ceremony. At some venues, it may require the use of two sound systems to provide service for the ceremony and reception. If needed, your DJ will discuss this topic with you during your planning session. There is an additional fee if two systems are needed to provide service.

## **Background Music & Welcoming Guests**

Your DJ will play soft background music as your guests arrive for the ceremony. Instrumental or Light Jazz is the most common request. It is recommended approximately 5 minutes before the start of the ceremony, the officiator or DJ welcome everyone, invite guests to be seated, and silence all cell phones and provide any other necessary instructions. If needed, a microphone will be placed on either the Officiator or the Groom to enhance the sound quality of the ceremony. This is highly recommended for outdoor weddings.

## **Order of Events**

There are a variety of ways for the ceremony to begin and the processional to be conducted. Here are some suggestions. You can have the Pastor/Officiator along with the Groom walk to the front. His groomsman can also accompany the groom. Next could be the seating of the mothers/grandmothers. Next you can either have the groomsman come to the front to stand by the Groom or escort the bridesmaids down the aisle. It is recommended that the bridesmaids be separated enough to allow all the guests and the photographer to take pictures. Next, you have the ring bearer(s) followed by flower girl(s). Mother can stand to help prompt everyone to arise for the entry of the bride. We recommend the bride take her time, walk slowly, so that all her invited guests can share in the moment and the photographer can get plenty of pictures. This is your day, take your time and enjoy the moment.

## **Special Events during Ceremony**

Some ceremonies may include the Unity Candle/Unity Sand, reading of a poem or Scripture, a special musical number or dove release. Let us know how we can best serve you for any of these events. During the planning session with your DJ, we will discover what your needs are to help facilitate these events with music and/or a wireless microphone.

## **Conclusion of the Ceremony**

At the conclusion of your ceremony, we will facilitate the end by playing a recessional song that the bride and groom along with the wedding party will exit to. During the planning session your DJ will document the song you would like to exit with. Recessionals can be interactive by having the guests throw flow pedals or the blowing of bubbles. Be sure to get this approved with the venue. After the recessional has ended, it is a good idea to have either the Officiator or the DJ thank the guests for coming and invite everyone to the reception and announce the location if necessary. If the ceremony and reception are taking place at the same location and the chairs are going to be used for the reception, your DJ or Officiator can announce to have the gentlemen help assist with the moving of the chairs.

