

Dance With Us!

Your manual for the perfect wedding party



This is a FREE Preview of the e-book “Dance With Us.”

Written by a DJ with 20 years of wedding party experience.

It is your ultimate guide to find your perfect wedding DJ and give your DREAM wedding reception with a full dance floor!

This free sample of the book contains a few pages of every chapter.

The full e-book contains 124 pages in full color, loaded with tips and guidance how to give your ultimate wedding party!

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Introduction

Congratulations! Your ship is sailing soon. No small ship, this, chugging along a lazy river. We're talking about a colossal wedding vessel with cruise-ship allure: one that only drops anchor in the larger ports of the world.



It's the kind of ship that merits an equally large and bedazzling wedding party, full of fanfare and flamboyance, exquisite gourmet fare and — of course! — a big dance night.

You certainly don't need such a ship. How you organize it, who you go to, which party room you book and which DJ you engage, are decisions that take a while. There is—as yet—no plan or blueprint on how to prepare the ideal wedding.

These days there are lots of wedding magazines and websites. They all promise shiploads of tips and tricks to make your wedding day special.

Unfortunately, they usually don't go beyond some very superficial advice. Things you've known for a long time.

This handbook gives you advice on how to plan your evening and dance party. It's sure to delight you with countless tips on how to make your wedding unforgettable. It will also guard you against pitfalls and common blunders.

We approach everything from a local perspective. Why? Because the tips given on American websites don't always take into account values and customs in our part of the world.

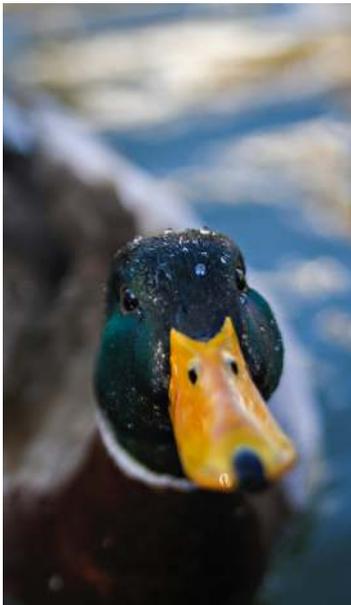
Meet Freddy the Duck

Say hello to Freddy the Duck. You'll meet him many times in this book.

Freddy studied wedding management and explored every pond at every banquet hall in Belgium.

He's an expert in wedding management and he'll point you to the important things in this book.

Pay attention when he speaks to you, because he's not easily satisfied and can peck hard at your toes.



Say hello to Freddy.
He's an expert in
wedding management and
he'll show you the
important things in this
book.

Parts of This Book:

Part 1: The Plan



This part of the book deals with the preparation. What planning needs to be done, and what to expect.

Part 2: Superstar DJ, Here We Go!



We jump in with this part of the book. We see who the DJ is, how DJs are created and why they're so important for your party!

Part 3: Music styles



We look at the music that's ideal for your party, and why it needs a lot of thought and planning.

Part 4: Book the Perfect DJ



You learned about DJs in the previous section, but you haven't found your ideal DJ yet. In this section you'll learn how to find the very best DJ for your party.

Part 5: The Ballroom



Choosing the right ballroom is of course a must for a showstopping wedding party. We look at the sort of room that'll guarantee a successful party. You'll also find out why your local parish hall is unlikely to be transformed into a magnificent ballroom.

Part 6: The Party



Yes, it's party time at last! We look at the joys of your celebration—and how to make certain that *all* goes according to plan. We also discuss the MC (master of ceremonies), the script, and how to entice as many people as possible onto the dance floor right from the get-go.

Part 7: Tips for a successful dance party



You'll pick up a load of great ideas to make sure your dance floor is full all evening! You'll find a very large checklist of what you absolutely must do—and what to avoid—to inject the maximum atmosphere and dance into your party!

Part 8: BONUS: The Photographer



A bonus part: how to find the finest wedding photographer. We're talking about the ultimate criteria of a photographer, what you should look for, and the costs involved.

Part 9: Conclusion



Acknowledgements and contact information.

