



THE WEDDING PLANNER'S POND

User Manual

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Offline.Ltd

Screen edition (dark)

"No cloud. No nonsense. Just tools."

Contents

GETTING STARTED

Introduction	3
The Ripple Effect	4
Quick Start	5

THE TABS

Couple's Brief	7
Budget Allocator	9
Vendor Tracker	12
Day-of Timeline	14
Guest Flow & Seating	17
Risk & Backup Plans	19
Dashboard	21
Post-Wedding ROI	24
Decision Log	26

FEATURES

The Oracle	28
Files & State Management	30
Keyboard Shortcuts	31

REFERENCE

How to Think About Your Budget	32
The Countdown Calendar	33
The Art of Vendor Conversations	35
The Wedding Day Emergency Kit	37
Lessons from Real Weddings	39
Using the Pond on Mobile	41
Data Flow — A Deeper Look	42
Glossary	44
Disclaimer	46

GETTING STARTED

Introduction

You know that moment three weeks before the wedding when you're lying in bed at 2 a.m. and the thought arrives, uninvited: *did we actually confirm the florist?*

Your partner is asleep. The spreadsheet is on the laptop downstairs. The laptop is dead. And the florist's number is in a text message from February that you've already scrolled past six hundred times.

The Wedding Planner's Pond exists because of that moment. Not to prevent it entirely — some middle-of-the-night panic is practically a rite of passage — but to make sure that when it happens, the answer is somewhere you can actually find it.

Nine interconnected tabs model a wedding from the first conversation about what kind of day you want, all the way through to whether the whole thing was worth it (spoiler: it was). Change one number — your guest count, your budget ceiling, your vacancy in the timeline — and every downstream calculation updates instantly.

The Pond Metaphor

Think of your guest count as the stone. You throw it in. The budget is the first ripple — how much per head, how many tables, how much wine. The vendors are the second ripple — who do you need, what do they cost, when do they need paying? The timeline is where the ripples converge into a single day. And the Dashboard is the shoreline, where you stand back and see the whole picture at once.

Change the stone, and the ripples change shape. That's the point.

PRIVACY

Everything runs in your browser. Your guest list, your budget, your vendor negotiations — none of it leaves your machine. No servers, no accounts, no tracking. Your wedding data is yours alone.

The tool works offline. Once you've opened the HTML file, you could throw your router out the window and it would still function perfectly. (Don't actually throw your router out the window. You'll need it to email the caterer.)

The Ripple Effect

How one number becomes every number.

Every tab feeds downstream. This isn't a collection of separate calculators duct-taped together — it's a single system where data flows like water. Here is how:

Source	Feeds into	What flows
Couple's Brief	Budget, Vendors, Guests, Risk	Guest count, date, style
Budget Allocator	Vendors, Dashboard, ROI	Category allocations, spend tracking
Vendor Tracker	Budget, Timeline, Dashboard	Booked costs, deposits, schedule
Day-of Timeline	Dashboard	Event count, duration, coverage
Guest Flow	Budget, Dashboard	Confirmed count, dietary needs
Risk & Backup	Dashboard, Budget	Mitigation costs, severity
All tabs	Dashboard, Decision Log	Health metrics, auto-fill data

THE INTERCONNECTION IS THE PRODUCT

Traditional wedding planners give you a spreadsheet for the budget, a different one for the guest list, and a Pinterest board for the mood. The Pond lets you pull a lever on any tab and watch all the dials move at once. That moment when you realise adding 20 guests changes your per-head cost, pushes you over budget, and triggers a risk warning? That's the product working.

The most important thing to understand is that you don't need to fill in every tab to get value. Start with the Brief and the Budget. Everything else layers on top. The Pond is designed to be useful at the napkin-sketch stage and at the three-days-before-the-wedding stage.

Quick Start

Ten steps from blank screen to a wedding you can see.

