

Diy wedding videos

OUR SHOOT GUIDE



*Use your camera and look around, hunt for those videos that need to be found!
Shoot away and use these tips, find that footage a standard videographer would have missed*

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A photograph of two young women with long brown hair, smiling and laughing. They are wearing white dresses and appear to be at a wedding or a similar celebration. The background is slightly blurred, showing white drapery and greenery.

Introduction

While a wedding is a fun and exciting day for all concerned, there is plenty of organisation and planning behind the scenes. The wedding video is just one of the things to get organized. Some people may think that choosing to shoot your own wedding video is a big deal, however with the right preparation it really isn't !

With modern-day camera phones and some support from the right editing team (That's us!) it's perfectly possible to organize the filming of your own video. With the correct footage (which this guide will help you achieve) and our help, you can ensure that the video of your special day is a truly unique one.

It's All In The Plan

Planning the video is probably the most important part of the process. While a modern camera phone may be forgiving and easy to operate, everything depends on a good plan

However, before you plan the structure of the video, you need to make sure you are on top of one particular aspect, getting the right team that can get the best results.

The Team

When picking your helpers / camera operators it's important you find people who may actually want to do the job. The wedding day can also be a big day for them, and although it doesn't take a huge amount of effort to snap a few videos it's always that bit easier who would be doing so anyway (The shutterbugs!).

Some people may be less than confident around technology, especially when their skills are to be seen by others. It's important to remind someone in these cases that there will be a few cameras floating about the day and just to give it their best shot (Pun intended).

You don't want to make anyone's memory of the day negative because they have been assigned a job so if someone you ask doesn't feel 100% confident about it or is not 100% happy about it, it's probably best to start looking for an alternative.

Once you have selected a few people to ask to help out, it's wise to ensure they have the right equipment for the job. Essentially, this means having a relatively modern phone with a good quality camera. The good news is that, most people in our experience do fall into this category (but it's still important to ensure that you have this aspect confirmed).

When it comes to arranging how filming is going to take place on the day, you can be afforded greater flexibility if you have a number of people with cameras roaming about.

By having a few people taking videos, you can assign certain parts of the day to certain people and spread the work.

The more camera people the better, as this reduces the pressure on any one individual and allows for more varied footage of the day. Giving out 'blocks' of time and phases of the event means you can have people enjoying the day while still having a key role to play in creating the wedding video. It is well worth dividing up the day as part of the planning, and then ensuring that everyone gets some time to relax and be part of the proceedings (rather than someone having to have the camera working all the time). You can plan all of this out using our shot planner at the end of this guide.

Finally, and probably the most obvious part of choosing your helpers is to ensure they are trustworthy and organised. Of course, this does not mean that you are looking to analyze someone's personal integrity, but rather that you know they will be able to do their best on the day. You only have one shot at getting the right footage so please make sure you ask someone who won't be up at the bar as you cut the cake :P ??

To summarize, having a team of people who are able to help with getting all the right footage shares the load, and reduces the pressure. Make sure they are well-equipped, don't have too much to do, and are able to be in the right places at the right times



The Footage

Footage can vary greatly in terms of quality. It's best that when speaking with your helpers you ask them to match up to a certain quality. If you have footage that is to be edited, putting together two pieces of footage that are obviously of a different visual quality never turns out as well.

We would advise shooting in 1080p as this is of a high enough quality to look great on a big screen TV. However, this level of quality still won't take up as much space on your helpers phones (as say 4k) which means they will be able to capture much more of the day.

Shorter clips can often look messy and end up a little disappointing when edited together.

With this in mind, for certain sections of the day (Ceremony / Speeches) you will need to have cameras running the whole time. This means you won't miss anything. These sections of the day will likely be key parts of your video, and one long clip will be much more effective and better edited than a series of small ones.

Having multiple cameras running at the same time from different angles for the entirety of the speeches and ceremony is preferable. Do not worry about duplicate footage as having footage from multiple angles rolling for the entirety of the ceremony / speeches will allow us to move from camera to camera during the editing process. Multiple angles will help to give the viewers of the video a sense of variance and allow for more of the feeling of the day to come through in the video.

At some points in the day, you will be looking for 'reaction shots'. This again occurs mainly during the speeches and ceremony, getting some great footage of people for

example reacting to a lover's glance during the ceremony or to the jokes the best man makes during his speech can really add to your video. We would advise if tasking someone to get a few of these shots that they can again leave their camera running as these are far easier to sync up and can be better used during the editing process.

It's very important that you ask the person or team tasked with taking these shots to be discreet where possible. Weddings are very emotional moments in life, and often people want to have a private moment around key parts of the day and will not want to have sight of a camera.

