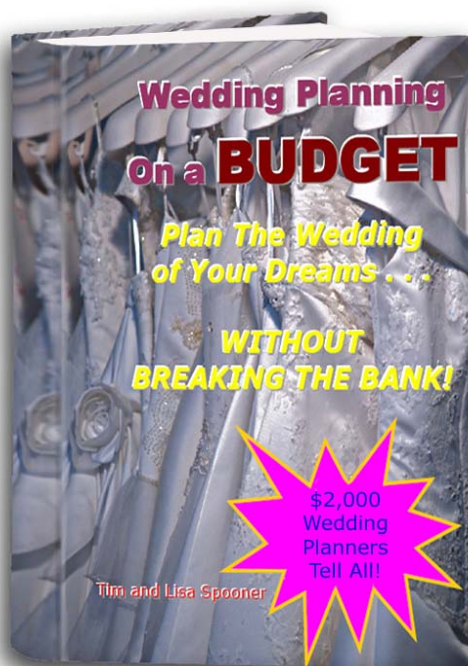


# Wedding Planning On a BUDGET:

Plan the Wedding of Your Dreams . . .  
**WITHOUT BREAKING THE BANK!**



Learn how to save bundles of money on the beautiful wedding of your dreams. Experienced budget wedding planners and co-authors Tim and Lisa Spooner guide you through the six principles that kept their own elegant wedding under \$2,000.

By:

Tim and Lisa Spooner

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**Wedding Planning On a Budget:  
Plan the Wedding of your Dreams . . . Without Breaking the Bank!**

---

## **Table of Contents**

<b>Table of Contents .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Highlighters and Pen on the Ready! .....</b>	<b>5</b>
Catch Ideas on Paper . . . Or Lose Them! .....	5
Goal of this book .....	5
<b>Power of Principles .....</b>	<b>7</b>
To Teach a Man How to Fish .....	7
<b>Tim &amp; Lisa's Wedding Story .....</b>	<b>9</b>
Choosing a Mentor .....	9
On With Our Story . . . ..	9
Planning Our Wedding .....	10
The Wedding .....	10
<b>Now It's Your Turn! .....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Introduction to the Principles .....</b>	<b>15</b>
Set a Budget and Stick to It .....	16
Keep Perspective on the Big Picture .....	17
Aim for Elegance and Effectiveness .....	18
Activate Your Network .....	18
Do it Yourself .....	19
Bargain Hunting .....	20
So Much More!.....	20
<b>Set a Budget and Stick to It .....</b>	<b>21</b>
Setting Your Budget .....	21
Select Budget Items .....	23
Assign Percentages .....	24
Record Keeping .....	24
Redistribution .....	25
<b>Keep Perspective on the Big Picture .....</b>	<b>27</b>
What is the Point? .....	28
Why We Got Married . . . ..	28
Why We Had a Wedding . . . ..	29
Your Turn . . . ..	29
Is It Worthwhile to Get Married? .....	30
Is It Worthwhile to Have a Full-fledged Wedding? .....	31
The Perfect Wedding .....	32
Planning with a Purpose .....	33
<b>Aim for Elegance and Effectiveness .....</b>	<b>36</b>

**Wedding Planning On a Budget:  
Plan the Wedding of your Dreams . . . Without Breaking the Bank!**

---

<b>Activate Your Network .....</b>	<b>39</b>
Identify Your Network .....	39
Managing Your Network .....	41
Compensation .....	42
Examples from Tim and Lisa's Wedding .....	43
<b>Do it Yourself .....</b>	<b>48</b>
Examples from Tim and Lisa's Wedding .....	49
<b>Bargain Hunting .....</b>	<b>53</b>
Second-hand and Renting .....	53
Thinking Outside the "Wedding Box" .....	54
<b>Putting it All Together .....</b>	<b>57</b>
<b>Just Plain Good Ideas .....</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>Beyond Your Wedding Day .....</b>	<b>62</b>
<b>Closing Remarks .....</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>Bonus! Bonus! Bonus! .....</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>About the Authors .....</b>	<b>66</b>

## **Highlighters and Pen on the Ready!**

This book is meant to be a whole lot more than just a good read. Consider this to be your guide – your mentor – to planning a successful wedding on a budget.