- 1. Open the file** — Open **The_Wedding_Planners_Pond.html** in any modern browser. Chrome, Firefox, Safari, Edge, Brave, Arc — all work. Mobile too, though you'll appreciate the extra screen space of a laptop for the first pass.
 - 2. Couple's Brief** — Start here. Enter names, the wedding date, and your estimated guest count. This is the stone — everything else ripples from it. Set your currency symbol. Choose your style. If you're a professional planner, toggle the planner type — it changes the ROI tab.
 - 3. Budget Allocator** — Enter your total budget and contingency percentage. The default categories give you a starting framework. Adjust allocations until the progress bar feels right. Watch the per-head number — it's your sanity check.
 - 4. Vendor Tracker** — Start adding vendors as you find them. They'll sit in 'Shortlisted' until you book them. Track quotes, deposits, and payment due dates. The status pipeline is your vendor CRM.
 - 5. Day-of Timeline** — Click 'Load Template' for a ready-made wedding day schedule, or build your own from scratch. Each event has a time, duration, who's involved, and location.
 - 6. Guest Flow & Seating** — Add guests with their party size, table assignment, and RSVP status. Dietary notes and relation tags help you build a seating plan that doesn't seat your divorced parents next to each other.
 - 7. Risk & Backup Plans** — Click 'Load Common Risks' to start with eight typical wedding risks and their mitigations. Add your own. Every wedding has a Plan B — the question is whether you've written it down.
 - 8. Dashboard** — Check the health badges. Click the Oracle section for sensitivity analysis — which budget levers have the biggest impact? Low-Hanging Fruit gives you actionable tips based on your specific numbers.
 - 9. Decision Log** — Record your decisions as you make them. Auto-fill pulls current metrics from across all tabs. In six months, when you're deep in vendor negotiations, you'll be grateful for the context.
 - 10. Export your state** — Go to the Files tab. Click 'Export All'. Keep the JSON file alongside the HTML file. You now have a portable wedding planning system that works anywhere.
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THE TWO-FILE SYSTEM

Keep two files together: the HTML tool and your latest state JSON. Email them to yourself, put them on a USB stick, store them in a cloud folder. Open the HTML anywhere, import your state, and you are exactly where you left off. Your entire wedding plan, in two files smaller than a single iPhone photo.

THE TABS

Couple's Brief

The stone you throw in.

Every wedding begins as a feeling. Somewhere between 'I'd love an outdoor ceremony' and 'absolutely not more than eighty people' lives the shape of your day. The Brief is where you capture that shape before it evaporates into the fog of vendor calls and Pinterest boards.

Enter your names. This sounds trivial, but it matters — they appear in exports, in the Decision Log, in the data you'll look back on years from now. Enter your wedding date. The moment you do, a countdown appears. That number will follow you through every tab, quietly ticking down in the background like a metronome.

The Guest Count

This is, after the date, the most consequential number you'll enter. It ripples into everything. Budget per head. Table count. Catering quantities. Venue capacity requirements. Stationery orders. Gift bag counts. Favours. Chairs. Wine bottles. The difference between 80 guests and 120 guests is not 50% more wine — it's a fundamentally different wedding.

Be honest with this number early. You can always revise it, and the Pond will re-ripple everything when you do. But starting with a realistic estimate saves you from falling in love with a venue that fits 60 when you actually need 150.

Style and Vision

The style dropdown — Classic, Modern, Bohemian, Glamorous, Intimate, Destination, Cultural — isn't just for labelling. It's a decision-forcing function. Choosing 'Intimate / Micro' while your guest count reads 200 should give you pause. The notes field is where the real texture lives: colour palettes, non-negotiables, traditions, dietary constraints, the song that must play during the first dance.

Field	What it does	What it feeds
Partner Names	Identifies the couple across exports	Decision Log, Files

Field	What it does	What it feeds
Wedding Date	Sets the countdown; drives payment timelines	Timeline, Dashboard, Risk
Guest Count	The master number for per-head calculations	Budget, Guests, Vendors, Risk
Currency Symbol	Localises all monetary displays	Every tab with money
Venue Type	Informs risk assessment (weather, etc.)	Risk & Backup
Wedding Style	Guides vendor and decor decisions	Notes, context
Location	Travel and logistics reference	Timeline, Vendors
Planner Type	Toggles couple vs. planner view in ROI	ROI tab
Vision & Notes	Free-form brief for the entire wedding	Your own reference

▣ THE STONE

This is where every ripple begins. Your guest count flows into Budget (per-head costs), Vendors (capacity needs), Guests (total tracking), and Risk (contingency sizing). Change it and watch every downstream tab update. The Brief doesn't just describe your wedding — it defines the physics of the entire system.

Budget Allocator

Where every euro, pound, and dollar gets a job.

There's a particular kind of dread that comes with wedding budgets. You have a number — let's say thirty thousand. It feels like a lot of money, right up until the moment you start dividing it by categories. Venue: eight thousand. Catering: seven thousand. Photography: two and a half thousand. And suddenly you're at twenty thousand and you haven't bought a single flower.

The Budget Allocator doesn't make this maths less painful. But it makes it visible. And visibility is the only antidote to the 3 a.m. panic spiral.

