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Don't Blow the Budget!

50 WAYS TO SAVE (FROM CEREMONY TO RECEPTION)

50 Spend-Less Wedding Tips

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32 A top photographer may very well be out of your price range. "If so, tell him or her you'd love nothing more than to hire someone of that caliber, but simply can't afford it," says Denise Walpole, a certified wedding consultant and owner of the Austin, Texas-based Soirée Event Consultation & Design. "Perhaps the person can recommend an assistant," in which case you might get an up-and-coming photographer for half the price of a seasoned pro.

33 Instead of paying extra for copies of photographs to put in frames, use the proofs, which are usually of excellent quality and included as part of the photographer's fee. This way, you'll be spared the hefty fees photographers commonly charge for prints. Consider this: With the price of an 8 x 10 inch photo usually ranging between $10 to $20, and 4 x 6 and 5 x 7 inch photos averaging $8 to $15, you could potentially slash a few hundred dollars off your total cost if you need a whole bunch for family and friends.

34 Hire a top videographer but purchase only the unedited video (make sure this option is written into your contract). If you're computer-savvy, you can edit the video yourself, or even hire a film student from a local school to do it for you. While a pro might charge $100 per hour for this service, a college student might do it for $10.

having a band play for the entire evening. Instead, consider hiring performers—say, a string quartet or even a solo harpist—to play during dinner, when most guests are not out on the dance floor, and then bring in a disc jockey to get the party rocking for the remainder of the evening. A string quartet will cost at least $2,000 less than a full-piece band, and you'll save an additional 25% by hiring a disc jockey for those final few hours.

38 Love live music? Contact a large entertainment company and hire a band that is just starting out. They generally cost 15% to 20% less than headliners.

Elegant Invitations

39 Want to save $1 per invitation? Assemble them yourself, rather than paying a stationer for the cost of labor, advises Walpole. You might save even more if your invitations have a ribbon that needs to be tied, or they need to be folded in some way, since many stationers charge extra for more elaborate invitations.

40 Forgo expensive engraving and opt for thermography, a computer process that uses heated powder to give the print a two-dimensional look. Thermographed invites, which are cheaper to make, will save as much as 50% of your total cost and will look almost identical to raised ones.

41 If you do want classic, engraved invites but don't want to foot the bill for the entire cost of engraving, choose to have only