To get the most out of this book, get into the mentality right now that you are to interact with the contents of this book and use them as a springboard to planning your own successful wedding.

Go ahead and set this book aside for a moment to collect some colorful highlighters and pens to mark and annotate this book. If you are reading this on your computer screen, you may want to grab a notebook to make notes of key concepts or any great ideas that may come to you as you interact with the contents of this book.

## **Catch Ideas on Paper . . . Or Lose Them!**

Ideas will come to you! Be ready for ideas to start popping up in your mind out of nowhere. Brilliant ideas are going to pop into your mind at the least expected times and if you do not write each idea down the moment it comes to mind it will just as quickly disappear and never be found again. Start carrying a pen and notepad with you at all times. Even at night, keep a pen and notepad at your bedside so that you will be ready to write down the cost saving ideas that are going to start coming to your mind.

## **Goal of this book**

This book will outline for you several key principles to help you start thinking creatively about how to plan a beautiful wedding ceremony on a

**Wedding Planning On a Budget:  
Plan the Wedding of your Dreams . . . Without Breaking the Bank!**

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budget. We will discuss how to set up your budget and how to keep to that budget without compromising your wedding goals.

Although this book is primarily intended to give you useful principles to guide you towards success, many helpful ideas will be included which you may be able to apply to your wedding.

## **Power of Principles**

Perhaps you wish that we would fill these pages with ideas instead of devoting most of these pages to explaining how to put several key principles into practice. We *did* include many great ideas to help demonstrate the power of these principles. However, ideas are limited in their applicability. An idea can only be applied to a tiny aspect of your wedding. Principles, on the other hand, can be applied to the entire wedding planning process. Also, ideas are a dime a dozen. We will show you some websites from which you can collect a bunch of great ideas. This book is going to transform you from being a mere *collector* of great ideas into a *generator* of great ideas. No one knows your wedding needs better than you. As a generator of ideas for your own wedding, you will be able to think of an unlimited array of ideas to apply to every unique aspect of your wedding. Each idea that comes to your mind will be a perfect match to your specific wedding needs.

Although ideas are an important part of the wedding planning process, it is the Six Key Principles *behind* those ideas that will guide you through planning your wedding on a budget. We will guide you through the entire process of planning a wedding on a budget and show you the principles that will empower you to plan the elegant wedding of your dreams . . . WITHOUT BREAKING THE BANK! You will soon realize that the principle behind the idea is much more powerful than the *application* of that principle.

### **To Teach a Man How to Fish**

You have probably heard before the saying: “Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. But if you *teach* a man how to fish, he will eat for the rest of

**Wedding Planning On a Budget:  
Plan the Wedding of your Dreams . . . Without Breaking the Bank!**

---

his lifetime.” In the same way, an idea has limited use and may or may not work for you. A principle on the other hand serves to empower you to create ideas that are in perfect alignment with your goals and your particular situation. You may save some money and get the wedding of your dreams simply by using the various ideas found in this book and on the internet but don’t count on a bunch of ideas to carry you as far as the principles behind those ideas. Instead, you should aim to grasp the concepts of these principles and use your imagination to apply these principles to your wedding planning needs.



## **Tim & Lisa's Wedding Story**

There is nothing more inspiring than to hear amazing stories of how people have hurdled overwhelming odds to achieve seemingly impossible goals. Such is the story of your mentors, Tim and Lisa Spooner.