The Contingency Fund

Before you allocate a single euro, the tool sets aside your contingency. The default is 10%. Industry wisdom says 10–15% is the sweet spot. This isn't money you're not spending — it's money you're spending on surprises you can't predict yet. The florist whose minimum order went up. The last-minute marquee hire because the forecast turned. The extra table because your aunt's plus-one is apparently bringing *his* plus-one.

The contingency is subtracted from your total before the allocation bar is calculated. So if your budget is €30,000 with a 10% contingency, your *usable* budget is €27,000. The bar fills against €27,000, not €30,000. This keeps you honest.

Category Rows

Each row has three fields: name, allocated amount, and spent amount. The default categories cover the standard wedding cost centres — Venue, Catering, Photography, Music, Flowers, Attire, Hair & Makeup, Cake, Stationery, Transport, Officiant, and Other. Add or remove categories to match your wedding. Some couples have 'Rehearsal Dinner' as a category. Some have 'Dog Handler' (no judgment).

The progress bar at the bottom is your budget speedometer. Green below 90% allocated: you're in control. Amber at 90–100%: tight but manageable. Red above 100%: you've overcommitted. The bar doesn't lie, and it doesn't judge — it just shows you where you stand.

THE 50% RULE (ADAPTED FOR WEDDINGS)

In many weddings, venue and catering together consume 45–55% of the total budget. If yours is significantly higher, you might be overspending on the venue relative to the guest experience. If it's significantly lower, check whether your venue estimate is realistic. This isn't a rule — it's a sanity check.

The stat cards above the category rows show four numbers that tell the whole story at a glance: total budget, contingency held back, usable budget, and the per-head cost. That last one — per-head — is the number that grounds everything. When a vendor quotes you €35 per person for dessert and your total per-head budget is €180, you immediately know that's 19% of your per-head spend on sugar alone. Is that okay? Maybe. But at least you know.

Tracking Spend

The 'Spent' column in each category is where the budget transitions from plan to reality. As you book vendors and pay deposits, update the spent amounts. The Dashboard will compare allocated vs. spent to flag categories where you're running hot.

Some couples update this weekly. Some update it every time they write a cheque. The right cadence is whatever keeps the numbers close enough to reality that they're still useful. A budget that's six months out of date is just a wish list.

Vendor Tracker

Every handshake, every quote, every deposit.

Booking wedding vendors is one of the stranger experiences in adult life. You're essentially interviewing strangers to perform at the most emotionally significant party you'll ever throw, and you're doing it while emotionally compromised. The Vendor Tracker won't help you choose between photographers — that's a question for your gut and their portfolio — but it will make sure you don't lose track of the conversation.

The Pipeline

Every vendor starts as a name and a category. From there, they move through a pipeline:

Shortlisted ☐ you've found them and they look promising. **Contacted** ☐ you've reached out. **Quoted** ☐ they've come back with a price. **Booked** ☐ you've agreed terms. **Deposit Paid** ☐ money has changed hands. **Paid in Full** ☐ done. **Declined** ☐ you passed, or they weren't available.

This pipeline isn't just organisation theatre. It feeds into the Dashboard. The ratio of booked to total vendors tells you how far along you are. The total of booked costs tells you what you've committed. The deposit total tells you what's already gone.

What to Track

For each vendor: the quoted price (the full amount, not the deposit), the deposit paid so far, and the date the balance is due. The notes field is for everything else — the contact's name, their phone number, the specific package you discussed, whether they were pleasant to deal with, what they said about availability.

Six months from now, when you need to confirm a detail with a vendor you spoke to once in January, you'll be glad you wrote it down.

VENDOR NEGOTIATION

Most vendors have more flexibility than their first quote suggests, especially for off-peak dates, mid-week weddings, or multi-service bookings. Before you accept a quote, ask: 'Is there flexibility on this?' The worst they can say is no. Track the original quote and the negotiated price in your notes — it's useful data for the Decision Log.

The stat cards at the top of the tab show four numbers: total vendors tracked, number booked, total booked cost, and total paid so far. The gap between 'booked cost' and 'paid so far' is your outstanding vendor balance — the money you still owe. If this number makes you uncomfortable, that's the system working. Better to feel uncomfortable now than surprised later.

Day-of Timeline

Minute by minute, from first alarm to last dance.

There's a version of your wedding day that exists only in your imagination. In that version, everything flows effortlessly from one moment to the next. The ceremony starts on time. The speeches are the perfect length. The golden-hour photos happen during actual golden hour. Nobody gets stuck in traffic.

