

THE ULTIMATE INSTAX DIY WEDDING GUIDE:

5 CREATIVE WAYS TO USE INSTAX FOR YOUR BIG DAY



instax

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From Pinterest to Etsy, wedding blogs to bridal magazines, today's brides and grooms face thousands of sources for DIY wedding project inspiration—and a lot of pressure to create unique and memorable experiences for family and friends. With so many options, it can be difficult to determine which projects best suit your personal style, taste, budget and timeline. Not to mention, although many tutorials promise to be simple and fun, they're often far too complex for the over-stressed bride or anxious groom.

Your wedding day is one of the most important of your life. You deserve to enjoy all the magic and excitement of your big day—without sitting up until 2 a.m. the morning of your ceremony hot-gluing silk flowers to a hand-built arbor.

In an effort to help you satisfy your DIY urges without adding unnecessary stress to your already hectic pre-wedding schedule, we've collected five of our all-time favourite instax projects. They're simple, straightforward, budget-friendly and promise the "wow!" factor every couple hopes to achieve.

IDEA ONE: BUILD YOUR OWN PHOTO BOOTH

In recent years, photo booths have become as popular of a wedding activity as a bouquet toss or a champagne toast—and for good reason! They're whimsical, fun and provide each participating guest with their own keepsake of your big day.

However, while rentable booths are a common supplement to many wedding photographer packages, creating your own DIY photo booth can be an inexpensive and fun alternative.

Follow these steps to build your own customised instax photo booth:

STEP ONE

Start by scoping out your ideal photo booth spot. It should be removed from the action, but not so hidden that it goes unnoticed. Placing your photo booth too close to crowded spots such as the dance floor or DJ set-up may make your guests feel uncomfortable, so look for a far corner spot. Also, make sure your designated photo booth area is against at least one wall.

STEP TWO

Next, you'll need to create your backdrop. A simple white bed sheet should suffice but, depending on personal preference, you may prefer a patterned or coloured sheet. Using your hammer and a handful of small tacks, hang your bed sheet at least 2 meters off the ground. Make sure to use enough tacks so your backdrop stays secure all night.

PRO TIP: *If you're hosting your reception outdoors, hang a clothesline between two trees and attach your backdrop with clothespins.*

STEP THREE

To the side of the backdrop, set up your prop table. You can easily find inexpensive, silly props, such as hats, sunglasses, wigs, fake mustaches, animal ears and masks, at your local party store or consignment shop. Arrange your props across the table so guests can choose their favourite (and most ridiculous) combinations.

Items you will need:

- instax camera
- instax film
- costume props
- small table
- tall bar stool
- plain bed sheet
- hammer and tacks



STEP FOUR

Load your instax camera, and place it on top of the bar stool. This will act as your makeshift tripod.

STEP FIVE

Place signage near the photo booth so your guests understand it's available for their use. It may also help to set up a small sign or chalkboard with instructions. For example, you may ask them to snap two photos—one to keep, and one to leave for the newlyweds. Or, you may set a limit on the number of photos each party snaps so there's enough film for everyone to get in on the fun!



IDEA TWO: CREATE A PHOTO GUEST BOOK

After months of planning—and a lifetime of daydreams—your big day is over in the blink of an eye. From your vows to your first dance, those precious hours quickly become a blur of smiling well-wishers and flashing cameras. It's no wonder some couples forget to eat!

Because your wedding day is such a whirlwind, brides and grooms often rely on photographs and guest books to tell the story of their wedding, and to remind them of the people and moments that made the day so special. To enhance your memories, we suggest combining both these elements.

Here's an easy way to create a simple and personalised guest book you can cherish for years to come:

STEP ONE

Place your instax camera, along with several packages of film, next to your wedding guest book.

STEP TWO

Place a sign next to the camera with simple instructions so your guests know what to do. As they stop by to sign the book, they can snap a photo of themselves. Then, they can adhere it to their chosen page along with a quick note. Not only will you have a beautiful collection of well wishes from your favourite people, but you'll have a visual memory of your loved ones at one of the most important days of your life.