# Reception Information Sheet

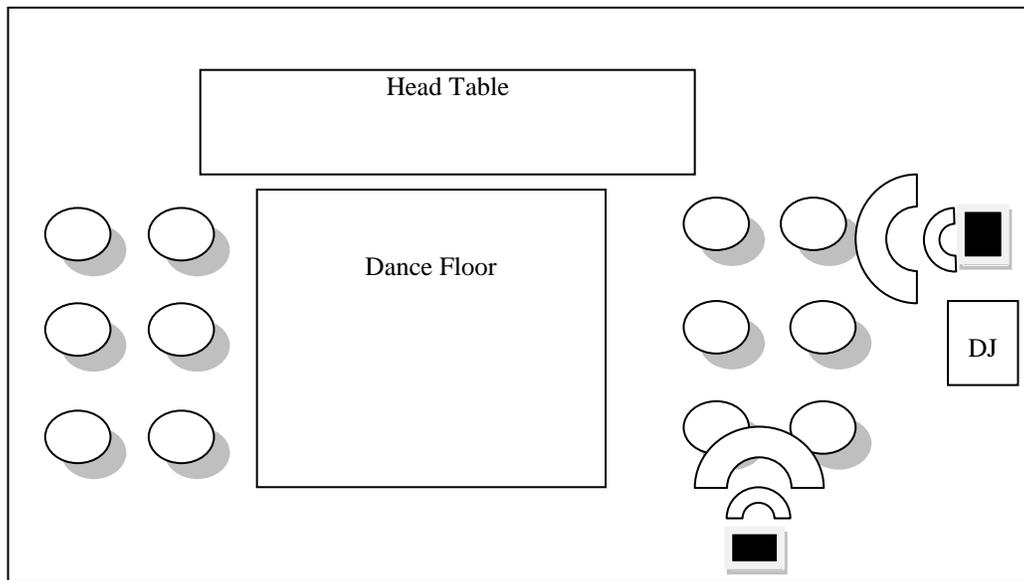
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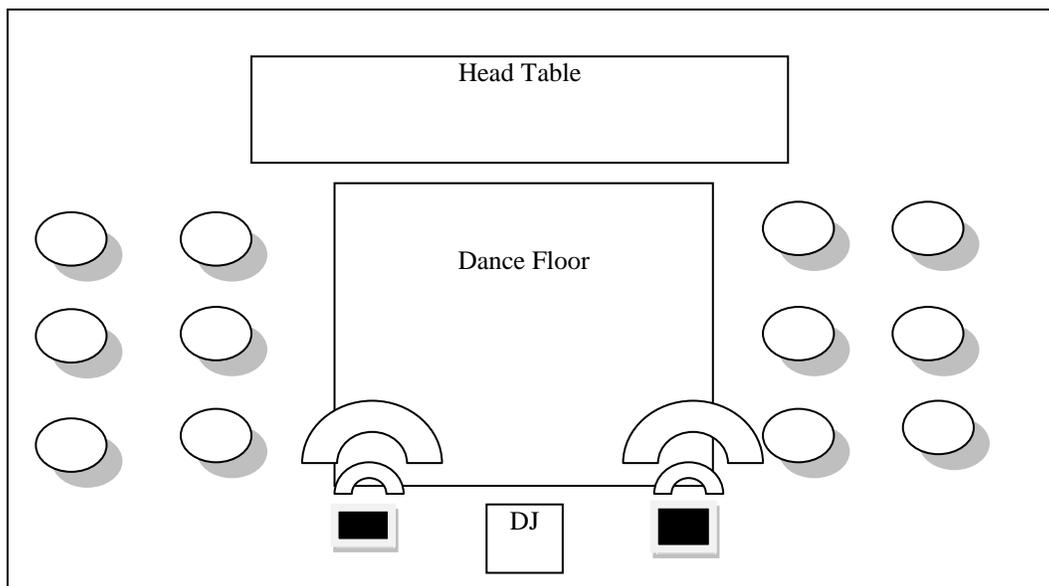
## Our Sound System & Set-Up

An important element of your reception is where our DJ sound system is to be set. It is critical that the DJ system is placed in an area directly next to the dance floor, and that the DJ have a good line of sight to the entrance of the room, head table and cake table. As your Master of Ceremonies, we need to be able to see each of these areas in order to control the timing of each. Remember, our speakers need to carry sound to the dance area. If there are tables directly between the speakers and the dance floor, the guests seated at those tables will have an uncomfortable level of sound. Please be sure to provide us with a minimum of a 10' X 10' area to set our sound systems and speakers. Below is one example of a problematic layout and one ideal layout.

## Problematic Layout



## Ideal Layout



## **The Sequence of Events**

In addition to the set-up, the sequence of events is also a very important part of the overall success of your wedding reception. As entertainment professionals, we are experts at helping you plan the best sequence for all the events and formalities. Your MC is uniquely qualified to create the perfect sequence for you – one that flows smoothly from one event to the next, while maximizing guest's enjoyment and participation. If you are planning a tentative agenda with other wedding professionals (wedding coordinator, caterer, photographer, etc) please let us know. We will be happy to share with you our professional expertise that will help you create the very best celebration.

### **Grand Entrance of the Bride & Groom**

Upon arrival at your reception, we suggest formally starting the event with a grand entrance. This announcement combined with music serves as the kick off and brings a lot of fun and energy to your celebration. The grand entrance can include the wedding party or just the bride and groom. As your MC announces you into the room your friends and family will rise and greet you with applause and cheers. One option common with east coast couples is to immediately go to the dance floor and share the first dance. In this area most couples choose to share their first dance after dinner.

### **Bride & Groom to Welcome and Thank Guests**

A receiving line is a time-consuming method of greeting your guests. An alternative is upon entering the room is to welcome everyone and to do any special acknowledgements, such as guests who have traveled a long distance or friends or family who have contributed in the preparation of the ceremony or reception. It's especially meaningful to hear from the bride and groom how important their friends and family are to them. Another point in the reception you can say "Thank You" is at the conclusion of the toast.

