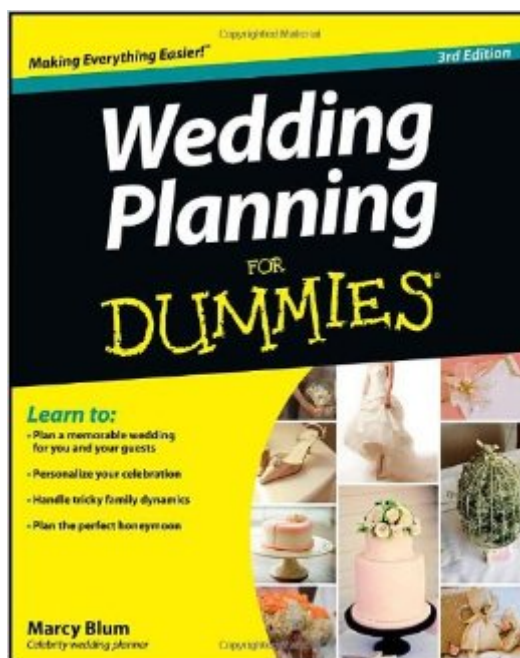


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# Wedding Planning For Dummies



## Synopsis

The bestselling wedding planning guideânow updated! Congratulations, you're planning a wedding! Besides obtaining a fancy tuxedo and a stunning gown, organizing a wedding ceremony takes creativity, planning, and diplomacy. The whole ordeal can seem overwhelming at first, but with lots of guidance, you'll plan a wedding people will remember for ages. *Wedding Planning For Dummies* demystifies and simplifies all the details that go into the Big Day, providing inspiration and innovative ideas to personalize your wedding celebration and, of course, make it fun for everyone--especially you! Expert wedding planner Marcy Blum walks you step-by-step through everything you'll encounter as you plan your wedding, from choosing a reception site to picking a photographerâand everything in between. 20% new and updated content Keep track of expenses with a wedding budget Negotiate contracts and surf online for wedding deals Get those pesky financial technicalities out of the way Plan a weekend wedding, a themed wedding, same sex wedding, and other celebrations Plan for various wedding customs and rites Throw a great reception with music, food, drink, and cake The 4-1-1 on the latest and greatest trends in wedding registries, rings, photos, and the honeymoon Packed with tips for saving money and common kitsch you should avoid, this is the ultimate guide to satisfying everyone on the Big Dayâwhile making all of your fairytale dreams come true.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I'm not a wedding person, per se. In fact some of them I've attended are what nightmares are made of. I can think of one in particular that had people dissing it for ages. This was wrong, that was wrong, so-and-so was offended, etc. The last wedding I went to was so awe-inspiring and

memorable that I wouldn't mind going to it again. Undoubtedly, the reason it was such an overwhelming success was because of the planning that went into it. No, it wasn't the result of a wedding planner, but one planned by members of both families. They simply did their homework. Let's face it, aside from watching numerous episodes of "Say Yes to the Dress," I know nothing about planning weddings. I can tell the difference between a ball gown and a mermaid, but formulating an invitation or scheduling the actual wedding day I am and would be clueless if I didn't study up. I will be the mother of the groom and, provided the lovely couple doesn't elope, I'll be planning it with his future mother-in-law. I definitely selected this book with a purpose in mind. Rather than hysterically flounder when the next "big event" comes up, I'll be prepared. Yes, there are a few of those cartoons we all appreciate, but fortunately most of the visuals are useful ones. For example, there is a step-by-step one of how one ties the "Four-in-Hand Knot" (it's not something he can do.) There are numerous informative sidebars, tips, tables, and cautionary notes to take a look at. The titles of certain sections are understandably cutesy ("Happy trains to you"), but the information is cogent and quite well-organized. In the back of the book is a very expansive index, something I certainly appreciate.

Weddings have become a production, a business, a source of media entertainment, and a source of competition and one up-man-ship. Marriage, as a commitment and a sacrament pretty much fall by the wayside once the participants get wrapped up in the frenzy, fever, and slippery financial and emotional slope of planning "the event." I have to confess that I am a wedding junkie. I eat it all right up. I love weddings, I notice and nit-pick every detail and have mental spreadsheets of what I've liked and hated over the years. I've watched programs in which the bride's gown decision is treated as nothing short of a historical event. This is why it comes as such a surprise to me to be writing that weddings have gotten out of hand. People like me are part of the reason that this industry has ballooned to the point of wasteful extravagance and needless stress and created the fantasy that every bride is really royalty for that one day and will be forever emotionally marked if she cannot live her Princess Belle fantasy or whatever other nonsense TV and magazines have convinced her she needs for a successful wedding and, thus, life. But times change, the economy demands restraint (if not all-out thrift) and it's time to get down to basics: a committed bride and groom; their families; a ceremony marking this day as different and better from all others that came before; and the company of loving friends who take genuine joy in the happiness of the couple. Everything else is extra. That is the situation our family and the bride's family find ourselves in: neither can afford to go overboard both would like the day to be dignified and memorable, both will work together to do the

best with what we have.

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