Finding Your Ideal DJ Is the Goal of This Book

The DJ is most likely the one person who'll guarantee the success of your party. "Huh?" I hear you say. "Did I read that right?"

Let me run that by you one more time, just to be sure:

The DJ is most likely the one person who'll guarantee the success of your party!

Are you still unconvinced? Don't worry, I'm going to repeat this until there's no more doubt in your mind. When you've read the whole book, you'll understand.

Yes, this book deals with the DJ, but a lot more besides. He may be a key figure, but there are many more aspects of your party that we'll consider in great detail.

The main theme of this book is the **ballroom**.

If you don't think it's *that* important that your wedding guests dance as much as possible, then this may not be the right book for you.

But... if you can't wait to revel in a packed dance floor all night, then this book won't disappoint you.

“What’s this book all about?”

It’s a guide to how to prepare your wedding party in the best way possible.

Let’s be clear on that one. This is about your wedding **party** and not your wedding **day**. Here you’ll find a lot of tips and advice on how to make your wedding day a success. **However, the main focus is on the evening and your dance party.**

Most of this book is about finding your ideal DJ. Together we’ll look at the strange creature known as a DJ, and how best to approach him in order to squeeze the best out of him.

About The Author

The book is a result of my experiences as a mobile wedding DJ. I performed at countless weddings for 16 years. Big, small, rich, poor, exclusive, classic, special...

I saw hundreds of weddings up close. And, by all accounts, I contributed mightily to the success of each and every one.

So, this book contains no superficial nonsense and phony-baloney, the kind that any greenhorn could come up with.

Nor is it standard information, “*borrowed*” from numerous websites, chewed over, and given a whole new look.

No, you won’t find the tips, suggestions and stories in this book on the internet, in wedding magazines, or anywhere else. They’ve been painstakingly put together for this book, and for this book alone.

In short: this little volume deals with the whole wedding party, but puts a heavy focus on the dance, the DJ, and the music.

Apologies To the Female Gender

Throughout the book I talk about the male DJ, always referring to the DJ as “*he*.” But of course, a DJ can just as well be a woman—and is often the case.

Mind you, I considered writing “*him or her*” whenever I refer to the DJ, but soon found out that this slows down the reading.

It has to be said that the majority of DJs in the world are indeed men. I have no idea why. The good news is that there are quite a number of female DJs. Proof that the ladies can take command of the turntables.

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1

PART



PART 1

THE PLAN

I tell you no secret when I say that organizing a wedding requires thorough planning and preparation. We start this chapter with a general overview of what you should think carefully about, what needs to be arranged. Many of the things I touch upon here are revealed in more detail further on in the book.

Your Wedding, Your Vision

Weddings come in many shapes and sizes. It's vital that you discuss with your partner what you want—and what you *don't* want—and make the party truly yours. Would you like it loose and casual? Or would you prefer it more conventional?

You can opt for the classic wedding-by-the-book, where tradition takes pride of place. With fairy gardens, expensive vintage limos, 7-course meals served by waiters in tuxedos, in a romantic castle, where all that's missing is the dragon in the basement.

You can also go for a wedding party with a snack bar or a barbecue in the local parish hall, or in a marquee in the garden.

Two extremes: with of course a world of possibilities in between.

So how much attention do you give to the actual *dance party*? And how important is the accompanying grandeur—the expensive cars and fairy-tale castles? Lots to think about. And quickly, because this will decide almost everything to do with budget, options, and location.

Regardless of which tradition and ceremony you want to give the folks, the choice is up to *you guys*.

It may sound like cliché, but there's a lot of truth in it.

“We don't really want to do this, but it's tradition so we have to . . . and our parents insist on it!” That's a line we hear too often.

Let's be clear: You don't have to do anything! It's *your* party, and *you* decide from start to finish what will happen, when it's going to happen, and how it's going to happen.

The only 2 people who have to agree on this are you and your partner.

- Don't want the typical mixing on the dance floor?
- Don't want the classic waving of napkins at your party?
- Don't want to get married in a church?
- Don't want to sit at the table for hours, waiting for a 12-course meal?

Then don't do it. Follow your heart and dare to be original.

