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# 46 Questions To Ask Your

*Prospective Wedding DJ*





# INTRODUCTION

Finding the right DJ for your wedding goes beyond the music. They will establish the tone, ambiance, and pace for your guests, your partner, and yourself. When you're searching for a DJ, you need to look for someone whose style, energy and music aligns with yours.

To obtain the ideal fit, begin searching in advance - the most sought-after wedding DJs tend to get booked early. Take meticulous notes when you speak with a potential disc jockey for your wedding.

Every wedding has its own sound track -from that special walk down the aisle, down to the couple's first dance, the toss of the bouquet, and the final farewell. Music establishes the tone for the whole day, and that's why your wedding DJ plays such a key role.

Hiring an incompetent DJ can lead to a number of reception flops such as playing the wrong song, creating a boring ambiance, making an off-color remark, or embarrassing the guests.

We've put together a list of questions you should ask your wedding DJ, to help you vet the candidates properly. Therefore, before you hire any DJ for your wedding, you need to ask him/her these pertinent questions:

# THE LOGISTICS

## Are you available on my wedding day?

## How long has the DJ worked professionally?

There's a distinction between paid and volunteer gigs. Ensure your potential wedding DJ has plenty of experience. After all, you depend on them to entertain everyone.

## How many weddings do you service every year?

Weddings are not the only events that require DJs. They perform at birthday parties, corporate events, bar mitzvahs, and bars, so you ought to make sure that he/she has performed at enough weddings to be comfortable with them and the degree of sophistication required. Establish how much experience they have for wedding performances.

## What makes your services different from your competitors?

Pay attention to the response you get from this query. A professional disc jockey will reply with a few short reasons why they are better than their counterparts.

## Do you intend to advertise yourself to our guests?

This is not an opportunity to parlay one gig into more; it's a paid gig that warrants professionalism. Ensure the disc jockey you hire isn't socializing with other potential clients when he's supposed to be entertaining your guests.

## Have you worked at this venue before?

If the potential DJ is familiar with the setup and employees in your wedding's venue, it can simplify things. It's not required, but it's beneficial to know that the setting is not a foreign environment for the wedding DJ for the sake of setup and layout preparation.



**Are they primarily focused on weddings or do they perform at other functions?**

**How far ahead should you secure the services of the DJ?**

**Can you show me testimonials and reviews?**

Feedback is a vital aspect of hiring anyone. A professional disc jockey will be happy to show you multiple references and be proud of their experience.

**Can we meet just before the wedding to hash-out particulars?**

**What is their policy about smoking or drinking on the job?**

## YOUR ENTERTAINER

**How do you want your DJ to be dressed?**

You should make sure your DJ is dressed in a manner that is suitable for the occasion. Every professional entertainer should have access to formal attire (and if they don't, that should be a red flag about their professionalism). It is however your responsibility to specify how you want your performers to appear.

**Will you announce the bouquet toss, wedding party, first dance, and other relevant wedding moments?**

You should not assume that your disc jockey will give introductions to those giving speeches, call the first dance, or advise patrons when meals are served. A planner, or a best man or maid of honor, could handle these announcements, so it is better for you to be clear about that before hiring the DJ.



## Prior to signing a contract, can we meet the DJ assigned to our event?

If the company you're working with has a lot of DJs in their employ, you should probably meet the DJ assigned to you, to make sure you're comfortable with him or her handling the reception. Do they come across as fun and cool while remaining respectful? Are they paying attention to your queries and replying with insightful, concrete answers? Do you feel like they would be a pleasant addition to the event? You'll only find these things out by meeting the disc jockey in person.

## Is the DJ expecting to be fed?

A professional disc jockey doesn't eat on the job. While it's nice to be presented with some food, you shouldn't feel guilty about not offering some. A professional disc jockey won't ever drink alcohol prior to an event, nor will they drink during it.





# PRICING POLICY

Cost is a very important factor when picking a DJ for your wedding, but it goes deeper than just asking about the price. You must know exactly what the price entails. This is the best way to avoid unpleasant surprises after signing the contract.

## What is the overall cost and how much is needed for the deposit?

Ask the DJ if they are willing to be paid prior to (or after) the event. Attempting to compensate wedding vendors on your wedding day can be troublesome.

## Do you need a deposit to reserve the date?

Paying deposit is a professional way of reserving your DJ for a particular date. A deposit can establish commitment, trust and well-being between the parties.