### **Choosing a Mentor**

When choosing a mentor or guide you should always make sure that they meet two qualifications:

- 1) The guide has been where you want to get to
- 2) The guide can help you get there too

Tim and Lisa Spooner are a couple who have been there and who sufficiently understand the principles that got them there to teach other people how to follow their lead. With these experienced budget wedding planners as your guides, you are sure to reach your goals as long as you follow their guidance.

### **On With Our Story . . .**

We fell madly in love with one another in the winter of 2003. We quickly realized that we had found our lifetime soul mate and could not bear the thought of having to live the rest of our life apart.

**Wedding Planning On a Budget:  
Plan the Wedding of your Dreams . . . Without Breaking the Bank!**

---

On April 12, 2003, Tim went to his knees in the commons area of a large indoor mall and asked for Lisa's hand in marriage. With tears of joy and a beaming smile, she happily accepted his proposal (and of course the ring).

Tim had just graduated from the university and had very little in the way of cash.

Lisa was in the early stages of her bachelor's program at the university and also did not have much in savings.

Both of our parents were getting by okay but could not afford to pay for a wedding.

Although eloping crossed our minds, we knew that would have been a big disappointment to our families and that we might regret the decision in the future.

## **Planning Our Wedding**

We were anxious to get married. We could totally sympathize with Harry in the movie "When Harry Met Sally": "Once you figure out who you want to spend the rest of your life with, you want the rest of your life to start as soon as possible!"

We set the date for our wedding as September 20, 2003.

**Wedding Planning On a Budget:  
Plan the Wedding of your Dreams . . . Without Breaking the Bank!**

---

During that summer, Lisa did not take a job. Instead of earning a couple thousand dollars at some summer job; she spent her time saving us thousands upon thousands of dollars through her creativity and organizing skills in planning our wedding and acquiring garage sale furniture and other items for our apartment.

All told – and we are talking about every aspect of the wedding from the engagement ring to the honeymoon – we personally paid less than \$2,000 and anyone else contributing to the wedding (such as tuxes and bridesmaid dresses) paid less than that.

## **The Wedding**

Thanks to our planning and work to which most of the credit goes to Lisa, our wedding turned out to be a masterpiece! It turned out just as we had dreamed – if not better – and many of our guests gave raving compliments. Tim's great aunt even wrote his mother a letter the following week saying that it was the most beautiful wedding she had ever attended (and she has been to a lot of weddings in her lifetime!).

We had the church decorated with flowers matching the bouquets. There were three bridesmaids dressed in beautiful periwinkle dresses. Tim and the groomsmen looked charming in their tuxedos. The father of the groom, the father of the bride, and the classical pianist also all wore tuxedos.

**Wedding Planning On a Budget:  
Plan the Wedding of your Dreams . . . Without Breaking the Bank!**

---

Lisa of course was the main attraction in her incredibly elegant wedding gown and veil. She received many compliments from people saying they had never seen such a nice looking bride's gown before.

We had a pianist playing selected music before and during the ceremony. Our groomsmen doubled as ushers to greet and seat each of the approximately 150 distinguished guests in attendance.

We had a videographer and photographer to record our special day.

Our lovely mothers lit the family candles and later, during the ceremony, we joined the family candles at the unity candle.

Our minister gave a short, eloquent talk on the meaning of our union.

We added a special touch to our wedding by singing a duet to one another. We have been told that there was hardly a dry eye in the place during our sweet performance of "I'll Be Here."

After we had kissed and the minister had prayed, we received each guest as they made the procession to the banqueting area.

The banquet was incredible! Our caterer outdid himself with a feast of delicacies and meats and cheeses, caviar, shrimp, desserts, and other delicacies. The maid of honor and the best man gave generous toasts and everyone enjoyed themselves celebrating Mr. and Mrs. Spooner's union in marriage.

**Wedding Planning On a Budget:  
Plan the Wedding of your Dreams . . . Without Breaking the Bank!**

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We made the first cut into the wedding cake (with sparkling crystal love birds as the cake topper). We fed one another cake and then headed for the dance floor where we and our guests enjoyed dancing to our selected love songs.