Of course, there are limits. Inviting all your guests to arrive naked for an evening party on Bredene Beach—just to be different—will probably meet with strong family disapproval.

Use your common sense, but dare to deviate from the straight and narrow.

Legal Marriage

Let's have a quick run-through of the boring bits, then we can get on with the rest of the book. Here you'll find a brief definition of legal marriage, and how to access the necessary information about it.

To be sure, the legal requirements are important. We'll run through them quickly, but there's probably nothing here that you didn't already know.

Conditions and Formalities

A few words of explanation about legal marriage. Short and concise, because there's nothing secretive in this chapter.

You marry in the presence of an officiant, and the ceremony is subject to conditions, costs, and obligations. It's a good idea to contact the Registry of Deaths, Births and Marriage of your town or city as early as possible and find out how to proceed.

Check the website for all procedures, costs, and formalities.
<https://www.belgium.be/nl/familie/koppel/huwelijk>

Notice Of Marriage or Marriage Declaration

The marriage license is a declaration of your intention marry. You and your partner must go to the registry service of your city or municipality. You'll likely have to make an appointment first.

Even if you get married in a church, you have to arrange the license there and register with the clergyman.

The notification period is to check if all legal and church requirements for entering into marriage have been met.

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2

PART



PART 2

SUPERSTAR DJ

HERE WE GO!

The Importance of a Good DJ

The DJ is the most important element in a successful party. Let me repeat that... **The DJ is the most important element in a successful party.** Take a good look at the above sentence. Feel free to stare at it for a few minutes until it fully hits home, because it's very, very important—and known to only a few.

We wouldn't wish it on anybody, but it can happen that the quality of your party was reduced to lukewarm pop slop. But fortunately, you'd hired a top-notch DJ, who rose to the occasion, and all night long provided a heaving dance floor. The guests will remember your wedding as the one that left them thrilled and fulfilled.

How does that work? Let me explain...

In our culture it's hard to imagine a party where music and dance don't take central stage. Other things are of course important, too. For instance, the Burgundian Belgian can appreciate good feasts as well.

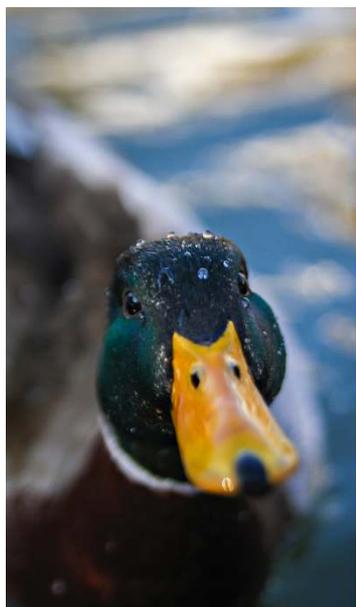
Strangely enough, if the food served up turns out to be inferior, there's sure be grumbling at that moment, and those gripes are shared with equally disgruntled tablemates. **Life goes on**, however, and in no time, this will be forgotten.

But hey, when the DJ comes up with bad music, the result is an empty dance floor. Rest assured those years afterwards those guests will still be talking about how bad the party was!

The stuffy ballroom and the undercooked fish will be forgotten by the guests in no time. But there's no escape for a bad DJ.

Music is the most important ingredient for the success of your entire party. There's a lot of truth in the statement, "*The DJ makes or breaks a party.*"

This book will help you find the right DJ—the guy who'll make your party unforgettable.



A good DJ will transform your party, a bad one will turn it into a disaster. Make sure you booked the right one.

Offers

The supply of DJs in disco clubland is large. Quacks and professional DJs are everywhere on the internet, and each one praises himself to high heaven!

Unfortunately, we live in a time where every teenager with a collection of illegally downloaded music and a laptop can call himself a DJ.

The relationship between the music and the passion for it is usually hard to find.

What happened to the time when a DJ put together a treasure trove of records, doggedly searching for that one number? Those guys—and I'm one of them—knew every song in their collection.

The internet era turned this on its head, and not always in a good way. You're the customer, and it's your job to separate the wheat from the chaff and find the right DJ, the guy who still has a passion for music.

