

Secrets to



# AMAZING WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHY

What every  
bride and  
groom  
needs to  
know before  
hiring a  
wedding  
photographer



# Secrets To Amazing Wedding Photography

## WHAT EVERY BRIDE AND GROOM NEEDS TO KNOW BEFORE HIRING A WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHER

BY CAROL ROBINSON, FOUNDER OF MY BRIDAL PIX

Congratulations on your engagement! What an exciting time this is for you! You probably found your way to our ebook via our website or perhaps a friend or relative has shared it with you. Either way, I'm happy you're here!



I have the wonderful opportunity of working with engaged couples and amazing wedding photographers every day and have learned a lot in the process. My goal with this ebook is to share what I've learned, so that you have the opportunity to make an informed decision when it comes to hiring a wedding photographer. You only have one chance to get this right, and our ebook gives you the edge to help avoid the pitfalls and mistakes others have made. I can't tell you how many times I've come across brides in tears, wishing they had paid more attention to their wedding photography. Remember, when the fairytale day is over, your photos will be the only thing left to relive those memories, over and over again, so this truly deserves your time and attention.

I'm a true believer that there is an amazing photographer out there for every bride and budget. We'll show you some creative tips and tricks that will help you get the amazing photos you want, without breaking the bank in the process. Our guide is filled with tons of information that will help you make your decision process easier, allowing you to truly relax on your wedding day knowing you have the right person to capture those magical memories forever!

Best Wishes,

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carol'.

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page

### Table of Contents:

Why It's Important to Choose the Right Photographer.....	4
Do Your Research.....	5
Studio, Independent, Amateur - Know the Difference.....	7
Know What Style Appeals to You.....	8
Budgeting for Wedding Photography.....	9
Understanding Wedding Photography Costs as Much .....	11
Know the Difference Between Album Options.....	12
Ways to Save on Your Wedding Photography.....	15
How to Choose a Photographer.....	18
Questions to Ask Before You Hire a Photographer.....	19
Buyer Beware and Things to Look Out For.....	20
Take Your Photographer for a Test Drive.....	22
Signing the Photography Contract.....	22
Boudoir Book.....	23
Things to Consider Before the Wedding.....	25
A Word About Destination Weddings.....	31
If the Wedding Budget Allows.....	33
The Wedding Day.....	35
After the Wedding.....	38
All These Photos, Now What.....	39
Ideas on What To Do with Your Photo.....	42



# Secrets To Amazing Wedding Photography

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### Why It's So Important To Choose The Right Photographer

Think about it—this is likely one of the most important days in your life, so please don't have the misconception that all photographers are alike and any one of them will do. You need the the right person for the job! With today's digital cameras, anyone can appear professional, and believe me, they are out there. You need to take precautions not to end up with one of these “fauxtographers” or you will be sorry! It's easy to take pictures, burn them to a disk and give out copyright releases, but not everyone can capture emotions and tell the story of your special day. Photographers are as unique as your wedding will be, and there are many things to consider when hiring one. No doubt choosing one can seem a little daunting. There are photography styles to consider, experience levels, budgets, different packages, personalities, and the worst part is that you are buying a dream ... an intangible, something that you do not get to see or touch until the day is over! It's a huge investment and frankly a little scary for most couples. Make no mistake, doing your research and finding a photographer that best fits your style and needs will be the best investment you can make in your wedding day.

Most modern-day couples are looking for a photographer that can capture their personal style. Finding one to match your style should not be a last minute choice or an area where you sacrifice quality for cost saving. If finances' permit, it's wise to spend as much as your budget will allow on photography or even consider a second shooter. Sadly however, most brides spend way too much on the dress, gifts, favors, cake, and jewelry, and not enough on the photography. They end up disappointed when all they have left of their wedding day is a bunch of lackluster photographs.



Try to think of your wedding photography as a “sentimental” investment instead of an expense. As the years go by and your wedding becomes a distant memory (and it will), wouldn’t it be nice to have some beautiful professional images that allow you to relive the moments over and over again?

If you need cost-saving options for your wedding day photography, we have plenty of ideas to share in this guide that will help inspire you to make the most of your budget.

## Do Your Research

The number one reason that couples end up not liking their wedding photography is the fact that they openly admit that they hurried their decision and they did not spend the time to research and make comparisons. Our ebook was written with this in mind to help prevent this from happening to you. Our goal is to give you the information you need to make the best decision and to make the most of your photography budget.

Ask around—friends, co-workers, wedding planners, even your venues may be able to offer recommendations for a photographer. Keep in mind, however, that a great photographer to one person may be a mediocre one to another, so it’s always best to get the referral but still do your own homework.

Many photographers who are serious about their art have websites with gallery pages, blogs and Facebook pages that will give you a little more insight to their style, current work and how they present themselves. Pay attention to how active they are on social media sites and how often they update their blog. Just because a photographer has a flashy website does not necessarily mean they will be a good photographer. They could very well be a great graphic artist with little wedding photography experience, so don’t be fooled.

If you’re looking to save time searching and are serious about sticking to a photography budget, a more modern-day approach is to post an online bid for your wedding photography. MyBridalPix.com offers a unique service that allows you to post a bid request for your photography, based on *YOUR*

requirements and budget! It's a practical approach to researching because you don't have to search for hours on line, making endless calls for availability and researching packages and making comparisons. You simply state what you are looking for, post your budget, and prospective photographers will bid on your request securely through the site. Then it's up to you to reach out and contact the photographers that you like after you've had the chance to review their profiles and websites. It's so simple! It saves you tons of time, keeps you on budget and you find a photographer that matches your style and requirements in no time at all. It also opens the doors to work with awesome photographers that are not necessarily in your immediate area but willing to travel. If you are planning a destination wedding, there is no better way to match up with a photographer.

## *Studio - Independent - Amateur – Know The Difference!*

**Studio Photographers** - A studio is most likely a well-established business with a group of photographers with varying degrees of experience working for them. They typically have the big booths at bridal shows and sales associates meet with couples to offer a very streamlined approach with consistent rates; however, they do not offer too much room for negotiating. Although you will have the assurance that you will have a photographer show up, you may not even meet your photographer until the day of your wedding. Their overhead costs will be much larger than an independent, but they work on producing volume to keep their rates competitive, thus sometimes sacrificing customer needs to keep rates down. They tend to have much larger advertising budgets and rely on generating leads from this rather than referrals.

**Independent Photographers** – Provide a more boutique approach to wedding photography. They tend to pay more attention to individual client's needs and spend more time getting to know exactly what their clients want. Their business model is more about quality than quantity, and thus they can sometimes command a higher rate. There is, however, more flexibility in negotiating rates or changing packages to meet your specific needs. They tend to get most of their clients through referrals and most work full-time at their craft to hone their skills. Some have studios with larger overhead

expenses while others work from a home office keeping expenses to a minimum. Keep this in mind while comparing photographer rates & packages.