The Timeline tab is where you build the bridge between that imagined version and reality. It won't make the day perfect — perfection is the enemy of a good wedding — but it will give everyone involved a shared understanding of what's supposed to happen when.

The Template

Click 'Load Template' to get a pre-built wedding day schedule: seventeen events from 07:00 (hair and makeup) to 22:45 (couple departure). It's designed as a starting point, not a prescription. Every wedding is different. Some start with a first look at dawn. Some don't begin until sunset. Some have a six-hour party. Some have a quiet lunch and an early exit.

The template gives you the architecture. You supply the details.

Building Your Schedule

Each event has five fields: time, duration (in minutes), what's happening, who's involved, and where. The 'Notes' field is for vendor contacts, music cues, special instructions, and backup plans.

Be generous with time. A ceremony you expect to last 30 minutes might run to 40. A 'quick' group photo is never quick. Cocktail hour is the shock absorber of the wedding day — it's where delays get absorbed without anyone noticing. If in doubt, add 15 minutes to everything.

THE BUFFER PRINCIPLE

Build at least 30 minutes of unscheduled buffer into your day. Put it after the ceremony, after speeches, or before the evening party. These buffers are where the real moments happen — the conversation with your grandmother, the sunset you didn't plan for, the breath you take before the first dance. A packed schedule leaves no room for the unscripted magic.

The stat cards show total events, total duration, and the first and last event times. If your day runs from 07:00 to 23:00, that's a sixteen-hour day. For the couple, the bridal party, and the photographer, it's a marathon. Plan accordingly: when do people eat? When do they rest? When does the photographer take a break? These details separate a joyful day from an exhausting one.

Sharing the Timeline

Export the full state and share the relevant sections with your vendors, bridal party, and venue coordinator. Everyone should know when they need to be where. The most common source of wedding-day stress isn't catastrophe — it's confusion. The timeline is the antidote.

Guest Flow & Seating

Every name, every seat, every dietary need.

The guest list is where politics meets logistics. Your partner's mother wants her bridge club invited. Your father insists his old college roommate is 'practically family.' Your best friend's new partner has a name you can't quite remember. And somewhere in all of this, you need to figure out who sits next to whom without triggering a family incident.

The Guests tab won't resolve the politics. But it will keep the logistics from making things worse.

Adding Guests

Each guest entry has a name, party size (for plus-ones and families), table assignment, RSVP status, dietary notes, and relation tag. The party size is important — when Aunt Rosa RSVPs for three, your catering count goes up by three, not one. The system tracks total heads, not total invitations.

RSVP Tracking

Four statuses: **Attending** (confirmed yes), **Pending** (no response yet), **Maybe** (they're thinking about it), and **Declined** (they can't make it). The Dashboard tracks the ratio of confirmed to pending. When you're eight weeks out and 40% of your list is still 'Pending,' the system will flag it.

This matters because your caterer needs a final count, usually two to four weeks before the wedding. The gap between 'invited' and 'confirmed' is where your budget uncertainty lives.

The Seating Question

Table assignments are free-text, so you can use whatever system works: 'Table 1,' 'The Oak Table,' 'Family — Partner 1,' or 'Back Left Near the Bar.' The stats show how many distinct tables you've defined and how many guests have dietary notes.

A practical approach: assign tables late, after RSVPs are mostly in. Assign tricky guests first (family dynamics, accessibility needs, children's table), then fill in around them. The people who are easy to seat should be seated last, not first.

DIETARY NOTES MATTER

Collect dietary requirements early and track them here. Vegetarian, vegan, gluten-free, nut allergy, halal, kosher, 'doesn't eat fish' — your caterer needs this list, and you'll need to communicate it clearly. The number of guests with dietary notes is shown in the stat cards. If it's zero, you probably haven't asked yet.

Risk & Backup Plans

Hope for the best. Plan for the rest.

Nobody wants to think about what could go wrong. You're planning the happiest day of your life — who wants to spend an afternoon imagining rain, no-show vendors, and wardrobe malfunctions?

You do. Because the couple who has a Plan B for rain enjoys a sunny wedding just as much as anyone else — but when the clouds roll in, they're the only ones who aren't panicking.

The Risk Matrix

Each risk has two dimensions: **likelihood** (how probable is it?) and **impact** (how bad would it be?). A low-likelihood, high-impact risk is different from a high-likelihood, low-impact one, and they need different responses.