The final point about footage concerns stability. Shaky / handheld footage of the ceremony and speeches can often be unusable and we would always recommend using tripods where possible. You can buy tripods that allow you to gain real stability with your phones from our website. These will help to make the key moments of the day much more rewarding to watch.

Having said this, 'handheld' blocks of footage will have their place in the video (on the dancefloor or during the late night sing along) but trying to hold a camera during the biggest moments of the day isn't advisable. Using tripods for the different angles, especially for the speeches and ceremony brings that extra level of professionalism to the video and makes for more pleasing results.



Footage Structure

Back to the structure of the video, a wedding video has to contain a number of scenes to make it a complete story of the day. Looking back, you will expect to see most if not all of the following scenes in a wedding video:

Pre-Ceremony

- Preparation shots early in the day make for great introductory scenes to any wedding video. They're the moments leading up to the bride and groom making the journey to the church or venue. This can include the bride's hair being done and the groom getting ready. For example, there could be a scene of the groom lining the stomach with breakfast, having a pint to calm the nerves or taking a quick dip in the ocean to blow away the cobwebs. If going for a more formal approach, you could also include scenes of the groom shining his shoes or tying his tie.
- To ensure all aspects are covered, it is important to ensure you have one camera man or woman with both the bride and the groom for the night before / morning of the wedding. This allows you to capture all the key moments leading up to the ceremony itself.
- It's wise to ask someone to try and get a few exterior shots taken of the venue of the wedding. These are always lovely shots and help to set the scene of the day itself. Outside of the preparation shots mentioned above, these are the establishing moments that might include a shot of the drive up to the venue or a few shots of any unique points in the locale.
- It's also a good idea to ask someone to grab some pre-ceremony' shots of the flowers, and the wedding program / booklet. These shots are great 'scene-setters' too and can really add to the beginning of the video.



The Ceremony

- When it comes to the ceremony, it's important that you think carefully about how you are going to ensure all of the truly important footage is taken care of. This part of the day is arguably the most challenging part to film as there is such little movement in the room, so having your plan in place is crucial. We would advise using a number of cameras on tripods to record the ceremony from different angles. You should aim to discuss the filming with those you have asked to take charge of recording in advance of the ceremony itself.
 - There are plenty of important shots to be taken here, but there are also plenty of different angles to cover so having a number of people in charge of recording and setting up cameras on the day will help to ensure that the entire ceremony is captured.
- The optimal camera setup would be:**
- » *One camera on a tripod aimed at the groom.*
 - » *One camera on a tripod aimed at the bride.*
 - » *One camera on a tripod aimed at the band.*
 - » *One camera on a tripod aimed face on or from behind the couple.*
 - » *Once camera to grab a few reaction shots of the crows reactions.*
 - » *One camera to record the 'Key' moments*
- Key moments such as when the bride takes the walk down the aisle and when the groom sees the bride for the first time are incredibly powerful and moving shots that really add to your video. These shots in particular should all be considered when planning out your video and assigning tasks to your helpers.
 - You will need to consider the guests for the wedding too. It's incredibly exciting when the guests are coming into the venue and filling up the seats. There is a huge buzz of expectation in the air, and you'll want to have video that captures this if possible. Try and get footage of guests having conversations and enjoying themselves here which can be used as scene setting shots.
 - Good footage of the family members entering the church or venue can add to your video along with a 'walking in' shot from someone behind a crowd can be nice (albeit can be bumpy and add a bit more of a home video vibe to your video).
 - The ceremony itself, with the transferring of rings and first kiss will be at the heart of your video. This is where multiple cameras on tripods really work. If set up correctly there is no need for multiple people jumping around the room during these special moments.





The Reception

- The Reception is the part of your day where you can have your helpers relax a little, the footage from this part of the day can be a little less structured and formal. You helpers should aim to capture the moments where family and friends are enjoying and celebrating the union. Most have shot videos and taken pictures in these kinds of settings previously so there isn't as much you will need to guide on here.
- You can ask to get shots of where the Reception is being held and people walking in and picking up their first drink, these shots give the video a clear shift from ceremony to Reception, and makes for a great story.
- Footage of a guest book being signed, envelopes going in a post box, people enjoying some nibbles or laughing and cheering can be added to your video to allow for some lovely memorable scenes.

The Dinner

- The dinner is full of amazing moments and plenty of nice include shots that are worthwhile. You could request your helpers to take footage of the tables all setup, special name cards, the table plan or any interesting party favours on the tables.
- A wide shot of the room in which the dinner is taking place is also a great addition. A shot that slowly pans across the room works well, and can be done with the room ready without guests or with the guests enjoying their meals.