Before long, we were off to our honeymoon location to spend our first night together.

## **Now It's Your Turn!**

That is our story! To this day, when we think of our wedding day, great big smiles of pleasure fill our faces. We had the wedding of our dreams and we did not break the bank to do it! How in the world did we have a wedding for less than \$2,000?

Since you invested in this book, we assume you want to know. Don't worry, if you read on and apply the principles that are to follow, you will soon understand how it is possible for anyone who sets their mind to planning a wedding on a budget to keep within their budget as long as they apply the principles we will soon divulge.

You have your own love story. You have your own goals. You have your own hopes and expectations for your wedding. We will not expect our wedding ideas to fit your wedding needs. That is like expecting the piece from my puzzle to fit into your puzzle!

The principles we will share will free your mind to think of the perfectly shaped ideas for your puzzle. It takes some energy to apply these principles but remember this:

***It is easy to go into debt on a wedding; but it is not easy living with debt in a marriage!***

Financial problems are the number one killers of marriages. Set your marriage up for success by starting from the very beginning with sound money-saving principles that will save you many financial headaches.

## **Introduction to the Principles**

At this time, we will briefly introduce the principles that will help you plan the elegant wedding of your dreams without breaking the bank. Here they are in the order that they will be covered in this book:

- **Set a Budget and Stick to It**
- **Keep Perspective on the Big Picture**
- **Aim for Elegance and Effectiveness**
- **Activate Your Network**
- **Do it Yourself**
- **Bargain Hunting**

These principles will help you realize how many resources you really have. Money, after all, is only one type of resource available to you. We will help you recognize the other resources already placed into your life and how to organize and make use of those resources to optimum efficiency in producing a wonderful wedding with minimum use of actual cash.

These principles interconnect and feed off of one another and are most powerful when combined with one another. For that reason, we will briefly explain each principle and then go over each one more thoroughly while

**Wedding Planning On a Budget:  
Plan the Wedding of your Dreams . . . Without Breaking the Bank!**

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showing actual examples of how these principles have been successfully applied by us and others in preparing their dream weddings on a budget.

### **Set a Budget and Stick to It**

Too many allow their wedding planning to dictate their budgets. After the wedding they are not even sure how much they have actually spent on their wedding but they do know that they were carried away with the wedding planning and somehow all of their money was carried away too.

This basic principal requires that you prepare a budget. You must decide how much you are comfortable spending on your wedding and then use the other principles to help you stick to your budget.

Your wedding planning must be built on the foundation of the budget and all plans and decisions must bow to the budget. That may sound strict but if you do not firmly anchor your planning on a budget, you will be carried away by a blur of sales and credit swipes that will quickly leave your budget goals in the dust.

In this book, we will teach you how to create a practical budget and how to stick to it. In the section on budgeting, you will be given step-by-step instructions to make this very important principle less intimidating to you. We will also provide some helpful budgeting tools that will make creating and keeping a budget much easier.



## **Keep Perspective on the Big Picture**

Planning for a wedding can be an emotional rollercoaster. You are probably already dealing with the euphoria of being madly in love and the eagerness to get married and now you are about to put together the biggest production you have ever done to this point and everyone seems to want to have their say on the matter.

You have dreams and expectations for your wedding that you may have fostered since you were quite young. With all the pressure and build-up towards your wedding day, it can easily snowball into something much different than what it needs to be.

The key is to keep in mind your goals for the wedding and what the point of that wedding is. If you know what you want and why you want it, you are likely to get it. If you forget, however, what you want and why you want it, you will end up with something quite different.

We will help you think through the purpose of your wedding and give you pointers on how to keep that purpose as the primary goal before your mind throughout the wedding planning process. By considering our insights and answering our questions, you will soon have a clear understanding of what you want to achieve through your wedding.