### **Food**

Immediately following your welcome, we recommend having the meal begin. Remember, although you have just arrived, your guests potentially have been waiting for some time. During the pre-planning stages, inform your caterer what time you expect to arrive. It is easier for the caterer to move the food service back if you are running late than it is for them to move it forward if you are ahead of schedule. Once you have had the opportunity to enjoy your meal, it is a good time for the bride and groom to visit with their guests. Typically, most guests will still be eating and you will have about 20- 30 minutes to mingle table to table or snap a few more photos.

### **Toasts**

The toast is usually done at the conclusion of the meal. Your MC will coordinate all aspects of this event. After the champagne has been poured, we will have a wireless microphone available for your best man and maid of honor, or any others to say a few words. If you desire, this is a good time to have your MC introduce and acknowledge parents & grandparents that are present. This can also be done by the bride and groom if they choose to thank and acknowledge their guests.

### **Cake Cutting**

Traditionally the cake cutting follows the toast however one option is to do the cake cutting first before the toast so that it can be cut and prepared to be served immediately following the toast. You will notice that your guests are now getting more animated, and giving their enthusiastic encouragement to the bride and groom during the feeding of the first piece of cake. The fun of this formality is in the anticipation. For example, do you want frosting on the nose or do you want to graciously exchange a small piece of cake. We strongly encourage you to discuss with your fiancé how you want this event turn out. In our wedding reception ideas sheet, we offer some fun activities you can do at the cake cutting.

### **Bouquet Toss**

As your photographer finishes any additional photos of the bride and groom at the cake table, your DJ will gather the single ladies on the dance floor. You will want to be sure to have your throw bouquet handy. We will quickly explain the tradition behind this event, which is the person who catches the Bouquet, is in line to get married next. Your DJ will get the energy level up as he counts the throw, 3-2-1. Following the catch we recommend a special photo of the bride with the woman who caught the bouquet. If you want an alternative to this tradition, please let us know.

### **Garter Removal & Toss**

For the garter removal, the bride will sit in a chair usually located on the dance floor. We will quickly explain the tradition behind this event, which is the person who catches the Garter, is in line to get married next. Once the garter has been removed, your MC will begin the countdown for the toss, 3-2-1. The gentleman who catches the garter can then be joined on the dance floor with the woman who caught the bouquet. The bride and groom will then join them for a fun, candid photo. We will be happy to suggest other ideas you can incorporate into the garter toss.

### **First Dance Song**

All of the attention is now focused on the dance floor. The first few notes of your special song begin to play as you begin to share your first dance as husband and wife. Typically a wedding couple will dance alone, but there are variations to this. One option is to have the wedding party or parents join you halfway through the dance. By doing this, you give the photographer an opportunity to photograph others, plus it shortens the amount of time the two of you are dancing if you do not want to be the center of attention for the whole song.

## **Custom Scripting**

A way to personalize your specialty dances is to create custom message to be share at the beginning of each dance. Your MC can communicate special thoughts, memories, or short stories as introductions to the parent's dances. These could come from either the parents or their children. Some of the most powerful moments at a wedding reception are the dances with your parents. In your final planning consultation please let your MC know you would like to incorporate this element and assist him in choosing the right words to speak over the microphone. You can even enhance this event by having special photos being displayed on a large screen during these specialty dances.

## **Father/Daughter, Groom/Mother Dance Songs**

One of the most traditional events at the reception is the moment the father of the bride dances with his daughter. This special song can also include the groom with his mother or can be done with a separate song. Your DJ can also invite all fathers/daughters or mothers/sons to join in halfway through these dances to involve others.

## **Other Spotlight Dance**

For some brides, a special dance with a Grandfather, Stepfather, Uncle, Brother, or close family friend is done in lieu of, or in addition to a parents dance.

## **Anniversary Dance**

The Anniversary dance is when you invite all married couples to the dance floor and we discover who has been married the longest. "If you have been married less than 4 hours, you have to leave the dance floor." We will work our way up in years until we get to the last couple on the dance floor. An enthusiastic congratulation will be given to the couple that has been married the longest. We encourage the bride and groom to join this couple on the dance floor for a photo.

## **Money or Selfie Dance**

The money dance is a special dance where the guys get to dance with the bride and the ladies dance with the groom. They have to slide the bride and groom some money in order to share the dance. A modern day twist on this activity is to also let the guests take a selfie with the bride and groom to post on social media.

