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# A Practical Wedding Planner: A Step-by-Step Guide To Creating The Wedding You Want With The Budget You've Got (without Losing Your Mind In The Process)





## Synopsis

You just got engaged! Or you've been engaged for a while but are finally sitting down to plan this party. Or maybe you haven't made anything exactly official yet, but you know you want to spend your lives together. Whichever it is, when you're ready to take a deep breath and start planning, this is the book you want&#151;need&#151;to have. Meg Keene has put together the (practical) companion to *A Practical Wedding*: smart, clear focused guidance&#151;with a hefty dose of reassurance&#151;to help you plan your big day. From figuring out what you really want&#151;as opposed to what everyone else thinks you should want&#151;to help you keep an eye on the ceremony itself and the vows (a.k.a. why you're throwing this party in the first place), Meg helps you cover all the essentials: Setting a budget&#151;and sticking to it Choosing a venue: traditional, non-traditional, and everything in between Hiring good vendors, keeping your friends, and why DIY doesn't always save money Catering, rentals, and everything else Pinterest forgot to tell you Wedding décor: a realist's guide Creating and writing a ceremony Getting everyone to show up...and have a good time With checklists (such as flowers, food, final venue walk-through) and key spreadsheets (guest list and seating chart, budget, venue search, and more), Meg helps you plan a wedding that will leave you feeling joyful, not emotionally exhausted and broke.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Praise for *A Practical Wedding Planner* Booklist, 1/7/16&#147;The words practical and wedding don't often go together&#133;Keene (*A Practical Wedding*, 2011) works on both sides of the brain &#133;[offering] perspective that&#39;ll calm any bride and groom&#133; by anticipating

anything and everything that could go wrong, with plans to avoid or solve it; a handy guide. —Library Journal; [A Practical Wedding] is a fresh, sane voice in a field of guides pushing big budget weddings. —InfoDad, 2/4/16; A highly useful and plainspoken guide to the intricacies of arranging your own wedding. —Brit + Co, 2/16/16; Sure, Pinterest boards are a fantastic wedding resource. But, how can you transform those beautiful photos into a reality? Keene helps engaged couples do just that. From its practical charts and spreadsheets to its fluff-free suggestions, this planner is one you'll want to make your dreams come true (within your budget). —

Meg Keene has spent the last six years as the Executive Editor of APracticalWedding.com, now widely considered to be one of the top indie wedding brands. Meg's first book, *A Practical Wedding: Creative Solutions for Planning a Beautiful, Affordable, and Meaningful Celebration*, was published in January 2012. Meg has been quoted in places such as *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *NPR*. Her website is routinely mentioned on sites like *Jezebel*, *Refinery 29*, and *Daily Candy*. She lives in Oakland, California. APracticalWedding.com

To be completely honest with you, I had my doubts about this new book when it was out for pre-order. I thought, "What could possibly be covered now?" Between the 2011 guidebook, the website's oft-updated front page and growing archives, and downloadable spreadsheets available online, I wondered if it was going to be a redundant piece of fluff. I bought my copy to see if it was worth suggesting to my couples (I'm a wedding photographer), or warn them not to waste their money. So for me to read it, cover to cover, and have my skepticism blown away actually speaks really highly of this book. It's useful! It's smart! It's handy! See, the first book, *A Practical Wedding: Creative Ideas for Planning a Beautiful, Affordable, and Meaningful Celebration*, gets you into the "headspace" of planning a wedding. For many of us, our wedding is the first wedding that we've ever had to plan. Figuring out how to approach wedding planning, then feeling right about our decisions, is what the original APW book is all about. This companion book, *A Practical Wedding Planner* (APWP), coaxes you into actually taking action. Meg starts by asking you to think of your wedding thesis — not colors or theme, but the takeaway that you want your guests to feel after the wedding is over. (Best dance party? Amazing spiritual experience? Warm, casual vibe?) Then build your wedding around that thesis. While the planner, at

around 9 1/2" x 7" (notably bigger than the novel-sized 2011 guidebook), isn't quite large enough to feel like it's an essential replacement of a wedding-planning binder, it feels more like a notebook and has wide margins so you can scribble all in it (there are some dedicated spots for you to fill in your plans, but for the most part, the book tracks out-to-do's). It's divided into sections that you can jump to depending on where you are in your planning process: budgets, venues, catering, etc. The best part about this book is that it can be scaled up or down depending on the type of wedding you're going to have: Meg doesn't assume that you'll be having a giant wedding, a tiny one, or that you'll hire all of the vendors that most wedding-planning books recommend you to hire. She outlines DIY projects, describes the risks and rewards of DIY, and suggests how to get the most out of DIY planning. It's a little bit like a choose-your-own-adventure book. Want to do your own makeup? Here's the path to take. Interested in arranging your own flowers? Here is what you need to look out for. Where APW used voices from married couples, describing how they created an authentic wedding instead of going with the traditional or expected, APWP interviews wedding professionals. These seasoned vendors explain how to get the best deals from different vendors (hint: it's not always about negotiating, but by understanding what is typically included in the industry norm and what are additional fees), as well as the best questions to ask the vendors you're vetting to work your wedding. Some of the best stuff is in the nitty gritty: there's a chart of flowers, when they're in season, their price ranges, and good substitutes. There's an alcohol calculator. There are sample timelines, sample ceremonies of many religions and cultures, and even guidelines on how to address your invites in a "gently feminist" way. In short, should you get this book if you're planning a wedding? Resounding YES.

Love this so far! I am hooked. It really tells you what to do step by step and has great tips. She explains all her spreadsheets and it has great illustrations. So happy with this, she makes wedding planning easier :)

Best wedding book of all time. Practical is an understatement. Meg Keene also brings much needed wit to the sometimes stressful planning process. She also advises of types of traditions, but it's not as expectation-centered as some of the other books will have you believe. I love that she

showcases different types of weddings and doesn't single any one type out as the best or the worst. Best book, hands down! She's made the process bearable and even fun at times.

This book has decoded one of the most annoyingly obscure industries I've ever interacted with. Huge thanks to Meg Keene and the team at APW for writing so clearly on a space that feels crowded with brand deals and WIC madness. Throughout my planning process, I've tried to keep the following advice front and center: "A fun wedding trumps a pretty wedding." Also, for those of you on a tight budget, a lot of the helpful advice is available online -- but I found the physical book to be extra helpful.

I bought this for my daughter and she loves it! It's very helpful with her wedding planning.

Should be read BEFORE any plans are made. Especially if someone has no previous experience with party planning! Perfect book for the Bride To Be and family too!

This is such a complement to the first APW book. Actual logistic information you can use when you are trying to plan the wedding you can afford.

Very helpful. Lots of good ideas to consider. I like that she tells you right up front that there are no longer any strict "rules" about how a wedding should go. It really is your production. This book sincerely helps with planning, especially, if bride and decision-makers are in different towns during the planning stages...

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