## **Aim for Elegance and Effectiveness**

Once you know your goals, you can aim your sights like a laser on how to best achieve your goals effectively and elegantly.

There is something special about a wedding day and that special quality of a wedding can be communicated through elegance. Fortunately, streamlined and simple beauty can often be more elegant than extra frills. This means that a little good taste can go a long way towards putting together a better, more effective wedding for less cost.

We will look at this principle in more detail and provide some helpful examples further into this book. A clear understanding of this principle will be very helpful to you as you plan your elegant wedding.

## **Activate Your Network**

A wedding is a social event. If it were not for friends and family members, there would be little point to the wedding ceremony and associated rituals. Planning and enacting a wedding should also be a social event.

You have friends and family members who can play key parts not only in your wedding party but in many other aspects of your wedding. Your network of friends and family are a powerful resource ready to be activated. It can be as easy as picking up the phone!

**Wedding Planning On a Budget:  
Plan the Wedding of your Dreams . . . Without Breaking the Bank!**

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How successful your wedding is and how inexpensive it is can be determined in large part by how effectively you activate and manage your social network. We will also discuss creative ways to compensate your social network. Even though friends and family often do not require outright monetary payment for their services it is important to show them your appreciation.

You will not want to miss this very important topic covered later in the book. We will guide you step-by-step through the entire process of activating, managing, and compensating your social network. We will also provide you plenty of real-live examples from our own wedding to inspire you and provide more clarity to this extremely powerful principle.

### **Do it Yourself**

The biggest expense in producing an elegant wedding is services. Time is money and if you pay professionals for the time and skills their services require you will be broke when all is said and done.

We have already mentioned that your social network can provide you services in exchange for alternative forms of compensation. Another person who can provide services is YOU!

The best thing about doing it yourself is that you know exactly what you want and the only compensation you ask for is a successful wedding!

**Wedding Planning On a Budget:  
Plan the Wedding of your Dreams . . . Without Breaking the Bank!**

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In the pages to come you will receive plenty of guidance, ideas, and examples from our wedding so that you will be able to use your time in the most effective manner as you prepare for your wedding day.

## **Bargain Hunting**

Often a quality item can be obtained from an alternative source for much less than you would pay if you bought that same item from a traditional source such as the local bridal dress merchant.

We will point you towards some alternative sources where treasures can be found without cutting deeply into your budget. We will also show you a little known secret to buying a brand new wedding item for less than you can find it at any wedding store.

## **So Much More!**

Don't stop here! That was a mere introduction of these six powerful principles. If you think that was helpful, wait until you see all the great step-by-step information in the pages ahead to help you apply these amazing money-saving principles. We share all of our success strategies so that you can take the short-cut to saving thousands of dollars on your wedding planning. You are about to read specific examples of how we saved a lot of money on our wedding – and most of the examples can be directly applied to your own wedding. Even the examples that are not directly applicable to your wedding will go a long way towards helping you become a master at applying the six wedding budget strategies we have just briefly introduced. Ready to start saving A LOT of money? Ready to plan the elegant wedding of your dreams? Then, you are ready to read on...

**Wedding Planning On a Budget:  
Plan the Wedding of your Dreams . . . Without Breaking the Bank!**

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We hope you enjoyed reading the introduction to Wedding Planning on a Budget. The rest of the chapters are only available in the full-version of our instantly downloadable eBook.

If you really want to Plan the Wedding of Your Dreams... WITHOUT BREAKING THE BANK, get a copy of the full-version at our website to save thousands of dollars on your dream wedding:

<http://www.weddingplanningonabudget.com>

Don't you deserve the wedding of your dreams? Don't you want to maximize the quality of your wedding by getting more for your money?

*Treat your wedding to the star treatment while giving your credit card a rest!*

In one book you can have all the best advice for planning your wedding on a budget. There will be no need to search the web tirelessly only to find a bunch of pat answers that essentially say, "If you want to save money on your wedding, then you are going to have to cut corners."