## **Open Dancing**

It's important that the bride and groom remain on the dance floor for the first fast dance as it will make it more inviting as your guests start dancing. As we observe the reaction of your guests, we can then best determine which songs to play. Your DJ is an expert at music programming and has the ability to "read the crowd" to keep guest of all ages dancing and having fun.

## **Birthdays, Anniversaries, Military Deployments, Engagements, Baby Announcements etc.**

Be sure to list any special announcements you would like your MC to make. This is a great way to personalize your event and recognize someone special.

## **Sensitive Subjects**

If you feel we need to be aware of any sensitive information regarding your event, families, or guests, please let us know.

## **Anything Else We Should Know?**

If you are having a video presentation, a singer, musicians, fraternity/sorority serenade, centerpiece giveaway, or any other personalized additions that will make your party unique please list them. Your MC will offer suggestions regarding the sequence and timing of these special events.

## **Gratuities**

Unlike many other service professionals, we do not contractually add service charges or gratuities. After considering the advanced pre-planning with your DJ, the level of service and quality of presentation, along with your overall enjoyment, we believe you should decide for yourself what level of gratuity, if any, you would like to give. If you choose, please make payment directly to the DJ providing service.

## **Food & Drink**

If you would like to provide us with a meal, please let your DJ know during the final consultation. Your DJ never consumes alcoholic beverages. However, having access to ice water and soft drinks is greatly appreciated.

# Preferred Vendors

208-571-9807  
www.djdaves.net



Over the years I've been blessed to work with some talented people in the wedding industry. Please consider these wedding professionals as you plan for your special day. Please tell them I sent you!

## Photographers

- Heather Sali Photography – Heather Sali – 208-440-2019 – [www.heathersaliphotography.com](http://www.heathersaliphotography.com)
- Double Take Photography - Jean Mazac - 208.866.4792 – [www.doubletakephotography.com](http://www.doubletakephotography.com)
- Steve Smith Photography – Steve Smith – 208-863-2212 – [www.stevesmithphotography.com](http://www.stevesmithphotography.com)
- Tana Photography – Tana Urizar – 208-484-6883 – [www.tanaphotography.com](http://www.tanaphotography.com)
- Ampersand Studios – Nicole & Frannie – 208-571-6541 – [www.ampersand-studios.com](http://www.ampersand-studios.com)

## Caterers

- Carinos – 208-888-7801 – [www.carinos.com](http://www.carinos.com)
- Good Wood BBQ - 208-724-8920 – [www.goodwoodbbq.com](http://www.goodwoodbbq.com)
- Knack Attack – 208-429-9111- [www.knackattack.net](http://www.knackattack.net)
- All About You Catering – 208-893-5556 – [www.metimecatering.com](http://www.metimecatering.com)
- 3 Girls Catering – 208-949-6620 – [www.3girlscatering.com](http://www.3girlscatering.com)

## Cakes

- Greg March Cakes – 208-938-6262 – [www.marchcakes.com](http://www.marchcakes.com)
- Amaru Confections – 208-911-1-cake – [www.amaruconfections.com](http://www.amaruconfections.com)

## Event Planning & Design

- Bliss Events – 208-906-0693 – [www.blissevents.com](http://www.blissevents.com)
- Soiree Wedding & Events – 208-965-8106 – [www.weddingsbysoiree.com](http://www.weddingsbysoiree.com)
- Major Events – 208-854-9594 – [www.mymajorevents.com](http://www.mymajorevents.com)
- Significant Moments – 208-887-4999 – [www.significantmoments.com](http://www.significantmoments.com)

## Chocolate

- Tower of Chocolate – 208-870-6720 – [www.idahotowerofchocolate.com](http://www.idahotowerofchocolate.com)

## Floral

- Foral Creations – 208-288-5705 – [www.meridianfloralcreations.com](http://www.meridianfloralcreations.com)
- Designs by Diana – 208-890-7025 – [www.middletonflowershop.com](http://www.middletonflowershop.com)

## Tuxedo

- Mr. Formal – 208-377-8636 – [www.mrformaltuxedos.com](http://www.mrformaltuxedos.com)
- Sweetheart Manor – 208-898-0968 – [www.sweetheartmanor.com](http://www.sweetheartmanor.com)