**Amateur or Part-Time Photographers** – Hiring a less expensive amateur or part-time photographer does not necessarily mean lower-quality photos. There are many talented amateur or part-time wedding photographers out there who are passionate about photography but cannot commit to the profession 100 percent. They are most likely in the business because they enjoy it, and at the same time, it helps to supplement their income. They may have the style you want and fit your budget, but pay attention to how long they have been shooting weddings. Their experience in photographing weddings is key! A newbie may have natural-born talent but may fall short in the experience of working weddings full time. They may be great with newborn or engagement photography but can they really handle the complexity of a wedding? When you hire someone with wedding experience, they come prepared and they know what to do when something goes wrong. They will have the necessary back-up if they get sick or have equipment failure. Their knowledge base of wedding photography is something a newbie has to learn. These are all things to consider as experience level could seriously affect the results of your wedding photography. With the ease of digital cameras, there are a lot more newbies who can call themselves photographers, so you really need to do your homework. You will need to ask more questions, get referrals and look at more of their work to determine if they are trustworthy and qualified to do the job.

## Know What Style Appeals To You



### Traditional

This style captures the romance, affection and mood of the event. The style tends to be more posed and formal with the photographer acting more like a director.

*(Photo courtesy of Jeremy Quant Photography)*





### Photojournalistic

This style tends to tell more of a story and is candid in style. Your photographer will capture the events and emotions of the day with little interference or posing required.

*(Photo courtesy of Annette Harrison)*



### Contemporary Stylized

This style is inspired by fashion-model runways, bridal magazines and blogs. It is very dramatic almost artistic and thoughtfully posed.

*(Photo courtesy of Ryan Polei)*

Some photographer's strictly practice one style while others may blend these styles. Before you even speak with a photographer, spend lots of time online looking at images to see what style appeals to you the most. While looking at these images see what photos capture the moment, and give you an essence of the emotion being shared. Really good photography should truly move you when you look at it. Of course not every photo will do this, but when you look at a photographer's sample albums or online gallery, and you consistently see images that make you feel this way, there is a pretty good chance they can do the same with your wedding photography. An average wedding photographer will take pictures of your day, but a really good wedding photographer will be able to capture every special moment as though you are reliving it over and over.

## Budgeting For Wedding Photography

Most couples have unrealistic expectations of what wedding photography costs. They often underestimate the cost by 50 percent, unless they have advice from a local wedding coordinator who is familiar with prices in the area. When determining your wedding photography budget, keep in mind that you will most likely get



what you pay for. When considering that these photos will be the only permanent record of your day, you need to think very carefully about your decision on how much to budget. Before you even start shopping for a photographer, know your budget. The general rule of thumb is to allow 10 – 15 percent of your wedding budget for photography. Photography prices are all over the map, but range anywhere from \$950 - \$10,000. There are some couples that value wedding photography so much that it becomes upwards of 30 percent of their budget!

Photography rates will vary depending on skill level, experience and geographic region. Couples need to agree upfront on how important wedding photography is to them and budget accordingly. Some wedding planners suggest that you budget what you plan to spend on photography the same as what you plan to spend on your dress. This makes great sense! After all, why spend \$5000 on a dress that is never accurately showcased properly in your \$500 photography budget. If your dream photographer is a bit out of your budget, consider making your own albums and prints or adding your wedding photography to your bridal registry to help defray the costs. You could even consider hiring the pro photographer for just a few hours to get the main shots and have them skip the reception. Think about it...after the wedding, your dress will be packed away, but your photos will be the only thing to relive the day over and over again. You will never regret the investment you make in good wedding photography but you may regret an inexperienced wedding photographer.

When there is no money in the budget for a professional or an amateur photographer, consider DIY wedding photography. See if you can find a friend or relative who is willing to help you take some of the more formal group shots and leave the rest of the documentation up to your guests! A checklist of must-have photos can be found on the My Bridal Pix website. This is a necessity if you want to make sure you don't miss any important shots. You may want to sign up for a wedding app that allows your guests to upload photos instantly to one place or you can supply guests with disposable cameras to document your day as they see it. Although your images will not look "professional," this could be a fun and interactive opportunity for your guests to truly be involved in your day.

## *Understanding Why Wedding Photography Costs What it Does*

Understanding from a photographer's perspective what goes into the wedding photography quote allows you to access a value of the work based on knowledge, and not just a feeling of what you think what wedding photography should cost. Rates will vary depending upon individual differences, experience levels and cost-of-living for each photographer, but the typical expenses and time associated with your wedding photographer can be generalized as follows:

Expenses just to be in business - Insurance costs, advertising, bridal shows, professional association fees, brochures, printed materials, website maintenance, sample albums, accounting, legal expenses, repair or replacement or upgrading of camera equipment, computers, editing software, wear and tear on automobile, studio rent, electric, telephone and Internet, and other employees or assistants.

Expenses related to your wedding - Travel expense to and from wedding, cost of materials, photo prints, DVD, coffee table book or flush mount album, time spent meeting with you before wedding for interview, time spent on phone and email, the wedding day coverage, the time spent editing the photos or designing your album after the wedding, time spent with you reviewing the images, then coordinating the items in your package with various print vendors.



Taxes - Federal, state and local taxes, social security and payroll taxes which will typically take 40 percent off their net.

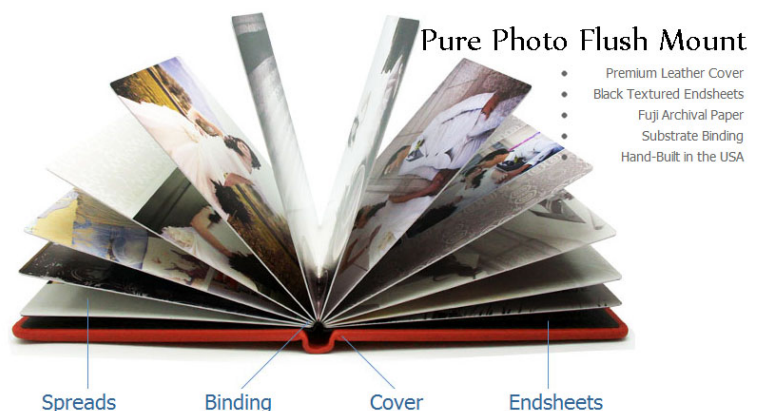
When all these expense are considered, there really is not much left over. The national median income according to the U.S. Department of Labor Statistics for a wedding photographer is \$29,130. Of course, incomes will vary based on location, experience, talent and goods offered. So when you consider only spending \$500 on your budget, perhaps, you will have a greater understanding what you will get for your money. As the saying goes, you get what you pay for.

## *Know The Difference Between Album Options*

Most photographers will offer you different packages to choose from, and this is typically where they make most of their profit. These vary from one photographer to another, and so will the quality of what they are offering. When comparing photographer packages, you need to pay attention to the details of what's included in the packages because there may be a reason why one photographer package is so much less –it could very well be the quality of your album. Understanding the differences between albums can make this decision process a lot easier. If your photographer offers an album as part of their package, just be sure you know exactly what type of album they are offering and ask to see a sample. Many photographers will outsource their album production, so you have very little input on how your album is laid out or what pictures are used. If you are particular about the personalization of your album, as more and more couples are these days, consider making your own wedding album. It will not only potentially save you hundreds of dollars but it also is a really fun project to do together. At My Bridal Pix, we say our albums are made with LOVE, because they truly are. When you take the time to make your album all your own, it becomes a family heirloom that you will cherish forever.