## How will you handle the payment?

## What are the acceptable payment methods?

## When is the last payment expected to be received?

## What are their policies on cancellation?

This is important because you need to know the possible repercussions of changing your plans about the date or music (or anything that affects the work of the DJ).

## Do the prices include set-up and breakdown?

## If the event exceeds the scheduled duration how much will they charge for overtime?

It's only fair for the DJ to be paid for overtime if the over-time is very significant. It won't be nice if the DJ suddenly decides to bail out in the middle of your ceremony when the guests are enjoying themselves because he or she doesn't do over-time. Determine in advance if the disc jockey is willing to work overtime if required.

### How far ahead should I book the DJ for my wedding?

### Can the DJ offer a written contract?

Like with any wedding vendor, don't agree to anything if you don't have a written contract. If one isn't offered, find another DJ.

### Will there be any extra fees that I'm overlooking, like charges for special request or travel expenses?

## EQUIPMENT

### How long will it take the DJ to setup and pack up on the wedding day?

### What is the set-up and takedown process?

It's vital to have a fundamental idea of this to coordinate things with regards to scheduling and articulating any precise requirements for your venue.

### What type of equipment will they use?

### What are the things the DJ will need the venue to provide?

### Do they have another plan if the equipment doesn't operate like it should during the wedding reception?

While it doesn't happen often, electronics can malfunction. When a microphone, laptop, or wiring doesn't work, the disc jockey must have a backup ready to use instead. Many disc jockeys will be ready for surprises, but it's prudent to make sure they won't be caught off guard.



### **Are equipment's such as the speakers, sound system, and the wireless microphone used for toast, included in the price?**

You should ensure that the DJ has all the equipment necessary to provide the best musical experience for your wedding.

### **Do you provide lighting?**

### **Who will organize the setup?**

The sound system must be setup by someone, generally the individual in charge of the music. You should introduce the person to your wedding coordinator so they can arrange a convenient time for the setup.

### **Do you attach a banner or sign to your equipment?**

### **When will you arrive at the venue and when will you leave?**

It is necessary to confirm their time of arrival before the event, so you can ensure that they arrive early enough to give the performers enough time to set things up. You should also ask when they intend to leave. If you need them to remain at the event for an after-party, speak to the disc jockey prior to signing a contract with them.





## MUSIC

### How much time to do I have to send our event information and music requests?

### How current is their music collection?

Does the DJ have access to the most recent songs?

### Will they take song requests from your guest during the event?

Find out the necessary protocols for accepting requests from guests – that's if you want them to handle it in their own way. Some professionals have their own unique ways of getting requests.

### What if our preferred songs are not in the DJ's music collection?

If for any reason whatsoever your preferred music is not in the DJ's collection, can the DJ get it before the event?

### Does your equipment let you transition from one song into another so that there are no breaks between tunes?

Being able to enjoy a seamless flow of music is one of the biggest perks of hiring a DJ as opposed to just using an iPod. However, if the DJ is unable to offer you this, then you should probably look elsewhere.

### Will the DJ go on breaks? If they do, what happens during those periods?

A professional disc jockey knows how to keep the music playing without anyone noticing his absence. Unlike what is obtainable with an iPod or a band, a good DJ should be able to provide a smooth flow of music without interruptions.



**Will you offer your own playlist and a list of songs not to play? Will you use my playlist and not play certain songs I specify?**

Wedding disc jockeys play whatever they want to listen to, enjoying the autonomy that comes with the job. However, because it's your wedding, you must have some say in what gets played (and what doesn't). The disc jockey must abstain from playing whatever you put on a 'do not play' list. That way, guests won't hear anything potentially offensive something or that makes them uncomfortable.

**Can you show me an online mix of your music?**

**How would your style be described?**

Is the DJ the type that likes to engage the crowd and interact with them? Is he or she energetic or relaxed and laid-back?

**How do you accommodate couples who have their own playlists?**

**What are your preferred genres?**



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## IN CONCLUSION

If these queries are asked, you will have a strong handle on gauging a wedding disc jockey.

Once you finish asking the wedding disc jockey these questions, you'll understand the performance and work approach of your candidates. The more insight you get, the more equipped you'll be to make the proper choices and get a suitable DJ for your wedding!

-Franco Puetz, Owner of Show Me Sound

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