The Speeches

- Where possible, the speeches should be covered from a number of different angles. It is a good idea to include reactions from guests as the speeches are delivered if at all possible. These shots can be cut to add some emotion to your video. One long video is better here than a number of small ones as it is easier to match up and get authentic reactions.
- The sound during speeches is obviously very important, and therefore ensuring that the cameras capturing the footage are close enough to be able to hear the speeches is crucial. Again, for sake of ease, and a more stable video it's better if cameras recording the speeches are on tripods.

The Band, DJ and Celebrations

After the speeches, comes some of the best parts of the day. These are the times when people have enjoyed the day and have relaxed over a few glasses of wine over dinner. These few hours offer some great shots which really can bring a bit of craic to the video

Try and organize a few shots of the more formal parts such as cutting the cake and the first dance but don't forget the less formal ones. For example, if there is a photo booth

where guests are dressing up and posing, get a few shots, if there is a fantastic or terrible dancer pulling some moves, get it captured, if there is a late night riverdance happening, make sure you have someone who has a camera at the ready prepared to capture it. These moments are great for some more relaxed footage and scenes of people just letting their hair down a little. This crazy end to the day is a big part of the experience, and will add a lot to the final video.



Resources

Suggested Scenes

Below is a full list of the most common scenes that come up in wedding videos.

There is no need to use them all. Keep in mind that clips for the video will normally be 5-10 seconds in length (but can vary) so we would advise looking at trying to pick 20 - 25 of your favourites from below.

Once reviewed, fill in the video planner on the pages following to write up what scenes you would like to capture and to ensure there is a story to your video. Finally, assign scenes to your helpers (Using their planner - provided).

Night Before

Families / friends packing the cars to go to the venue

Having a pre drink celebration with groomsmen or bridesmaids the night before

Saying goodbye to pets if they are not going to be part of the celebration

Packing the dress carefully into a car

Driving scene if leaving for the venue the night before

Scene Setters

People arriving at the venue

Walking past any sign showing the date and whose wedding it is

Panning shots of any local scenery or cool areas of the venue that can be used to set the start of the video

People checking into hotels

Morning Of With The Groom

Waking the groom up in bed

The groom having a 'cheeky' fry up to line the stomach

Groom and groomsmen having a dip in the sea to blow off the cobwebs

Groom / groomsmen shining their shoes

Groom / groomsmen tying ties / shoe laces

Groom / groomsmen laughing and cheering whiskey

Groom talking and laughing with his parents

Groom and Groomsmen having their photos taken

Groom and parents having photos taken before the ceremony

Morning Of With The Bride

The bride getting her hair and makeup done

The bride and bridesmaids laughing & chatting

The bride and bridesmaids cheering prosecco

The dress hanging up

Panning shot of any flowers or gifts

The bride and bridesmaids having their photos taken

The bride's seeing her parents / guardian for the first time

The bride on her way to the ceremony itself and reaching the venue / church

Bridesmaids fixing veil as bride waits outside the venue

Suggested Scenes Contd.

The Ceremony

Shot from inside the venue of guests arriving and taking their seats

Handheld shot of walking into the venue and seeing the place for the first time

Shot of the the groom welcoming guests

Shot of the groom standing as the bride is about to enter

Moving shot of the bride walking down the aisle

Reaction shot of groom as he sees the bride for the first time

Camera on tripod aimed at the Groom's position for the ceremony (One long recording)

Camera on tripod aimed at the Bride's position for the ceremony (One long recording)

Camera on tripod aimed at bride and groom from behind capturing priest / celebrant for the ceremony (One long recording)

Camera taking one long video that captures people's reactions during the ceremony (Do not break into mini clips as we will edit

Camera on tripod aimed at the band for the ceremony (One long recording)

Shot of bride and groom walking down the aisle after the ceremony

The Reception

The drinks table prepared for the reception

Bride and Groom greeting everyone as they enter the reception

People laughing / cheering

The band playing & people dancing

Photos being taken of friends and family

Someone dropping an envelope into the postbox

Shots of the bride and groom posing as their photos are being taken

The bell being rung for dinner

The Dinner

Shots of the attendees entering the room (Potentially on tripod)

Shots of the wedding party entering the room

Guest reaction shots of the wedding party entering the room

Dinner being served at tables of extended family or close friends

People laughing and joking during the meal

The Speeches

Camera on tripod capturing speech from left hand side (position close to speakers for good sound)

Camera on tripod capturing speech from right hand side at slightly different angle (position close to speakers for good sound)