### **Flush Mount Albums**

These types of albums are



the gold standard in modern wedding photography albums. Your images are printed on real photographic paper that has archival qualities and mounted to hardboard that lays perfectly flat when open. These books are printed to last a lifetime, are fade resistant, and the print quality is unmatched in tonal ranges and contrast. They will truly make your images crisp, clear and professional looking. When shopping for flush mount albums be sure to notice how the book is put together. Do the double page spreads have unsightly gutters or hinges that cause cuts down the middle of the panoramic image? For best image reproduction, you will want a flush mount album that does not have a cut down the middle of a two-page spread. Opt for an album with a micro fold, and you will not even notice the transition from one page to the other. Also pay attention to the cover materials. A leather cover will give your book lifetime qualities as compared to one covered in linen or faux materials, which will show wear over time. If your book has a cut-out on the front of the book, this may also compromise the sturdiness of the binding over time. My Bridal Pix Flush Mount albums can be viewed [HERE](#).

### Lay Flat Albums

When purchasing a lay-flat-style album for wedding images, the most important factor to look for is if the images are printed on archival photo paper. Some manufacturers will offer lay-flat albums with press-printed paper, but you will never get the same quality from a press printed book as you do from a book whose images have been processed on photographic paper. As mentioned above in flush mount albums, cover options as well as the ability for a two-page spread to lie flat without any gutters or cuts down the middle of the image will be what sets your album apart. My Bridal Pix Lay Flat albums can be viewed [HERE](#).



### Photo Books

These are often referred to as coffee table books by photographers. When considering photo books for your wedding album, they have the advantage of being very cost effective, but lack the archival qualities of an album printed on



photographic paper. Photo books are printed on presses and use CMYK inks, which will never have the tonal ranges, contrast and fade resistance as the silver halide process has in processing photographic paper. Some photo books do not have hard covers, so be sure to understand the cover stock and options. Photo books are best suited for guest books, parent albums, or attendant thank you gifts, even honeymoon books. They are not recommended for wedding albums unless your budget simply does not allow for anything more. My Bridal Pix photo books can be viewed [HERE](#).

## Matted Albums

These are considered the “old-fashioned” albums that allow you to take your printed images and slip them into a bound book that has cut-outs and framed mat boards. While the standard for many years, they do not have the contemporary flair and personalization than the modern day alternatives offer.

## *Special Things to Consider When Choosing Your Album*

When choosing your interior album pages, black backgrounds are more formal and will make your images stand out, allowing you to focus more on the image itself while white pages are more casual and fresh looking. When you stick with classic design templates, it's something that will never go out of style. Some designers get carried away with the design and it truly takes away from the images themselves. When it comes to design, simple is best!

When considering the material for the cover, leather is always best for the main album, try to stay away from albums that have faux materials as they may show wear and tear over time. Also shy away from covers that have cut-outs as this may compromise the binding of your book over time. One cover option that has gained popularity in recent years is featuring a photo on the outside cover of your album, but make sure it has a hardcover and not a soft cover.

Pay special attention to how the book is bound and put together. Is it just glued, is it hinged, or does it have archival quality library binding? Archival library binding techniques are by far the best binding process available.



If you are considering making your own albums, we have prepared another ebook titled [\*The Easy Way to Make Your Own Wedding Album\*](#) for your reference.

You can also visit our website gallery for inspiration and ideas on some of the templates we have to offer. Our blog and Facebook pages will also offer you tips on making albums, photo books, cards and more.

## *Ways To Save On Your Wedding Photography*



If you are a couple looking for an affordable wedding photography, there are ways to cut your expenses without sacrificing the quality of photographer you hire. Even with low- budget weddings, you should really try to find the best photographer you can afford. It's better to spend the time, research and money hiring a talented photographer, rather than trying to save a few bucks and regretting that decision for the rest of your life.

Concentrate on spending money on the actual talent of the photographer and consider skipping the fancy extras built into the photography packages, such as albums, prints, specials effects, etc. Stick to the a la carte pricing, where you can pick and choose what you want.

Having copyrights to your images is important. Photographers don't necessary like to give them up, but what are the chances that your photographer will keep your images secure or even be in business or in the same state 25 years down the road! Be sure that your photographer is willing to give you a CD or on-line download with high-resolution "edited" images and copyrights in writing. Make sure this is stated right on your contract.

You'll want a certain amount of "select images" edited because even the best photos will improve with a little Photoshop enhancement. Weddings, in particular, need color tone corrections, white balance, sharpening, softening contrast and more. If your photographer is going to give you "digital images or

negatives,” please note these are NOT retouched files ... they will basically be shoot and burn and we caution you on receiving images this way. Edited or retouched files will be far superior to digital negatives right out of the camera. You will need to factor in retouched photos into any quote you receive and know if it’s included or not. You can also choose to retouch the photos yourself with photo editing software like Photoshop or Aperture if you have experience but it’s always best to have the photographer do this. Federal law states that the moment an image is created it’s copyrighted, and no one can tamper with, make changes to or make reprints without consent to do so. A copyright would allow you this freedom, however if it is a “print only” copyright, you cannot make adjustments to the images. Also make sure the images you receive are print quality 300 dpi and not 72 dpi for web only. Covering your bases and knowing these details up front allows you to be a savvy shopper!

If you choose to make your own album at a later date without the help of your photographer, plan on saving up to 50 percent off the cost of your album. **My Bridal Pix** gives you the same pro-quality albums that photographers use and easy-to-use online book-making tools and templates to DIY. The best part is no more waiting months to get your album back from your photographer, with **My Bridal Pix**, you’ll have your album back in 7-10 days! You can view some of our albums via Vimeo [HERE](#).

## Other Creative Ways To Save On Photography

- Don’t be afraid to negotiate—if you don’t ask, you will never know.
- Buy local—if they don’t have far to travel, they may charge you less.
- Post a photography bid request on My Bridal Pix to find a photographer to meet your needs and budget.
- Cut back on the hours – do you really need them for 8-10 hours?
- Book the ceremony and reception close together, so you’ll need less hours of their time to take photos.

- Ask for freebies—once again, if you don't ask, you will never know. Most pro photographers will throw in an engagement photo shoot, mini album or free prints for booking with them.
- Choose a basic package or go a la carte ... just make sure you get the your copyright free images!
- Ask to skip the proof book and review images online.
- Ask for RAW images, and if you know Photoshop or have a friend that does, you can save money on the editing.
- Design your own album at [www.mybridalpix.com](http://www.mybridalpix.com) and you will save hundreds! Like us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter for even more discounts!
- Add your album to your gift registry, and let friends and relatives chip in for the cost of an album.
- Consider a photo wrap image or bonded leather cover for your album instead of high-end leather.
- Have a friend or relative take your pictures, but understand upfront that your images will not turn out like a pro's.
- Instead of buying disposable cameras for guests sign up for a wedding photo app that automatically uploads all the picture your guests take at the wedding!
- Turn your photographer proofs into gifts! Frame prints and give to attendants and parents.
- Have a smaller wedding. Larger weddings usually require larger photography budgets as their are more people to shoot and manage.
- Consider a wedding on a Friday night or Sunday. These off-times may allow you to negotiate better photography rates.
- Go with an amateur, but be sure to check his references and look at his work.