Items you will need:

- instax camera
- instax film
- large guest book
- adhesive roller
- selection of colourful pens or markers



IDEA THREE: COMPILE AN INSTANT PHOTO ALBUM

Aside from the venue and attire, your photographer is one of the most important decisions you and your partner will make regarding your wedding. After spending so much time, effort and money planning a day to honour your love, receiving high quality photographs to document the day is crucial. However, waiting several weeks to receive proofs from your photographer can feel like torture.

By including instax in your wedding day, you'll have access to photos of big moments immediately. Instead of waiting a month or two for a glimpse of these big moments, you and your new spouse can reflect on a whole evening's worth of snapshots over the next morning's breakfast.

You can easily supplement your photographer's collection with your own instant photos by having your guests help create a collective photo album. While professional photos are important, your guests often have the opportunity to capture moments your photographer might miss. Prepare to be entertained, amazed—and maybe even a little shocked—by the antics of your guests throughout your reception.

Here's an simple tutorial for creating an instant wedding album:

STEP ONE

Place an empty photo album in an easy-to-spot area, such as next to the guest book or by the exit. Be sure to place signage near the photo album so guests know why it's there.

STEP TWO

Before dinner, ask a wedding coordinator or friend to place one loaded instax camera on each table, along with an instructional card explaining to your guests what you'd like them to do. For example, you may ask the table to pass the camera around and snap shots of each other or take the camera out on to the dance floor. Also, make sure you let them know where the photo album is located so they can add their prints. Before the night ends, you'll have an album full of wonderful memories you can enjoy together.

Items you will need:

- multiple instax cameras
- instax film
- instax-sized photo album
- instructional table cards



IDEA FOUR: SET UP AN INSTANT PHOTO STATION

Given today's usage of mobile devices, we're willing to bet most of your wedding guests will be carrying a Smartphone in their pocket. Many of them will use their phone to snap a few shots. Some of them may even take the time to upload these photos to social media. However, many of them will forget all about these photos until it's time to free up their phone's memory space.

Don't let these photos die in your guests' Smartphone delete folder! Instead, seize the moment by creating your own photo printing station.

Items you will need:

- instax SHARE printer
- instax film
- small table
- permanent markers
- box or photo album to collect photo prints



Here's an simple tutorial for creating an instant photo station:

STEP ONE

Set up a small table near your guest book, cake table or somewhere guests will be sure not to miss. Be sure to place a sign with detailed instructions. For example, you'll need to let them know how to download the instax SHARE app, and how to send their photos to the printer.

STEP TWO

After your guests have printed their photos, they can caption them using the markers you've provided. You may also choose to provide scrapbooking stickers and other decorative options. After your guests are done, they can drop their photos in a box, or add them to a photo album—whatever you prefer!



IDEA FIVE: DESIGN YOUR OWN RUSTIC-STYLE MEMORY COLLAGE

Every couple has their own unique love story. However, guests who aren't as close with you and your future spouse may not be aware of your background. What better way to share your fairytale than with a collage of your favourite moments together?

Here is an easy how-to for putting together your own memory collage:

STEP ONE

Gather your favourite photos from your Smartphone photo library or social media accounts.

STEP TWO

Select a template from the application, or print without.



PRO TIP: *If you opt not to use the instax SHARE app templates, or find the available templates don't match the style of your design, you can neatly print the date and memory at the bottom of the photo using a permanent marker.*

Items you will need:

- instax SHARE printer
- instax film
- Large pallet board
- spray adhesive
- clothespins (optional)



STEP THREE

Print photos from your Smartphone using your instax SHARE printer application. Lay them out on your plywood or pallet board to determine the best spacing. (You can often find wooden pallets discarded at junk yards, or available for free at your local gardening or hardware store.)

STEP FOUR

Using your spray adhesive, coat the back of the photos and adhere them to your plywood or pallet board. Or, if you prefer, fasten clothespins to the board and use them to hold your photos. After the wedding, you can proudly display your memory collage in your home and reflect on your early moments as a couple well into the future.



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While all of these DIY projects are simple to complete, and require little-to-no DIY skill or experience, each project still takes a fair amount of planning and foresight. To keep yourself from becoming rushed or over-stressed, enlist the help of friends, family and your wedding coordinator.

Above all, relax, have fun and enjoy the memories you capture with your Instax camera and Instax SHARE Printer.

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