Camera at table pointing at speeches for close up view

Reaction camera - Capturing audience reactions during speeches (One long video for entirety of speeches)

Reaction camera - People cheering, laughing at the end of the speeches

Reaction camera - Bride / Groom handing flowers to mothers

Reaction camera - Groom hugging best man after his speech

Reaction camera - Bride / Groom hugging fathers after speeches

The Band DJ & Celebrations

Shot of cake being cut by bride and groom

Shot of the first dance

Shot of parents of bride and groom dancing

Shots of the band playing and crowd dancing

Shot of the best dancer on the floor

Shot of the worst dancer on the floor

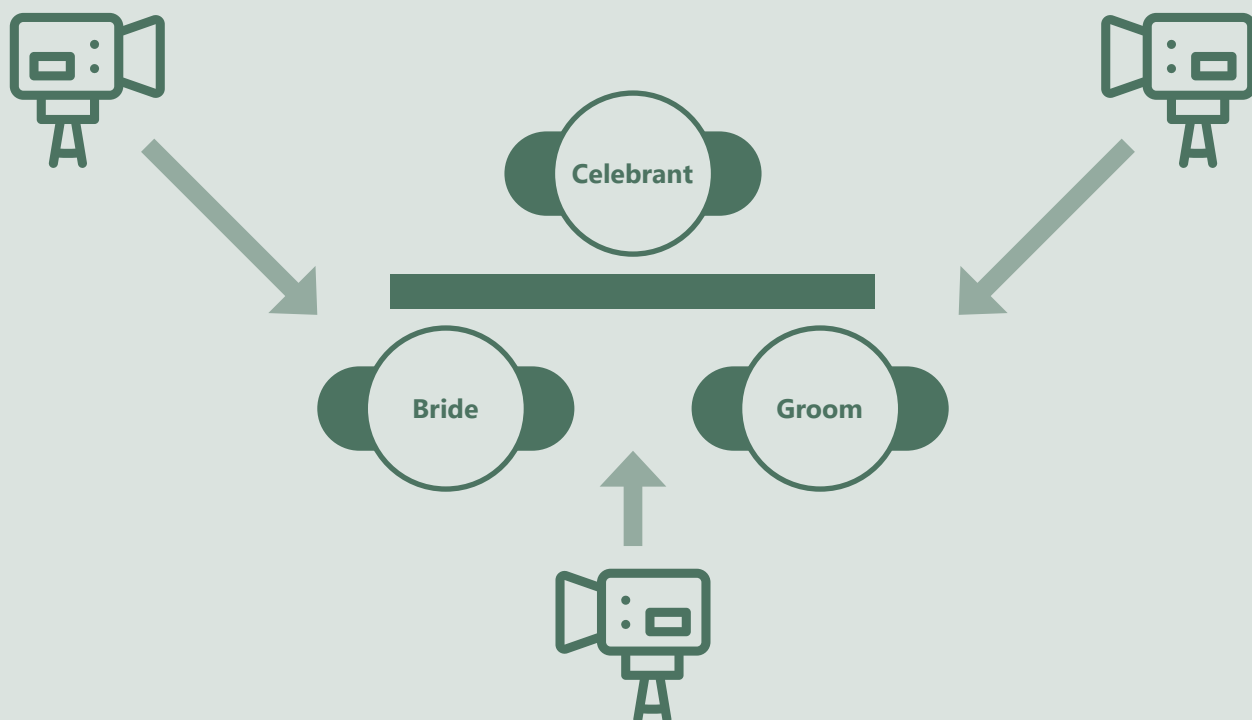
Shot of the late night food being rolled out

Shot of the late night 'Riverdance' or 'Maniac 2000'