- Check out colleges and hire a local photography student. Hiring someone who is less experienced is not for the faint of heart, but amazing things can come from raw talent, and the student will be happy to add this work to an advertising portfolio.
- What's your talent? Do you do graphic design, design websites, etc ... perhaps, you can barter your services with a photographer for services.

## How To Choose A Photographer

After you have done your research and figured out your budget and your preferred photography style, it's time to start contacting photographers! Best to book at least a year in advance.

Keep in mind that the best ones with the best rates will book up fast. Do your research, pick a few to interview, plan to meet, look at their portfolios, and understand their "set up." Some questions to consider...Are their personalities similar to yours ... is this someone you feel comfortable spending the day with? What qualifications do they have? One of the most important factors to consider is their experience level in wedding photography. Shooting a wedding is not as easy as you think, and all sorts of things can go wrong, so having this experience should be one of your top requirements. It's recommended that you interview at least three photographers so that you have a good comparison before you make your choice. Try to be consistent in asking the same questions of each. Don't just hire someone on the spot just because they were referred. You still need to interview them.



(Photo courtesy of Don LaVange)

Have a list a questions ready to ask. Just make sure you ask questions **before** you hire them and not after! Pay attention and have your fiancée take notes as you ask the questions. Compare the responses from one photographer to another. Whatever you do, do not take this step in the

interview process for granted. It's vital you know your photographers experience level before booking them.

## *Questions to Ask Before You Hire a Photographer*

- How long have you been in the wedding photography business?
- Will you personally shoot my wedding, and can I have that written in the contract?
- Are you a full-time or part-time photographer?
- Do you have formal training or self-taught?
- How many weddings have you photographed? How many were you the lead shooter on?
- Do you work with a second shooter? Have you worked with them before?
- How many cameras do you have and how many lenses?
- How do you describe your style of photography?
- Can we see complete wedding albums samples or online galleries featuring an entire wedding?
- Do you have any experience with weddings at the venue where our wedding will be? If so, can we see the images from that?
- What experience do you have with indoor or evening weddings working with a flash, can we see samples of that work?
- How do you show proofs and how many should we expect to receive?
- Do you offer discounts for midweek or off-season times?
- What are your packages, and what do they include?
- Do you offer a la carte pricing?
- Will you give us a DVD or downloadable gallery with print copyrights?
- What are your photoshop skills? Do you work with a color-calibrated monitor?
- Are the final images edited, and if so, how many?
- Is there an charge to retouch additional images, and what is that fee?
- Do you layout your own albums or do you outsource this? How long should I expect to wait for the album?
- Do we have creative input as to which images we want to have in the album?

- Do we have a choice to make images black and white, and is there an additional fee for this?
- Are there any travel fees that we need to be made aware of?
- Will you be shooting another wedding the same day?
- If we need you to stay longer, can you accommodate, and what are your overtime fees?
- What type of insurance do you carry?
- Are you a member of any professional photography associations?
- What happens if we change the wedding date?
- What happens if you are sick or injured and cannot be at our wedding? What are your back-up plans?
- What deposit is required to hold our date and payment terms for the balance?
- Can we have a copy of your contract to review before we sign?
- Can you provide 3 referrals from recent weddings in the past year?

## *Buyer Beware And Things To Look Out For!*

### *Studios that do not let you meet the photographer before the wedding*

A salesperson walks you through the package deals, and you really never get the chance to connect with the person who will be photographing your day. If they do promise you a photographer and you get to look at their work, make sure you get it in writing!

### *Photographers that carry no insurance*

If you are hiring a pro and paying pro rates make sure they have insurance.

### *Photographers who photograph weddings just to pay their bills*

There is absolutely nothing wrong with hiring a photographer who shoots weddings for a second job, but you want to watch out for the photographer who just went out, bought a digital camera and is now on a mission to pay off his credit card debt. You should be looking for a photographer who is passionate about his or her work. Photographing weddings should be something they really enjoy and not just another part-time job to help pay the bills. If they are passionate about their work, they will naturally want to make you happy!

### *Photographers that do not have back-up equipment*

If equipment fails on the day of your wedding (and this does happen), you need to know the back-up plan. They should have at least two cameras and two lenses ... make sure you see all the equipment.

### *Photographers that book too many wedding in one day*

Be sure to ask if you are the only wedding that day. If they have to run across town to the next wedding and your wedding is running behind, you can end up very disappointed. It's not uncommon for a photographer to book two weddings in one day, just know up front the hours and how flexible their schedule will be.

### *The super salesperson photographer*

Beware of the photographer that is trying to sell you into packages that have trendy fads, and over-the-top albums. It's best to stick to a classic and more stylish and timeless look. Also beware if he is only willing to give you the images on a CD only if you buy an album. There are plenty of good photographers out there that are willing to give you your images without holding you hostage to buy something.

### *A photographer that does not know his style*

When you ask them what their style is, and they look at you like they have no idea what you are talking about and give you that deer-in-headlights look—this is a sure sign that they lack experience. A photographer with a passion for their profession will know their style. If they have an album to show you, make sure you see not just their best shots, but images taken from an entire wedding. In fact, ask to see the complete set of images from his last three weddings. This will give you a feel for the consistency of his work and style.

### *If your photographer doesn't have color-calibrated equipment*

Color management of your images is very important and probably the most underestimated aspect of digital photography. Colors can vary from one computer to another, so you need to trust that your photographer has a professional color-calibrated monitor so that the images he burns to the disk will print with pleasing color tones and ranges.



## Take Your Photographer For A Test Drive!



(Photo courtesy of Ashley Palmero)

Before you commit to your wedding photography, why not consider using them to shoot your engagement photos first? This will give you an idea of their style and how they capture those special moments between you and your future spouse. You also get the chance to know their personality, professionalism and work style. This could prove to be a really smart decision, and just think how much

fun you will have putting together a reception guestbook, save the date cards, building a website and all the other fun things you can do with your engagement photos!

## Signing The Photography Contract

No matter what, **ALWAYS** sign a contract with a wedding photographer. Make sure their contract is clear and lists the items in your specific package, and anything that has been promised to you, including the name of the photographer. If there should come a time that you need to sue your photographer for not delivering, the first thing the judge will ask for is a copy of the contract. It should be clearly stated how

many hours they will cover for you, package details, how the proofs will be delivered to you and what media they will be on (print proofs or online gallery). If a DVD with copyrights were promised to you, make sure this appears on the contract as well. If you pay extra for editing, put it on the contract and make sure you see the before and after edits. **ACCEPT NO VERBAL PROMISES ...** if you want it, make sure it's on the contract.