It's certainly not an easy job. You can check out the hairstylist beforehand, and before you order your wedding cake you can taste a sample a few weeks beforehand.

Finding a good DJ/disco bar is another kettle of fish. If you've never heard your potential DJ manning the music box, it'll be like reading tea leaves. What the guy

tells you is all you have too on. Maybe he's a good salesman, but that doesn't make him a good DJ.

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3

PART



PART 3

MUSIC STYLES

Your Style and The DJ's Style

Before you start the search for the right DJ, ask yourself what style of music you want to hear and dance to at your party.

After that you will of course have to find DJs who are maestros in these styles. A DJ who claims to literally play all styles of music is either unique, overestimates his knowledge of music, or is bragging a lot.

Usually, the last one is true. There are simply too many styles of music to be at home in all genres. So, most DJs will specialize only in certain ones.

The typical dime-a-dozen wedding DJ will of course go for the more commercial work, from the '60s or '70s up to the present day. Of course, there's nothing wrong with that. In many cases the guests will go for that style of music.

Naturally, within the commercial, danceable music genres, there's still a world of difference and approach between the different DJs.

Don't make the mistake of lumping together all the DJs who work with "*all the usual danceable genres*".

There's also a fundamental difference whenever you want to appeal to a small group of people, such as a handful of 60-plussers or maybe a tango or two for an aunt, as opposed to gearing the style of music to the whole party.

In the first case, the DJ, with a little work and preparation, will get through with flying colors. But in a second case, if you mainly want a reggae party, for example, and the DJ doesn't know the buzz for this genre, the party will turn out to be a bummer, or you'll soon hear the Black-Eyed Peas through the speakers.

So be wary if you hear that the DJ can literally handle all styles.

There's a vast quantity of music and therefore a lot of types of music. For a DJ to claim that he knows them all, and knows where the gems are in each genre, is ludicrous.

Know in advance what you want, and especially what the guests want to dance to.

Your Style Vs. The Guests' Style

Be aware that you're throwing a party for family, friends, colleagues... They don't necessarily prefer your style of music.

Before approaching the DJ with specific music-style requests, think about who's invited to your party, what their ages are, and what their musical tastes might be. It makes little sense to ask the DJ to play mainly hard rock, if the vast majority are over 60 years of age and want to hear mainly disco.

Most weddings go for a healthy mix from the '70s to now, with everything in between. It's up to the DJ to sense which music styles will keep the dance floor alive and which musical direction to take. Of course, the DJ can—or even should—try to take your preferences into account as much as possible. More about that later.

You Can't Please 'Em All

You can't please 'em all! It's the DJ's job to make everybody happy. Especially when it comes to dancing. Keep in mind that, in the final analysis, it's the dance floor, and therefore the guests present, who'll decide on the music the DJ plays.

If the vast majority of the guests mainly choose modern dance music, and only 5 elderly people at a small table at the back of the room want to dance a tango, then it becomes difficult for the latter.

The DJ would have to decimate the entire dance floor and point everyone toward the bar, in order to play a tango for 2 couples, with the risk that after their dance—when the old dears are back at their table—the atmosphere has flatlined.

A good DJ will cut his losses and choose for a full dance floor the whole evening. When the dance floor is clear, the DJ can seize the opportunity to change genres, if necessary.

When a wide variety of musical tastes and ages are present, it can be a good idea to let as many people as possible express their preferences.

However, if you're the only one who wants to hear mainly bad jazz at a '90s retro party, where everyone is dancing on the table, the DJ will leave you out in the cold. And with good reason: *"You can't please 'em all."*

The Music List

Every DJ knows it: the infamous list of song requests. As we already discussed in detail, this shouldn't be a problem for the DJ. On the contrary.

Before you start drawing up such a list, think of the following:

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4

PART



PART 4

BOOK THE PERFECT DJ

You've arrived at one of the most important parts of this book. Here's your guide to finding the ideal DJ for your wedding reception.

In this section I describe how to proceed, what questions you need to ask to separate the wheat from the chaff, what you can expect from the guy himself, and how to manage everything. We'll also take a look at how much a DJ would cost and give you a breakdown on those costs.

