

# 2023 Pricing Analysis: DJ Cost for Weddings

## Pricing Analysis & FAQ's

Are you looking for a **Professional DJ** for your wedding that you and your guest will love? Ever wondered why some DJ's charge \$500 for 4 hours of performance time and others \$1500 and up. Ever wondered what **value** I am really getting with the money I am spending? Doesn't it seem odd that everyone's pitch and or website of who they say they are sound the same? Are you curious if your budget is high enough to hire a Professional DJ?

This complete guide will run through all those questions and many more when **hiring a professional DJ** for your Wedding Day. I will cover top questions we receive, including a key pricing analysis on Wedding DJs in Southern California.

Pricing for wedding entertainment can vary. It's like comparing pricing for a cup of coffee. Why do we spend \$5 plus on a caffeinated drink at Starbucks when we can get a \$1.50 coffee at the local gas station?

Wedding DJ prices can vary greatly depending on many factors including the type of package you're looking for and most importantly your chosen **DJ's level of experience**. While paying for an amateur wedding DJ will save you money in the long run, it is true that you might not receive the caliber of service and entertainment that you would expect your Professional wedding DJ to provide you. I am going to share with you some information below that will help put this into perspective.

Level of Experience	Per hour pricing levels	What to expect at this level of experience
<b>Rookie level- Typically limited years of experience and little to no experience DJing Weddings</b>	\$50-\$100 an hour	Limited knowledge of music, Poor transitions during mixing, no back up of music on USB or laptop, can party too hard, poor MC'ing skills, Poor interaction with crowds, plays every request, or doesn't play any request, does not know how to work with other vendors and venue, no pre-planning wedding skills to help couple and lastly its typical to have poor sounding equipment at this level. Poor lighting as well. Stay away from this level for your Wedding Day!
<b>Intermediate level- A few years of experience. Does only a few weddings a year.</b>	\$150-\$250 an hour	A step up from above on all items. Typically, at this stage they have some good blending and some mic/ crowd experience. This is most likely your club or backyard DJ that is trying to break into the wedding scene. These DJ's have a few weddings under there belt. Decent equipment. Lighting is ok for a party but not suitable for a wedding. A budget friendly choice, however still amateur at this level. Use caution.
<b>Professional DJ- 250+ weddings and multi-styles of experience. Award Winning Service</b>	\$300-\$600 an hour. Typical to see Flat rates at this level as well.	Premium DJ. Levels of experience includes but not limited to Radio, Night Clubs, Weddings, and more. Successfully DJ'd over 250+ weddings w/ high feedback. Excellent MC, DJ, and personality. Professional looking and sounding equipment. Knows how to transition music. Has a vast knowledge of music. Has a planning process and works with couple through the pre-planning process. Experience is key as this level; knows how to work with and read the crowd. Perfect for \$1,500+ budgets

Depending on the level of experience your DJ has, most do not want to share with you the information I just provided. You might have noticed from the table I also mentioned equipment a few times in each level.

**DJ Equipment** is another key factor into analyzing the cost of a DJ. The **sound of the music** should be a value-add item for a DJ. Sadly, in many cases it is not. Most people have no knowledge of what is a good DJ speaker vs a bad DJ speaker. For the most part all they know is when you turn it up, if it still sounds good or not. Have you ever been to a wedding and during the cocktail hour, the music sounded “ok” but when they turned it up it was awful, distorted, and high pitched? That’s a \$300 speaker. Let’s say you went to another wedding and the music sounded crisp and it was almost like if the artist was performing right there. Then when the dancing started and the music was higher, it was still clear and well-balanced. That is a \$3,000 speaker.

Not only is sound a key factor when talking about equipment. The **look of the equipment** is another key factor. Couples spend thousands of dollars on flowers and décor to make there day look fabulous! But then here comes the DJ with a lot of wires, black speakers, and a not so desirable table for his equipment. Yuck! Nowadays most Professional DJ’s carry equipment that look beautiful. Look for key things like backlit totems, Facades and or DJ custom or furniture Booths. **Here at GTS Events, we went with ALL WHITE custom speakers, custom built DJ booth and White LED lighting on a backlit White Totems.** We are always reinvesting into the latest and best technology.

When hiring a professional DJ many people wonder how much total time the DJ spends working on the wedding. Some may not even realize how much time a DJ will spend. Remember the price per hour or flat rate does not just include the performance time. When calculating time, the total price you pay for includes **Planning, Production and Performance time.** Here at GTS Events, we spend on average 15-25 hours total on each wedding. This example below is of a base set up with no photobooth. Some weddings go as high as 30+ hours spent per wedding. Let me give you one more table to put this into perspective.

Communication, Planning and Preparation time	Loading Cargo Van	Driving Time to venue	Unload and set up time	Performance time	Loading and take down time	Return Drive	Unload Cargo Van
4-6 hours	1 hour	1-2 hours	2 hours	5-6 hours	1 hour	1-2 hours	1 hour

Lastly, look for a reputable company with a business license and are properly insured. These operational cost does play a factor. However, at the end of the day it will protect your special day.

Hiring a DJ isn’t always easy, especially if you are looking for high-quality service. To learn more about GTS Events and what we offer click here [www.gtsevents.net](http://www.gtsevents.net)

I hope this information helps you choose your right DJ for your Wedding Day!