A deposit will most likely be required to hold your date with typically 50 percent of the wedding fee due 30 - 60 days before the wedding, and the balance payable on the day of the wedding. Know in advance what their cancellation policy is and any additional fees that you may incur.

## Boudoir Book?



If you haven't considered a boudoir photo shoot, you should seriously consider having a little fun with it. Boudoir books are becoming a very popular gift for the groom-to-be. It's a great way to model your bridal trousseau and blow the socks off your groom! The expression on your guy's face when he looks at your book for the first time will be priceless, not to mention that he will be one happy husband-to-be!

It's best to do your boudoir shoots with pro photographers that specialize in boudoir. Make sure they have a legitimate website and referrals. Boudoir photographers have all the props, they know the poses and will shoot all the right angles to make you look your best. It's normal to feel a little nervous on your shoot, but most of these photographers are very good at putting your nerves at ease, so have fun with it and relax! A lot of women say that once you get past your nervousness, it's a lot of fun unleashing that inner goddess!

In addition to private shoots, some boudoir photographers will do marathon sessions, typically in fancy hotel rooms. The cost of the room is already built into your rate, so all you have to do is show up for your allotted time. Why not consider doing back-to-back appointments with your girlfriends—having them there will surely make the experience all the more fun!

Our best advice is to be comfortable with who you are. No one is perfect, even professional lingerie models get photoshopped head to toe! So chill out because if you are self-conscious about your body it will show in your photos. Probably one of the best ideas we can suggest is to have an idea in your mind's eye of the types of poses you like. Look at boudoir images online to get

some ideas, and maybe even practice them before your shoot. Perhaps, there is a song or type of music that helps spark that sexy mood...bring it along with you on your shoot and ask them to play it!

***We also suggest you think about the following: tips:***

- Get your hair and makeup done professionally.
- Get a manicure and pedicure.
- Invest in a good pair of fake eyelashes. They will give your eyes that extra pop in those close-up shots.
- Limit alcohol consumption as there is nothing sexy about sloppy drunk. A little to relax goes a long way in this case.
- Do not wear tight clothes that can leave marks on your body.
- Wear a button-down shirt so that you do not mess up your hair and makeup when you change.
- Take care of your body by eating well, and drinking lots of water, weeks before your shoot.
- Moisturize your skin and bring some lotion for touch ups.
- Do not tan or use spray tans or lotions before your shoot. You don't want to look orange in your photo's and tan lines would really take away from your photos.
- Bring your own lingerie or sexy clothes. Some photographers may offer clothes to wear, but if you are going to the expense to have this done, why mess up your photos with clothes that do not fit right?
- Bring jewelry, a brush, clips for your hair and makeup for touch ups.
- Touch up your face with some light powder from time to time.
- Think about themes that relate to your guy. Does he like football or soccer; is he a businessman or police officer. What -ever his sport or interest play it up in your photos with a prop or costume and have some fun with it.

## Things To Consider Before The Wedding



### [Creating an interactive guest book](#)

This is a fairly new trend in weddings and a great way to show off your engagement photos to your family and friends. My Bridal Pix has some wonderful design templets to choose from that you simply just drag and

drop your images into to. Creating a keepsake book with prompted questions that your guests can respond to, will give you a guest book that you will actually enjoy looking at in years to come!

### *Does your location have photography potential*

If photography is important to you, you need to give serious consideration to the location of your event. You want a location that offers great ambient lighting and interesting features. For this, you may want to book your photographer before you book your event location. If the photographer has a lot of experience, he will be sure to have some suggestions as to which locations offer the best photography opportunities.

### *Know your church's photography restrictions*

Most churches do not allow flash photography, so be sure to know this up front, especially if you are planning formal shots inside the church.

### *Formal portraits before or after the ceremony?*

The decision whether to take your formal portraits before or after the ceremony is something to seriously consider, and it will set the tone for the rest of your day. It's been a long-standing tradition that wedding portraits are taken in the time between the ceremony and the reception. Often, this leaves guests with a lot of free time on their hands and a bridal couple who rush through their portrait session anxious to get back to their reception and guests. While this has all the romance of not seeing each other before the big event, it may not be the most practical way to approach your wedding day photography. A more modern and practical approach, that increasingly more and more photographers are recommending is to take your photos before the ceremony. This is a time when you and your bridal party are at your best, and the guys are not anxious to get out of their tuxes. Your makeup and hair are fresh, and the non-rushed atmosphere seems so much more relaxing. A nice way to make this more intimate for you and your groom is to take 15 minutes alone before the photo shoot. This will give you the time to truly be in the moment with each other. It gives you a chance to exchange gifts, practice your vows, or just simply be together. The best part is that you will naturally settle each other's nerves by simply seeing each other.



The same amount of time will still be needed (two hours) for formal portraits, but what this will allow is for you to be more relaxed and to truly enjoy the rest of your day without any schedules to meet.

### *Create timeline of wedding day events*

A great way to keep your day on track is to create a detailed written plan of the day's events, including the photography schedule and who is needed when. Getting off schedule causes stress, and it can really cause chaos when someone holds up the flow of the day. Make sure anyone involved in your wedding, vendors included, has a copy emailed to them prior to the wedding. Take time to review the timeline with your wedding party and relatives at the rehearsal dinner the night before the wedding, and stress the importance of being on time for the formal portraits.

### *Consider your social media policy*

Chances are you will have anxious guests that want to be the first to post images of your big day online. If this makes you wary, then consider putting a message about this in your program, asking guests to refrain until you have had the chance to post professional images first. Also be sure to ask amateurs not to use flash photography as it can interfere with the professional photographers' work. Usually a great way to keep guests happy is to set up a Flickr account and direct your guests to post their images there for you to see and share. To be on the safe side, you may want to reset your privacy setting on Facebook so that all tagged images must be approved by you before posting to your page.

### *Lighting*

Careful consideration should be given to the time of day of your wedding because the quality of light at any given time of day will have a great effect on the outcome of your photos. Good wedding portrait photography requires good sunlight, so make sure that you have at least two hours of daylight to take photos. This is especially important for those couples who want a sunset wedding as you may need to consider taking portraits before the ceremony. Avoid taking photos midday in the summer months, as the sun is directly above your heads and will cast unflattering shadows over everyone's eyes. Having your photos taken later in the day, when the sun is lower in the

sky will result in giving a warm soft glow to your images. Since the sun stays low in the sky during the winter months, most clear winter days will prove good lighting until mid-afternoon when it starts to get dark. If you are having an evening wedding, most of your photographs will require a flash. Beware, as flash photography is a lot more challenging for photographers and many lack the skills to manage a flash properly. You'll want to specifically ask to see photos in your photographer's profile for evening weddings before you hire them.

### *Communicate with your photographer*

A more experienced wedding photographer will know the classic must-have shots; however, they may not know that you must have a photo of yourself and your college roommates. Communication becomes key, and discussing this before the wedding will allow you to relax on your wedding day knowing that these photography details have been taken care of. If you are working with a budget photographer, they may need a little more direction and a checklist of must-have shots will be an assurance that you will get the images you want. Our down-loadable Wedding Photography Checklist can be found [HERE](#). Sometimes presenting a photographer with a checklist before your wedding is a good idea, but please keep in mind that some photographers like to shoot as they go, while they will keep your list in mind. The last thing that you want to do is have a photographer that spends all her time worrying about checking off your "must-have list" instead of shooting in the moment. A key list of the photos that are most important to you should be what you want to communicate to your photographer. You can also print off images from the Internet or tear images from magazines to give to your photographer, so that he can become familiar with the style of photography you are looking for.

