

The Complete Wedding Shot List

SHOT LIST PLANNER

Every shot worth asking for, from getting ready to the last dance. Cross off what doesn't apply — nobody needs all of it.

COUPLE

DATE

PHOTOGRAPHER

SECOND SHOOTER

How to use this without annoying your photographer

Hand this over three to four weeks out, not the night before. Mark the ten or fifteen shots you'd be genuinely upset to lose — those are the ones worth planning the day around. Treat the rest as a prompt list, not a contract: a photographer working through 200 checkboxes is a photographer who isn't watching the room.

GETTING READY — PARTNER A

- ☐ Dress or suit hanging, styled
- ☐ Rings, shoes, jewelry, cufflinks — detail flat lay
- ☐ Invitation suite with heirloom or florals
- ☐ Perfume, vows notebook, watch
- ☐ Hair and makeup in progress
- ☐ Robes or matching pajamas with the party
- ☐ Reaction to a gift or letter from the other partner
- ☐ Parent or friend helping with the final button, zip, tie
- ☐ Full-length in mirror, ready
- ☐ First look with a parent
- ☐ Quiet moment alone before leaving
- ☐

GETTING READY — PARTNER B

- ☐ Attire hanging or laid out
- ☐ Details — rings, shoes, tie, watch, boutonnière
- ☐ Getting dressed, candid
- ☐ Final adjustment by a parent or best friend
- ☐ With the wedding party, posed and candid
- ☐ Reading a letter or gift exchange
- ☐ Full-length, ready
- ☐

FIRST LOOK & PORTRAITS

A first look buys back 30–45 minutes of cocktail hour. If you skip it, these move to after the ceremony — plan the timeline accordingly.

- ☐ Walking up, before the turn
- ☐ The turn and first reaction
- ☐ Wide shot showing the location
- ☐ Private vow reading
- ☐ Couple portraits, posed
- ☐ Couple portraits, walking and candid
- ☐ Ring detail on hands
- ☐ Back of the dress or full attire
- ☐ Golden hour portraits (block 15 min at sunset)
- ☐

CEREMONY

- ☐ Venue exterior and empty aisle before guests
- ☐ Ceremony details — programs, florals, arch, chairs
- ☐ Guests arriving and being seated
- ☐ Officiant and partner waiting at the front
- ☐ Processional — each member down the aisle
- ☐ Parents being seated
- ☐ Entrance — and the reaction shot from the front
- ☐ Wide shot of the full ceremony from the back
- ☐ Readings and any readers
- ☐ Vows, from both angles
- ☐ Ring exchange, close on hands
- ☐ Cultural or religious rituals (list yours below)
- ☐ The kiss — wide and close
- ☐ Recessional
- ☐ Guest reactions during the ceremony
- ☐ Signing the license
- ☐
- ☐

COCKTAIL HOUR & DETAILS

- ☐ Room before anyone enters — wide
- ☐ Table settings, centerpieces, place cards
- ☐ Seating chart or escort display
- ☐ Head table or sweetheart table
- ☐ Cake and dessert table
- ☐ Bar, signature drinks, menu signage
- ☐ Guest book, favors, photo booth
- ☐ Band or DJ setup
- ☐ Guests mingling, candid
- ☐

WEDDING PARTY

- ☐ Full party, everyone together
- ☐ Each side separately
- ☐ Couple with each side
- ☐ Couple with each attendant, one-on-one
- ☐ Candid walking shot
- ☐ Toast or huddle before the ceremony
- ☐

RECEPTION

- ☐ Grand entrance
- ☐ First dance — wide, close, and from behind
- ☐ Parent dances
- ☐ Welcome toast
- ☐ Toasts — speaker and the couple reacting
- ☐ Dinner service and guests at tables
- ☐ Table shots (list which tables, below)
- ☐ Cake cutting
- ☐ Bouquet or garter toss
- ☐ Dance floor, packed and candid
- ☐ Grandparents or older guests dancing
- ☐ Kids on the dance floor
- ☐ Night portrait outside the venue
- ☐ Sparkler or send-off exit
- ☐ Getaway car
- ☐
- ☐

MUST-HAVE SHOTS — THE ONES YOU'D BE UPSET TO LOSE

Keep this to ten. A must-have list of forty isn't a must-have list.

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WHEN PAPER STOPS WORKING

A printed list is fine until something changes — and something always changes. Someone's flight is cancelled, the ceremony moves indoors, the golden-hour window shifts by twenty minutes. Then the copy in your bag, the copy your photographer printed, and the copy your coordinator has are three different lists.

Shot List Planner keeps one list that everyone works from. Edit it the week of the wedding and your photographer sees the change — no reprint, no "which version is this." Build yours at shotlistplanner.com.