Overview

Step 1: the search

Step 2: the shortlist

Step 3: the preparation

Step 4: the call

Step 5: the decision

Step 6: the party

Step 1: The Search

As with everything in modern times, the search engine is your friend. A DJ without a website nowadays is like a baker without bread. The days when DJs offered their services through the Yellow Pages lies far in the past.

So, surf the net and check out as many websites of disco clubs and DJs as possible. Look for credibility, style, experience, references...

These days, a website is the curtain-raiser for a business. Does the website radiate any kind of professionalism? Does it give you the necessary confidence? Is it full of spelling errors? Is the site hard on the eyes, or does it seem to suffer from Tourette's syndrome?

Of course, a super-wonderful website is no guarantee of a good DJ. And also, the opposite is true: a DJ without a website can still play the stars out of the sky. That said, your first impression and gut feeling will guide you toward making the right choice.

Make a note of the names and websites of the disco clubs and DJs you like. Google the DJ's name as well, and you may find positive or negative reactions from people who've already booked this guy.

Experience

You need an experienced DJ at your wedding. Okay, everyone has to start somewhere and everyone should get a chance to hone his craft. But preferably not at your party.

A debut DJ will make mistakes. Wrong songs playing at the wrong times, which will almost certainly clear the dance floor. A newbie like him won't be able to judge which music to play for which people. That only comes with years of experience.

That's why it's important that a novice DJ goes to a gig with a mentor, and many wedding parties are entertained under the supervision and advice of an experienced maestro. Someone who's just starting out shouldn't be performing solo at your wedding.

So, what's the minimum amount of experience needed? Of course, some people have more talent and learn faster than others. There's no easy answer to the minimum number of performances.

I'd expect a DJ to have done at least 10 weddings—at least half of which under the supervision of a mentor—before you hire him.

You should also ask the date of his last party. A DJ who's been idle for 2 years will be "rusty" anyway, and will no longer be au fait with today's popular music.

Ask specifically for his experience of wedding receptions. Birthday parties, for example, are usually less demanding.

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6

PART



PART 6

THE PARTY

Introduction

We can continue to palaver about its preparation. But in the end, it's going to happen: the party! The day you two have been looking forward to for a long time.

I cannot emphasize this enough: **it's your party**. Plan the party the way **you** want it. Don't let tradition or the wishes of family members upset you.

Follow your heart, and when the time comes, you'll be a more satisfied person than if you were guided by all kinds of traditions, family demands, and must-do's.

It's your party: do what you believe is best.

You'll hear it often. In the meantime, don't forget to enjoy it, because like most things in life, this day will soon be over.

Timing

Time management is important. Time is not only money; it also helps the world to stay organized and avoid a hundred-and-one things. This is also the case at your wedding.

We start off quite philosophically: everything has a beginning and an end. The whole planning, such as the celebration, reception, the food until of course the dance party, has to fit in with this.

Needless to say, this has to be taken care of in order to avoid chaos. A master of ceremonies and a schedule can help you with this. More about that later.

It's important to put together a good schedule. That may sound like overkill and more like something for the CEO of a port authority, but without knowing how long each part of the celebrations could go on for, you risk chaos and major delays—with all the consequences.

Trust me, the last thing you want is to start your first dance at 2 in the morning, because the catering staff weren't able to get the various courses ready in time.

So, take a look at every stage of your wedding and try to estimate how long each will take. Of course, also consult with the parties involved, such as the catering staff and the party-room folks.

Consider things like: How many snacks will be served at the reception? How long will the daddy-in-law's speech last? How long will the pause between the main course and the dessert last?

Don't exaggerate. It's not necessary to interrupt your daddy-in-law's speech halfway—with a risk of disinheritance—when your chronometer indicates 00:00:00, but it helps to have a fairly accurate time estimate, to avoid less-than-pleasant surprises.

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7

PART



PART 7

TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL DANCE PARTY

Tips

I'd like to give you a load of tips on what you can do to make your wedding extra special. The DO's and DON'Ts for a successful wedding party.