To help speed up the formal portraits, you'll want to make sure that the people you need for your photos are available and that there is a designated person who is in charge of rounding them up. It is a great job for one of the groomsmen or if you have a wedding planner, they can assist with this detail. Also give your photographer a lowdown on the schedule for the day. He needs to know the schedule so he'll be prepared. This will give the confidence to plan out their day and will most likely result in better photos.

Be sure to tell your photographer to pay attention to the details as well. Consider the images of things that give personality to your wedding—your

flowers, your shoes, grooms cufflinks, your signature drink, the lace in your dress, the centerpieces, the cake, the flowers, and the stained glass window in the church. These types of images will help you tell your story better after the wedding when its time to lay out the images for your album. It helps to make your album more personal, especially if you are making your own album as you get to choose what-ever images you want. These detailed photo's on their own may not seem interesting, but will add an element to your album that will be sure to help tell the story of your wedding day. Following these simple tips could possibly turn your good photos into great photos for your album.



*(Photo courtesy of Jeremy Quant Photography)*

### *Communicate with the bridal party and relatives*

Time is money, and if you don't want to waste it be sure to inform your bridal party and relatives beforehand when they will be needed for formal photos. Do not assume that they know your plans. If you have informed them of your schedule beforehand, this will prevent any mishaps of someone not being there for a portrait or waiting around for them to show up after someone has chased them down. You need to organize these details so your photographer can work quickly. You're paying him for his time, so standing around waiting for someone to show up is wasting his time and your money.

### *Feeding the wedding photographer*

As a professional courtesy, it's a nice idea to feed your photographer(s). The recommendation is if they are working for more than 4 hours, you should provide a meal, and it should be away from the guests.

## Engage Your Guests with Photography And Have Some Fun!

Think about ways you can involve your guests in your wedding memories. A great way to do this is with a photo booth! They may be a fad, but they continue to be popular, and are a ton of fun! Guests get silly and have a blast playing with props and making funny faces, and photos are captured on a strip of images that the machine instantly prints out. Your guests will be smiling ear to ear!



(Photo courtesy of Iain Farrel)



If the cost of a photo booth is not in your budget, don't fret, make your own! All you need is some fabric to hang for a back-drop, some lights, a tripod and a digital camera with a remote shutter device. Have lots of fun props on hand. A chalk board where guest can write silly messages, a big picture frame, wigs, hats, big sunglasses, and any other silly thing you can think of to inspire your guests to get crazy. It's best to delegate the management of the booth or talk with your photographer who can set up the booth, and perhaps ,have a second shooter take the pix. You do not need to get involved or stressed managing it; you can simply ask your guests if they have had their picture taken and encourage them, as you greet them throughout your reception. Just think of the great photos you'll have to post to your website, Facebook or, perhaps, make a photo book to cherish these images forever. It's a great way for your guests to have some fun and for you to have wonderful "funny" memories of your wedding. (Photo courtesy of Neil Alenjandro)

Another idea for the little ones at your wedding is to make them "official wedding photographers." Give each child (3-12) a disposable camera, create a badge and put it on a lanyard around their neck and tell them to shoot whatever they would like. They will feel so important to be part of your



wedding and have a ton of fun snapping away. You may even be surprised with the funny images you'll get from a kid's perspective of your special day!

## *A Word About Destination Wedding Photography*



*(Photo courtesy of Paul Toogood, Castaways.com)*

You have a few options when it comes to destination wedding photography. Bring your own photographer and pay for all their expenses, choose a photographer near the location of your destination or use the “in-house” resort photographer. Often, the resorts will offer packages that include a photographer, but make sure you ask lots of questions and know exactly how long the coverage will be. Ask if there is a limit on the number of images, and if they will give you the DVD. Sometimes

these resorts will not allow you to use your own photographer or even restrict your guests from taking pictures! Unfortunately, many of these resorts put little value on photography and are more focused on the commission they will get on your prints, than they are about the quality of the work. Most of the Las Vegas Casinos and chapels operate this way, requiring you to use their photographer. Know this ahead of time so that you can ask the right questions before you book your destination venue. Best to ask lots of questions as you may very well have a bar man at night who doubles as their wedding photographer during the day! Make sure you ask for the website of the photographer they use, so you can do your own research and see if you like their style. Ask the photographer if they are a member of any wedding photographers' associations; most international wedding photographers' associations usually have high standards for inclusion. If you choose to bring a photographer from home, you will be spending a lot more time together, which will most likely result in more photos. This may be a great opportunity for some really nice moonlit images after your guests have all retired for the evening or, perhaps, a trash-the-dress photo session the day after the wedding. Just make sure the photographer you bring has experience in

destination weddings, as there is a lot of coordination involved in traveling with equipment and having the experience to know how to handle destination weddings. In some instances, countries require special permits for photographers to enter the country, and sometimes these permits can take up to six months and can be quite expensive. For example, a Turkish permit is \$500. So when it comes to destination venues be sure to know the photography deal before you book.

## *If The Wedding Budget Allows Consider...*

### *A second photographer*

If your photographer does not provide a back-up photographer, you may want to consider hiring one of your own, even if it's an amateur. It's one more set of eyes, ready to capture the day as it unfolds and another photographer to get that perfect shot.

### *Stage lighting*

If you really want to create some drama with an evening wedding, consider hiring a stage lighting company to light up your event. It can make a dramatic difference in the ambience of your wedding and create some really nice backdrops in photos. For outdoors, consider lighting up trees and placing up-lights around the property. Indoors, you can take a really boring wall and add some excitement and drama to it with just a few colored up-lights. A small investment for big results!

### *Professional Hair and Makeup*

Have your hair and makeup done professionally. You can't expect your photos to be gorgeous when your hair and make up are lacking that little extra attention. On the flip side, your wedding day is not the day to do something drastic with your hair and makeup either! A dry run of your makeup and hair is highly recommended before the big day. Great makeup applied by a professional makeup artist is the key to giving you great photographs. It's also a nice treat for the wedding party to have their hair and makeup done on the wedding day. It's reassurance for you that no one will look over or underdone. Try to arrange having hair and makeup artists come to your location to cut down on any stress getting to and from salons in the morning. For the guys, a haircut the day before the wedding can leave your untanned neckline exposed

in photos, not to mention the risk of a bad haircut with no time to do anything about it. Best to have hair trimmed a week before the wedding.