Choose the book that says, "Plan the Wedding of Your Dreams – it doesn't matter if you don't have tons of money to throw at your wedding!"

<http://www.weddingplanningonabudget.com>

**Wedding Planning On a Budget:  
Plan the Wedding of your Dreams . . . Without Breaking the Bank!**

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*If you do not upgrade to the full-length version, you will miss out on the following and much, much more:*

Discover the simplest and best way to set-up and maintain your budget... p. 21

Find out what percentage of your budget each wedding category should be... p. 24

Gain clarity on the importance and purpose of your wedding day... p. 27

Get super-valuable advice regarding the perfect wedding... p. 32

Design your wedding so that it totally reflects your personality... p. 33

Streamline your wedding for ultimate impact... p. 36

Maximize your non-monetary resources for the ultimate budget wedding... p. 39

How to pay for services without breaking the bank... p. 42

How we had a professional videographer without spending a dime... p. 43

How we had our minister, caterer, cake, and pianist for next to nothing... p. 44

Learn the best way to save on wedding invitations... p. 49

Find out how we helped Tim's sister get a beautiful wedding dress for \$150... p. 53

Buy gorgeous bridesmaid dresses at a tiny fraction of their normal cost... p. 54

You will love this idea for getting professional catering services at cost... p. 58

Get access to some of our favorite wedding budget web links... p. 61

*...All that and more is only available in the full-length ebook.*

*Any one of the above listed items would more than pay for the book.*

*If any of the above items are of interest to you, we highly recommend that you get the full-length version of our ebook available for instant download only at [our website](#).*

*You don't want to put this off! Your wedding depends upon it!*

## **BONUS! BONUS! BONUS!**

### **Your Dream Wedding Planning Tools Kit**

**You will be amazed when you see these awesome Totally FREE wedding planning resources! Two of these are tools that gave us a major advantage over other wedding planners and one is a tool that we regretfully discovered too late for our wedding but are glad that YOU don't have to miss out.**

#### **The Wedding Minister's Personal Resource Kit**

This is the resource many wedding ministers use when planning weddings. Check out Thirteen (that's 13!!!) sample wedding vows, Eighteen (that's 18!!!!) sample wedding ceremonies, the minister's personal wedding planning guide, AND the minister's personal wedding planning checklist! These proved invaluable in planning our wedding and can be for your wedding too!

[Available With Full-Version Only](#)

#### **The Wedding Planner's Schedule, Guide, and Checklist!**

We found this resource extremely helpful with its budget worksheet, suggested schedule, and many great guides, worksheets, checklists, and vendor questionnaires that will help you plan a successful wedding, select your vendors (caterer, photographer, videographer, etc.), and have a wonderful honeymoon!

[Available With Full-Version Only](#)

## **Wedding Planning Software!**

Planning a wedding has never been more fun!!! This software will make keeping track of your budget a breeze – not to mention every other aspect of your wedding planning! Keep track of your to-do lists and receive helpful reminders. Plan and create helpful charts for your seating arrangements, generate guest lists viewable in alphabetical order, keep track of your gift registry, and so much more with this excellent piece of software.

**[Available With Full-Version Only](#)**



## **About the Authors**



**Lisa Spooner** is currently earning her bachelor's degree in chemistry at Indiana University – Purdue University at the Fort Wayne campus. Hobbies include silk flower arranging and singing.

**Tim Spooner** is currently the sales manager at Ahlmedia where multimedia transfer and duplication services are provided. Hobbies include raising ant colonies and reading.

### **The Couple**

Married since September 20, 2003, Tim and Lisa are a couple deeply committed to the principles of unconditional love

Tim and Lisa enjoy watching movies, dining at ethnic restaurants, and taking walks.

They aspire to travel the world while teaching English overseas.

### **Contact Info**

We can always be contacted through the [Contact Form](#) on our website.

Or you can email us directly:  
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