The Boredom

Sooner or later, it'll happen: your guests will grow bored. To prevent this, you'll need to be as original as possible.

If you opt for tradition, bear in mind that there's always a load of "*gravity and protocol*" involved. But the label "*this is the way it should be*" is seldom compatible with a playful and fancy-free approach.

It's up to you to choose what makes you happiest. But don't forget to consider the guests' needs as well.

If you're planning on staging a transvestite show, think about how the guests will receive it. For example, if you're dealing with a very prudish family, this won't go down too well.

Whether their irritation bothers you is another matter, but you have to at least give it some thought.

Entertainment

Some ideas to upgrade the party. The majority cost money, of course. It's up to you to consider what you can put on and how much you're willing to pay for it.

Entertainment means variety. And variety is fun, tackles the boredom and gives stuff to talk about. If you, do it right, the guests will also remember your wedding as being cool and original.

Wedding Theme

Many things start off in the United States. One trend that's been very popular there for many years is weddings with a theme.

Are you a big fan of Harry Potter, *Game of Thrones*, or *vampires*? Do you dream of getting married with a setting like that?

There are specialized companies that'll arrange this for you and set up the complete framework for you, including costumes, music, cutlery, extras and, if desired, even the food!

It's certainly daring, and you can be sure that all the guests will be talking about it for a long time to come!

Music Performance

A performance by a singer or a band is an obvious choice. The genre or style depends of course on your personal preferences and tastes in music. And of course, the preferences of the guests.

Keep in mind that if you engage a professional band, you might be shocked by the price. Before you know it, the price can quickly mount to several hundred—or even thousands—of euros.

A lone singer, without a full band, will usually be cheaper. Make sure your singer can entertain the audience and not just come and perform the songs, because in that case he or she won't be much more than musical wallpaper.

In direct contrast to what a DJ has to do—keep his mouth shut as much as possible and play good music—the singer has to entertain the audience. Otherwise, you might as well have let the DJ keep on spinning and saved a lot of money.

More or less the same selection process for the DJ applies to choosing a singer or a band. Make sure you know them, have already heard them, or checked with some people who have.

An artiste who sings so many bum notes that he has the audience cringing and making faces, is annoying, to say the least.

Be sure to ask the singer or band to bring their own sound system. If they wish to use the DJ's installation, the DJ must of course agree. Check also if it's technically possible, because not every DJ can cater for live entertainers.

Leave nothing to chance, and make sure that both parties get in touch with one another, to check if all of this really is technically possible. That way, you avoid unpleasant surprises on the night.

If the DJ can't provide the necessary amplification, and the singer or band don't have their own installation, then renting an extra sound system is the only alternative. There are plenty of specialized companies that do this.

Search for "*sound system rental*" on the internet, and you'll find plenty of them.

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8

PART



PART 8

BONUS - THE WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHER

So far, we've spoken extensively about the dance party and the ambiance. In this chapter we're going to zoom in on the person who'll immortalize the party for posterity: the photographer.

Amateur or Professional?

You get the picture: Uncle Jeff has been taking photos at every family and holy-communion party for years and, often to the point of boredom, has photographed the rest of the family members in every possible way—at the table, around the table, on the table, and maybe even **under** the table.

What if your Uncle Jeff were to ask you if you'd like him to come and take pictures on your big day? A good idea? Maybe...

It all depends on how much of the budget you've set aside for a photographer. When you approach one and ask directly for the price, we could be talking €1,000 or more. It's a matter of what's "*in the package*".

Always bear in mind that a wedding photographer captures the memories for all time. It would be a shame if the photos are mediocre, because for budgetary reasons you chose Uncle Jeff...

If it's the 12th wedding for one of you, and you simply want shots of everything, then don't hesitate to call upon the services of Uncle Jeff. However, if you've spent a year organizing your big day and everything has to run smoothly, then a few hundred euros to book a slightly more experienced wedding photographer is money well spent. It figures. A lot depends on Jeff's photographic talents. Have you looked at pictures he took at the wedding of another family member who booked him? Go for it! But take a good look, and compare them to pictures a professional would take!

END of SAMPLE.

Full book contains 124 pages

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