## Wedding Officials

- Steve Scott – 208-866-9662 – [www.uniquewo.com](http://www.uniquewo.com)
- Dave Griewe – 208-570-3732
- David Lorenzo – 208-484-5866 – [www.weddingsbydavid.weebly.com](http://www.weddingsbydavid.weebly.com)

## Limousine

- Diamond Limousine – 208-861-1120 – [www.diamondlimoboise.com](http://www.diamondlimoboise.com)

# Wedding Pricing

208-571-9807  
www.djdaves.net



## Value Package - \$795

- 3 Hours of service
- Reception only
- 1 Sound System
- Online planning tools including making a customized playlist of songs
- Final consultation with your DJ leading up to your wedding
- Interactive elements & ideas customized to your wedding
- Professional DJ/MC/Wedding Entertainment Director
- Wireless Hand Held Microphones for toasts
- Dance Lighting (Optional)

## Platinum Package - \$995

- 4 Hours of Service
- Ceremony & Reception services included
- Up to 2 Sound Systems included (Based on need)
- Online planning tools including making a customized playlist of songs
- Final consultation with your DJ leading up to your wedding
- Interactive elements & ideas customized to your wedding
- Professional DJ/MC/Wedding Entertainment Director
- Wireless Hand Held and Lapel Microphones for ceremony and reception
- Dance Lighting (Optional)

## Premier Package - \$1195

- 5 Hours of service
- Ceremony & Reception services included
- Up to 2 Sound Systems included (Based on need)
- Online planning tools including making a customized playlist of songs
- Final consultation with your DJ leading up to your wedding
- Interactive elements & ideas customized to your wedding
- Professional DJ/MC/Wedding Entertainment Director
- Wireless Hand Held and Lapel Microphones for ceremony and reception
- Dance Lighting (Optional)

## Ultimate Package - \$1395

- Unlimited time for service
- Ceremony & Reception Services included
- Up to 3 Sound Systems included (Based on need)
- Online planning tools including making a customized playlist of songs
- Final consultation with your DJ leading up to your wedding
- Interactive elements & ideas customized to your event
- Professional DJ/MC/Wedding Entertainment Director
- Wireless Hand Held and Lapel Microphones for ceremony and reception
- Dance Lighting (Optional)

- *Overtime is \$150 Per Hour (Excluding Ultimate Package)*
- *Travel & Overnight Accommodation Fees may apply to locations outside the Treasure Valley*

## Ala Carte Services

These services below can be added to any package for an additional fee. Please contact for current pricing.

### Dance Floor (Various sizes to choose from)



### Décor Up-Lighting



### Portable Generator (Locations with no power)



### Starry Night Time Sky Effect



### Lawn Games



### Wedding Ceremony Rehearsal Coordination



**Dancing on the Clouds Effect (*Indoor Weddings Only*)**



**Selfie Booth**



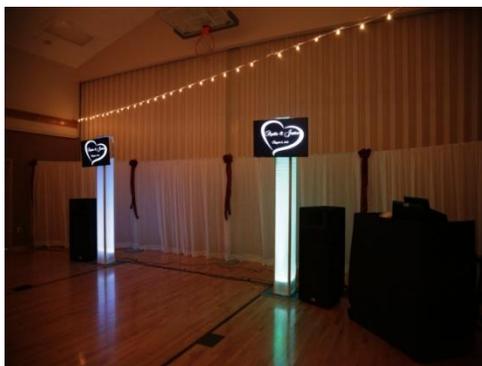
**Glow Sticks**



**Sky Lanterns**



**40" TV Monitors with Vertical Trussing**



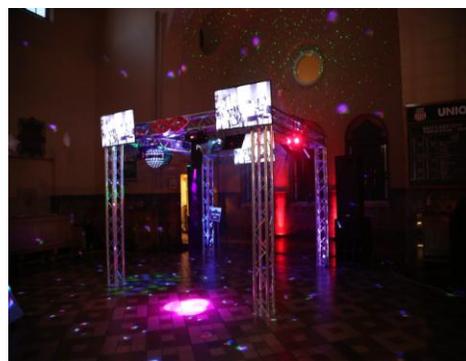
**Projector & Screen**



**Goalie Post Trussing Unit & TV Monitors**



**Large Rectangular Trussing & Light Show (10' x 10')**



## Drone Arial Footage



## Text Messages & Pictures to Screen

