

# 8 Devastating Mistakes to Avoid when Shopping for Your Wedding DJ



Advice from Maestro Mobile Music Productions

Shopping for a wedding DJ is a once in a life-time experience – and it is not the time to learn from your mistakes. From years of experience at Maestro Mobile, we know the *red flags* of a DJ who is likely to distract from your wedding instead of helping make it special.

***High Turnover Rate:*** Your DJ will be an important part of your wedding: on the microphone, talking to your guests, setting the pace and tone of the dance floor. If a DJ company is not able to introduce you to your DJ well in advance, find out why. It may be an indication that they have high turnover. You want an experienced DJ, not someone learning on the job.

***Part-Timer:*** Every couple feels the stress of all of their planning building up to the final event. You don't want to add the fear that your DJ will cancel. If your DJ is part-time, doing weddings on the side for extra money, you will not be their number one priority. You want a dedicated professional that will return your call in a timely manner, commit to your date 100%, and be ready to go above and beyond to meet your needs. Ask your DJ about more than just his DJ background.

***Hidden Fees:*** As you learn what your DJ can offer, you may realize you want a microphone during the ceremony, speakers on stands, or other special details. Find out what comes with your DJ's set fee and what costs extra. A DJ who truly has your best interest at heart will not try to nickel and dime you to death. A flat fee or hourly rate is the safest way to know you will get everything you need for one price.

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 **No Contract:** Your perfect wedding depends on your DJ being there, ready to go, and on top of every detail. This means you should never rely on a verbal agreement. Without a contract your DJ isn't even obligated to show up for the event. Don't be left with a ruined day and no legal recourse.

 **The "Used Car Salesman":** A DJ talks to your guests throughout the event, with a microphone that amplifies his or her personality. We all know the stereotype of the "used car salesman," someone with a fake smile, who acts like your friend, and tries hard to close a quick deal. As you listen to a prospective DJ, imagine him or her announcing that it is time for the toasts – which attitude and voice do you want on the microphone?

 **The Ego:** A DJ whose pitch is about what makes him or her great, but doesn't talk about meeting your needs, is similar to the "Used Car Salesman." The sales presentation and the DJ's process for working with you should be about what the DJ is going to do for *you*, and not the other way around. If a prospective DJ doesn't have a plan for working with you to understand your vision for the perfect wedding, you know that DJ is dominated by his or her ego. This DJ will only do the minimum and regard your big day as just another wedding.

 **Lack of Musical Knowledge:** The DJ that keeps your dance floor moving knows more than the top 20 songs. A truly skilled DJ is a musician who understands how to use rhythm, tempo, and pitch to transition from one song to the next without letting the energy drop. It is possible to do an adequate job without musical know-how, but if you want to get the most guests dancing for your entertainment dollar, find out whether your DJ knows how to do more than hit play.

 **Lack of Performance Background:** You want your DJ to inspire the crowd when announcing important wedding moments, and a strong personality and presence makes a world of difference. A DJ with a performance background, vocal training, and experience in front of crowds can create energy and engage your guests throughout the wedding reception, from cake cutting to toasts to hours of dancing and fun. Ask your DJ what prepares him or her to be the person on the microphone.

If there is anything we can do to help you create a beautiful wedding, please contact Maestro Mobile Music Productions. We are dedicated to ensuring your special day is everything you dreamt it could be.

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