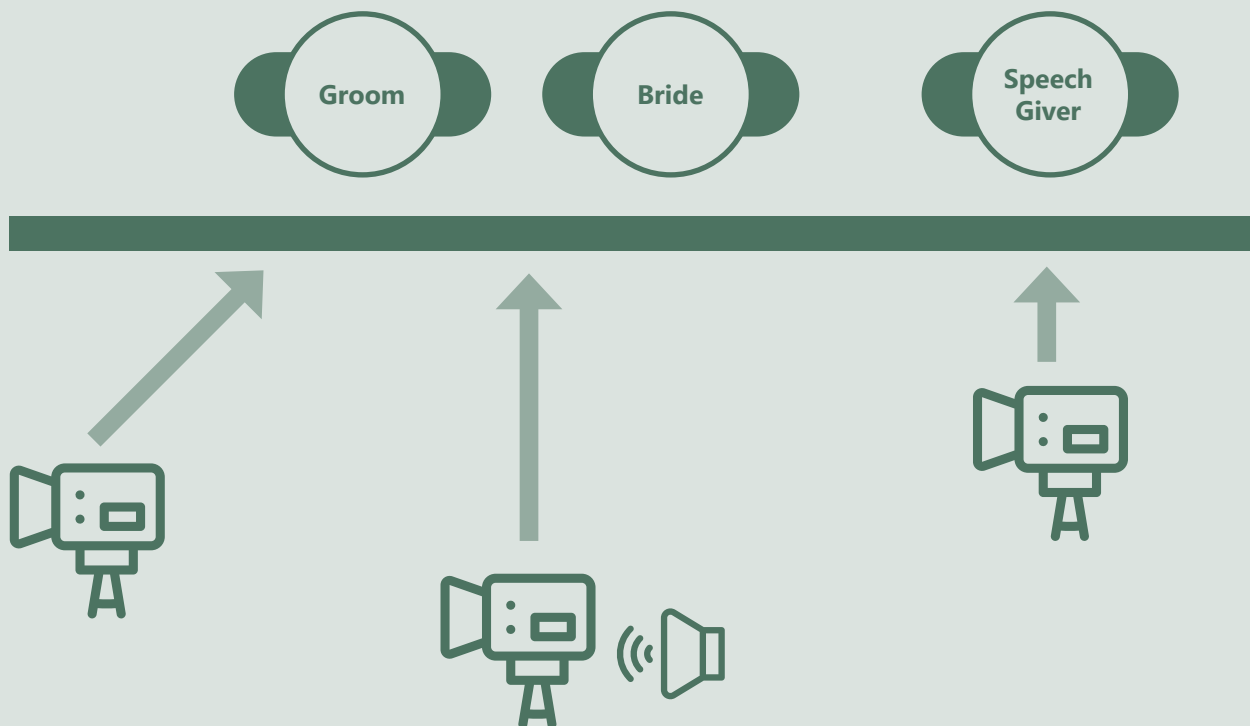
Shot of the late night sing along (If you get that far!)

Suggested Camera layouts:

The Ceremony



The Speeches



NOTE: Please do not use smaller clips - leave the cameras rolling for the entirety of the ceremony and speeches

The Shot / Video Planner

It's best to try and plan out your video in advance. Reviewing the suggested scenes above, plan out what shots you would like to see in what order. This will allow you to ensure that everything on the day is covered and you know your video will have a story. Always best after the day to send us this sheet filled out so we can match up to what you are expecting. We have filled in one or two rows so you know how to fill it out

Once all the scenes have been planned out, use the helper planner on the next page to divvy up the tasks and scenes that need to be captured.

[illegible]

Helper Plan

Using the plan on the previous page, copy across the scenes into the plan below to split up the scenes you want captured by the helpers. This sample letter also gives them some basic tips to get the best quality footage.

Hi _____,

Thanks so much again for agreeing to help out with our video. We are very excited about the day and this hopefully will help us capture some really nice memories of it. We have asked a few different people to help out so don't get too stressed about this. Whatever you can get will be massively appreciated. A few tips we have received from our editor:

- If capturing any long sections of film, if you can use one of our tripods that will help
- Please set your camera setting to _____ that will match with everyone else recording
- Try and not have any shots less than 5 seconds long, best to capture more than less
- If recording speeches or the ceremony keep the recordings all in one recording if at all possible, even if this shows the inside of your pocket for a while :P
- Once the day is finished, if you can upload your clips to the Google drive asap that would be great as we'll be dying to see it all!

Thanks so much again and let me know if you have any questions,

[illegible]

Next Steps

Hopefully, the above has shown you how easy it is to have a great video of a memorable day and given you some ideas. Choosing the right people to take the footage is crucial, as is making sure that there is a clear plan for how and when the footage is going to be taken.

Use the Video Scene Planner for this, and make sure that all the elements in the Video Scene Planner are discussed with your team of helpers.

After the ceremony, all footage should be uploaded via Google Drive link you will have received upon booking. On the Drive, take the time to look through and label any really important videos after your big day and we'll be sure to include them.

Make sure to share your video plan with us so that we have a good idea of what you have in mind. This will make it easier for us to edit the video so that it meets your own personal requirements. Alternatively, you could leave the planning and editing of the final video entirely to us and let us surprise you!

The editing we do usually takes place over two weeks to review and perfect. We will have the final video back to you after that. This period ensures we give it the best edit possible.

Finally, it is absolutely crucial that you enjoy your big day. Planning a great wedding video using the above ideas should ensure that you have the chance to not only have an amazing day, but also gain a beautiful wedding video at the end of it.





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