### *Makeup dos and don'ts*

- Avoid foundations and moistures that contain SPF. The zinc in these products can give a white cast to your face that may not be noticeable in person but will be in photographs. So skip the SPF on wedding day.
- Skip the lip gloss if you are wearing a veil. A veil stuck to your lips in a photograph is not a good look.
- Be careful of too much shimmer in eye shadows and blush. A little shimmer goes a long way and too much of it can ruin your close-ups. Shimmer has light-reflecting particles in it that can catch the light and cause shiny or white streaks on your face in photos.
- Stay true to you! Don't overdo your makeup, stay close to your usual look, but take it up a notch or two.
- Don't forget the waterproof mascara—nothing will ruin your photos more than smearing mascara!
- Use a primer and foundation to help your makeup stay on and finish up with a light dusting of powder. The key is to avoid shine on your face for your photos. Foundation needs to be a perfect match to your skin tone and blended very well.
- Pack a makeup touch-up kit and includes some oil-blotting sheets. Rather than pack more powder on to hide shine, just use oil-absorbing sheets to even out your skin tone.

### *Watch the tan lines*

Tan lines are one of the most difficult things for a photographer to touch-up so forgo the sun before your big day. For the guys who plan to play a round of golf the day before the wedding, nothing will ruin your photos more than raccoon eyes from sunglass tans. Also, stay away from self-tanning lotions, as they will make you look orange in the photos. Be sure to tell your bridal party this as well.

### *Waxing and Tweezing*

Pay special attention to your eyebrows and stray facial hairs. The camera will notice every detail, so it's best to visit the spa a week before your wedding to have your eyebrows shaped and tweezed and take care of any waxing that needs to be done. Red blotchy skin is hard to cover up in photos

### *Teeth whitened and this goes for the groom too!*

Make those pearly whites as beautiful as they can be.

### *Manicure and Pedicure*

Remember those hands get photographed, so make sure they look their best. If your fiancée is a bit of a grease monkey send him for a manicure.

### *Facials*

If you are going to have a facial, make sure that you do it a week or more in advance. Sometimes, facials can open up pores and cause blemishes. Start prepping your skin months in advance.

### *Drink, Drink, And Drink*

Drink plenty of water in the two weeks leading up to your wedding. This will make sure your skin is blemish free, moisturized and glowing on the day of your wedding. Drink at least 36 ounces of water each day, EXCEPT the day of your wedding. On your wedding day, you want to make sure you don't have lots of trips to the bathroom.

## *The Wedding Day*

Your wedding day is finally here! Can you feel the magic in the air? You will wake up on this glorious morning knowing that you finally get to marry your best friend in life. It's sure to put a beautiful smile on your face and bring a wonderful warm glow to your body. This state of mind is where you need to be all day. There is no doubt that a relaxed bride will take more beautiful photos. So no matter what happens, take a deep breath, relax and enjoy the day as it unfolds.



(Photo courtesy of Jeremy Quant Photography)



## *Special tips from trusted pros...*

### *Keep the bridal suite clean*

Remember that your photographer is going to be taking photos as you and the bridesmaids get ready. Be sure to keep the area picked up and clean to prevent any unwanted items in your images. You may want to assign this task to one of your attendants. The same goes for the groom and groomsmen.

### *Just smile*

Need we say more...a nice relaxed smile. If you are nervous, a little giggle will help relax your smile.

### *Keep your pace slow*

While walking down the aisle and exiting, keep in mind that you need a slow steady pace for the photographer to focus on getting those really important aisle shots. Keep the bouquet down low at mid-waist.

### *Your eyes*

Try not looking directly into the camera when walking down the aisle and make a point not to look down while you walk. If you are shy or scared, your tendency will be to look down, but just think how bad those aisle pictures will turn out if you are looking down in every one of them! Try to make eye contact with your guests and smile as you walk, and try to acknowledge as many people as you can.

### *Touch up your makeup*

Be sure to have a touch-up makeup bag with you and put your maid of honor in charge of it. Ask your photographer to let you know when you need a little refreshing.

### *Posing for that first kiss*

Keep your lips closed, don't pucker up, lips relaxed and no tongues, and do not smash your faces together. The key to a really great first kiss photo is to give each other a really simple soft kiss and move slowly towards each other. The split second before your lips touch is often the most romantic moment. You may also want to speak to your officiate

about their placement right behind you. From the photographers perspective the officiate will be smack in the middle of the two of you and I'm thinking three's a crowd for that first kiss! Of course it can be photoshopped out with a lot of detailed, time consuming work, but a simple solution is just ask your officiant if they do not mind stepping off to the side while this very special photo is taken.

### *Posture*

Stand tall, sit up strait and accentuate the curve in your back. When standing , lean on your back leg and turn your body to a 45 degree angle to the camera for a leaner look.

### *First dance photos*

Avoid talking too much during the first dance as it will be easier for the photographer to get better images if your mouths are not moving. Smiles are great and soft kisses too!

### *Spend the day together not apart*

Spend the day with each other. Do not fall into the trap of being apart on your wedding day, visiting with family and friends separately. You are partners and you need to express this, especially on your wedding day. Touch, hold, hug and smile, relax and visit with friends and family with each other—this will present wonderful candid moments for the photographer to capture.

### *Have fun in your photos*

Try to get your photographer to think outside of the box and create images with a fun twist that will make you laugh in years to come. Formal photography is often awkward and embarrassing and very stiff. Yes, some of the formal shots are necessary, but if your album is full of them, just think how boring it will be.

### *Changing clothes*

If you plan to change out of your wedding attire before the big send-off, be sure to organize outfits for the both of you that are clean and neat looking. Leaving your guests right before the end of the reception is a key photograph that you may want to include in your album, so don't spoil it with flip-flops, and cutoffs.

### Most importantly

Have fun on your wedding day and do not sweat the small stuff! Have a mental contract with yourself the day of your wedding. The magic word is—acceptance—do not fuss on all the little details that do not go the way that you had planned. Attitude is the single most important thing a bride can display in a photograph. Anxiety and sadness will shout from a photograph. You are there to have fun, and not be the monitor of your wedding. You have invested a lot of time up to this point—when the procession begins, just take a deep breath and let go of all the small stuff.

### *After The Wedding*

Go away and enjoy those first few days of wedded bliss and be sure to take lots of pictures of your honeymoon! Having those wonderful images of your first few days together as husband and wife will be images you will cherish forever and they will also make a great keepsake photo book.



(Photo courtesy of Ian Makenzie)

After the honeymoon, you'll have your work cut out for you sorting through your wedding pictures and deciding what images to include in your album. Some photographers will have an online proof gallery for you to review your images while others will offer you a proof book. Most modern-day photographers realize that couples have lots of options to make their own photoproducts and will release your images to you on DVD with copyrights to do what you want with your images.

### *All These Photo's - Now What?*

#### Keep your photo's safe

It's best to make multiple copies of your DVD. Put one in a safety deposit box, or perhaps, give your parents a copy for safe keeping. You never know what

can happen, and it's best to have more than one copy in case your original ever gets damaged, lost or stolen.

### Albums

Some couples make the mistake of just keeping their wedding photos on a hard drive. Remember, hard drives fail, DVD's fail, but an album is something you can hold in your hands and share with your family and friends at a moment's notice. There is nothing like holding photos in your hands, preserved in a wonderful keepsake album for years to come.

