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Successfully Planning a Cheap Wedding by [Cristian Stan](#)

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Weddings are a very expensive business. Currently, the average wedding cost can range from \$20,000 to \$25,000, and that's just for the ordinary type weddings. The cost can easily go up from there depending on the amount of "extras" you want. This can be scary information, but there are definite methods for planning an inexpensive wedding that can still turn out to be the one of your dreams.

To begin with, wedding gowns can be totally over the top financially. As this is a dress that you'll only be wearing once, you can always choose a second-hand wedding dress. Something else you can do is buy an evening gown or cocktail dress, which is much cheaper, or you can consider renting a wedding dress.

The reception is another way that you can easily overspend but you can also save the most if you try. Ways to cut costs can begin with trimming your guest list. Why invite relatives you haven't seen or talked to in years? Consider catering the reception yourself or organize a hot and cold buffet rather than a sit down meal.

As for the photographer, shop for the best prices. You can also consider using a photographer just for the ceremony while asking a friend or relative to take snap shots of the reception. If someone close to you takes decent pictures, why not get them to take all the pictures and save the cost of the photographer.

Invitations can actually be designed and printed right from your home computer these days. There are many programs that you can get now that will help you design the exact invitation that you want. If you want to forego postage, it's also possible to email your invitations to the guests with computers and internet.

Flowers are another way to keep down expenses. Florists are very costly but you can use fresh cut flowers as well from street vendors or from your own garden. Consider getting plain wedding bands. As for your cake, ask a friend or relative to make one for you. Cakes are rather easy to make these days with all of the available mixes, frostings and decorations on the market. You can still have a lovely wedding without shooting a hole in your budget. Remember, you want to save some money for the honeymoon.

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