

Beautiful Weddings the Cheapskates Way

This free tip sheet was produced by the Cheapskates Club –
www.cheapskates.com.au

Last Season's Wedding Dress

If you're getting married always look at last season's dresses. Fashion doesn't change noticeably in one year, but the savings can be huge - I paid \$750 for a dress, which cost about \$3000 the year before. - *Contributed by Christabel, Bentleigh*

Save \$1300 on a Wedding Dress

My future sister-in-law went on eBay to look for a wedding dress. She got a new one made to her size for \$89.00AU plus (because she couldn't wait) another \$90 for postage. We saw one similar in a shop that cost \$1500 and hers was much nicer. The dresses come from China but are absolutely beautiful and fantastic. - *Contributed by Kathy*

Don't Say Wedding and Save Big Dollars

Approximate \$ Savings: at least \$300

We married on Valentine's Day this year and could not get a florist to commit to a wedding at a cost no person in their right mind could afford, so my crafty sister and I went to a local florist and ordered 3 dozen gerberas and greenery FOR NANNA'S 90TH, on Valentine's Day .. funny that "wedding" means hundreds and "nanna's birthday" only \$90. We bought the tape and ribbon and voila beautiful bouquets. The moral is: if you want budget DON'T say wedding or you can say goodbye to your hard earned dollars - *Contributed by Marie, Kadina*

Buying Your Own Diamonds Can Save Thousands

We saw a wedding ring that was about \$9000 which we liked. The diamond in it was shocking though - you could see the inclusions with your naked eye. So we bought our diamond from the diamond exchange (www.diamondexchange.com.au) and had the ring made up. Diamond exchange people were very helpful - we went and saw them in the city and they showed us diamonds and explained the differences between them. The total cost (diamond + ring) was about \$4500 - we got a much better diamond and saved heaps. - *Contributed by Danial, Glebe*

Fake the Cake for Wedding Perfection

I found the most beautiful cake on Martha Stewart weddings website - as everything else for our wedding was nice and simple I wanted the cake to make a statement and be a decoration on its own but we just didn't have the budget - until my to be mother-in-law announced that she would make the cake! I showed her the picture and asked her to scale the design down a bit - but she wanted to go

for the grand statement. Our secret - four layers of the cake will be icing covered foam! The biggest (and only real) layer will be served to the guests. We're going to save hundreds! It never occurred to me to fake the cake! - *Contributed by Debbie, Derby*

Ten Cent Wedding Invitations

Approximate \$ Savings: \$300 and up

Wedding invitations on the net and DIY kits can end up costing over \$6 per invite. The Cheapskates way to get 10 cent invitations is to get a digital photo (we used a close up of a rose) and use word or Photoshop to put the ceremony particulars onto the photo. Then take the images to a photo shop that has a special on.. The end result is unique and individualised invitations that look like you have hired a printer. We saved \$350. - *Contributed by Max, Currumbin*

Be Creative for Ceremony & Reception

Be creative and consider all possibilities for venues etc. I was married at Monash University and it was absolutely perfect. I had about 300 people, and they were all able to fit into the Chapel, and I was still able to use my own celebrant (a family friend). Then the Monash Club right next to the chapel organised a Devonshire afternoon tea for everyone for only \$4 a head, which we supplemented with wedding cake and some chips/lollies for the kids. After I took the wedding party out for dinner as our "reception", which was so nice and relaxed. It was a wonderful day, and we've had so many comments about how well it worked out. It meant no agonising over the guest list working out who can be included and who can't - everyone who wanted to come was able. Everyone was able to mix freely and chat and it didn't go for 6 hours like many wedding receptions!! - *Contributed by Christie, Bentleigh*

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