Some photographers will offer the service of putting together an album for you, and others do not. Know up front if this is included in your package or if this is an a la carte extra cost. Some photographers do their own custom layouts, while others will outsource to a third party to make your album. The more people that touch your album, the more expensive it tends to become, so know who is doing the work. As part of a photographer's selling technique, he will often put together a predesigned album for you when you show up to review your proofs. While this is convenient not to have to think too much about what images to choose, it takes away your creative input into one of the most special days of your lives. With today's technology and software, more and more couples are realizing that putting together their own album is a very rewarding experience. Sure it takes you time to put it together, but the advantage is that you get to make an album that is truly personal, and it saves you tons of money.

### Organize your images

It's easy to organize your images just like the experts do. This will be especially helpful if you plan to make your own wedding album or photo books. First you need a block of time to really sit down and get the task done. Once you organize your folders it's a matter of dragging and dropping the images into the right folders.

First, you want to sort your images by type and place into the following folders on your desktop. Do not pay too much attention to them, as we are just organizing where they go for now.

Create the following folders:

1. Getting Ready
2. Bride and Groom Portraits
3. Family
4. Bridal Party
5. Ceremony
6. Reception
7. Details
8. Rejects

Once you have categorized your images into these folders, you will start to make subcategories or folders to organize them even more. The goal is to separate the best images in each of these categories and set aside the rejects. Create sub- categories that suit your needs and help tell your unique wedding story. When the time comes, you have some really nice images to work from, and you can easily pull the best ones from the folders.

### **Create the following folders**

1. Getting Ready
  - Bride Getting Ready
  - Groom Getting Ready
2. Bride and Groom Portraits
  - Bride
  - Groom
  - Together
3. Family
  - Bride's parents
  - Groom's parents
  - Bride's grandparents
  - Groom's grandparents
  - Bride's family portraits
  - Groom's family portraits
4. Bridal Party
  - Bride with attendants
  - Groom with groomsmen
  - Group
5. Ceremony
  - Attendants walking down the aisle



- Bride walking down the aisle
  - First glance
  - Close ups
  - Long Shots
  - Officiate with bride and groom
  - The KISS
  - Exit down the aisle
6. Reception
- Dancing
  - Guest table shots
  - Speeches
  - Garter & bouquet toss
  - Cake
  - Any other customs or traditions
7. Details
- Flowers
  - Getting ready—shoes, cufflinks, etc.
  - Cocktail hour
  - Table décor
  - Miscellaneous
8. Rejects

When you organize your wedding images into specific folders, it will allow you to make the process of sorting through them so much easier. For some really great tips on making your own albums, see our ebook [\*The Easy Way To Make Your Own Wedding Album\*](#).

If you do make your own album, keep in mind that it's recommended to have no more than three images per page in your book. So a 30-page album should have no more than 90 images in it, or the album may become cluttered. Don't worry if you cannot get all your photos into your main album. Save the main album for the most treasured images, tell your story and make a photo book for the entire set of images. Think of it as your proof book. It takes time to organize all your wedding photos, but once you do, putting your album together will be a breeze!

Online ordering of albums, prints and other photoproducts is becoming increasingly popular with couples, as they realize it's a great way to save

money. In the past, high-end flush mount and lay flat panoramic albums were only available to photographers, but now [\*My Bridal Pix\*](#) can offer you the same quality for about half what you would typically pay.

## *Ideas On What To Do With Your Photos*

[\*Make a Guest Reception Book\*](#) - This is probably one of the best ways to display and show off all those wonderful engagement photos. Simply lay out your images in one of the templates featured in the *My Bridal Pix* [\*book-editing software\*](#). Guests at your wedding will be inspired to leave comments to the questions in the book (e.g, What's the secret to a happy marriage? What should we expect the first year? What advice can you give us when starting a family?) Makes a wonderful keepsake!

[\*Make a Flush Mount Wedding Album\*](#) - This is a great first project to do together after you're married. If you choose to DIY for your wedding album, just make sure that your images are printed on archival photographic paper. You typically see this with flush mount albums and some of the lay flat albums, but some lay flat albums are printed on press paper. It's worth it to splurge on photographic archival paper, as the image reproduction cannot compare to anything else on the market. While photo books are of nice quality and less expensive, their print quality will not give you the detail and tonal ranges that photographic paper will. ***My Bridal Pix*** offers you simple-to-use software to drag and drop your images into hundreds of different templates to give your album that pro look without the pro price!

[\*Parent Thank You Albums\*](#) - Today's album-making technology makes it very easy for you to order multiple copies of your album in smaller versions. This makes the perfect thank you gift for parents, and you'll save tons of time not having to create another album all over again...the software does it for you!

[\*Gifts for Bridal Party\*](#) - If you are looking for a really creative and special thank you gift for your bridal party consider making them miniature versions of your main wedding album. For as little as \$25 each, ***My Bridal Pix*** can duplicate

*your album in a 4x4 or 3x4 Pixie book. It's an exact replica of your main wedding album, but in miniature size. They make wonderful keepsakes for your bridal party.*

[Make a Proof Book](#) – A great way to take all the images from family and friends, as well as your photographer and blend them into a coffee table book. Photo books are a great way to showcase your photos at a reasonable price. It will make a wonderful keepsake for all your images.

[Make a Boudoir Book for the Groom](#) - Boudoir is Back! Your Groom will be grinning from ear to ear when he receives this gift from you. Believe me, he will enjoy this much more than a watch for a wedding gift! Visit the **My Bridal Pix** for some ideas and a sampling of the awesome templates that we feature to really set off your images.

[Make Photo Cards](#) – Use your favorite image from your engagement or wedding and send out save-the-date cards or make personalized thank you cards. This makes for a wonderful keepsake for your guests, as well as a very personal way to say “Thank You!”

[Canvas Portrait Art](#) – A great and affordable way to decorate the walls of your new nest. They give a nice clean modern look and make a wonderful way to remind you time and again of the beautiful day that you started your lives together.

[Frame Your Prints](#)- Make prints of your favorite images and frame them for gifts or pictures around the house.

Thank You!

I hope you have enjoyed this ebook as much as I enjoyed writing it for you. Hopefully, I have given you a few tips and tricks to make the process of choosing your photographer just a little bit easier, and some creative ideas on what to do with your images and how to save some money in the process.



**My Bridal Pix** has a team of dedicated professionals that stand ready to provide you with the best wedding albums, photo books, and cards in the industry. Our focus is 100 percent committed to the wedding community. You will find helpful tips and trends in our blog, a gallery of wedding albums for inspiration, a place to post your photography bid requests, photographer listings and more. So please stop by our website. We welcome the opportunity to help you realize how amazing wedding photography does not need to cost you a fortune. If there is one thing to remember from this ebook —your photo's will be your lasting memory of your wedding so invest the time to find a photographer that will document your special day in a truly professional way.

Please visit us at [www.mybridalpix.com](http://www.mybridalpix.com) for additional information and product offerings. At **My Bridal Pix**, we're committed to *Making Your Magical Memories Last...forever.*

Best Wishes!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carol'.

Carol Robinson  
CEO & Founder of My Bridal Pix

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