Rain at an outdoor wedding? Medium likelihood, high impact. Solution: marquee on standby, indoor backup arranged. A vendor running fifteen minutes late? High likelihood, low impact. Solution: build buffer into the timeline.

Common Wedding Risks

Click 'Load Common Risks' to start with eight pre-populated risks: weather, vendor no-shows, guest cancellations, equipment failure, dress emergencies, catering shortages, transport delays, and going over budget. Each comes with a suggested mitigation. They're starting points — edit them, delete the irrelevant ones, add your own.

The stat cards show total risks identified, high-severity count, how many have a documented backup plan, and total estimated mitigation cost. That last number — mitigation cost — feeds into your budget thinking. If your Plan B for weather costs €500 in marquee hire, that's a contingency expense your budget should account for.

THE UNTHINKABLE LIST

The risks you're most reluctant to write down are usually the ones most worth documenting. Not because they're likely, but because thinking through them *before* the day means you'll handle them with calm rather than chaos if they happen. Write it down. Plan for it. Then forget about it and enjoy the planning.

Dashboard

Everything at a glance.

The Dashboard is the shoreline. It's where you stand back from the details — the vendor emails, the seating chart scribbles, the budget rows — and look at the whole pond.

Five health-check badges sit at the top, each with a traffic-light indicator. Green means healthy. Amber means watch. Red means something needs attention.

Badge	Green	Amber	Red
Budget Allocated	▣ 90%	91–100%	> 100%
Vendors Booked	All booked	In progress	None yet
RSVP Confirmed	▣ 80%	50–79%	< 50%
Days to Go	> 90	31–90	▣ 30
High Risks	0	1–2	3+

Below the badges, two summary cards show the budget breakdown (total ▣ contingency ▣ allocated ▣ spent ▣ remaining) and the guest snapshot (invited ▣ confirmed ▣ pending ▣ declined ▣ per-head cost).

These cards are designed to be skimmed. You should be able to open the Dashboard, look at it for five seconds, and know whether your wedding is on track. If you need more than five seconds, something needs attention.

The Oracle

Below the summary cards lives the Oracle — a sensitivity analysis tool that answers the question: *which levers move the budget the most?*

Full details on the Oracle are in the Features section of this manual. The short version: it models six budget-saving scenarios, ranks them by impact, and shows proportional bars so the biggest opportunity is always at the top. Below the bars, contextual tips reference your specific numbers and link to the relevant tabs.

Post-Wedding ROI

Was it worth it? (Yes. But let's quantify that.)

After the confetti settles and the last guest has gone home, there's a quiet moment — usually the next morning, often over coffee — when the question surfaces: *what did that actually cost us?*

The ROI tab serves two audiences, toggled by the Planner Type field on the Brief tab.

For Couples

Track what you received back. Wedding gifts (cash and estimated value), items you can resell (the dress, decor, leftover supplies), your honeymoon cost, and any unexpected expenses that appeared after the budget was 'final.' The system calculates your net cost, cost per guest, and — because every wedding should be measured on more than money — a satisfaction score from 1 to 10.

The 'cost per satisfaction point' metric might make you laugh, but it's genuinely useful. A €25,000 wedding that scores 9/10 costs €2,778 per satisfaction point. A €40,000 wedding that scores 7/10 costs €5,714. The cheaper wedding was twice as efficient at producing joy. This isn't to say smaller is always better — but it's a reminder that the correlation between spend and happiness plateaus surprisingly early.

For Professional Planners

The planner view replaces gifts and satisfaction with business metrics: your planning fee, hours invested, your direct costs (travel, tools, subcontractors), and any vendor commissions earned. The system calculates total revenue, profit, margin percentage, and your effective hourly rate.

That hourly rate is the number that matters for your business. If you charged €4,000 for a wedding that took 200 hours, your effective rate is €20/hour — likely below what you'd earn freelancing. If you charged €6,000 for a wedding that took 80 hours, you're at €75/hour. Track this across weddings and you'll quickly learn which types of events are worth your time.

Decision Log

Your planning journal.

You will make hundreds of decisions while planning a wedding. Some are momentous: the venue, the dress, the photographer. Some feel small at the time and turn out to matter enormously: the seating arrangement, the timeline buffer, whether to have a receiving line.

The Decision Log exists because memory is unreliable, and the version of you who made a decision in March will be a different person by August. Write down what you decided, why you decided it, and what the numbers looked like at the time.

Decision Types

Book — you've committed to something. A vendor, a venue, a date. **Review** — you're pausing to assess. How is the budget tracking? Are RSVPs on pace? **Finalise** — something is locked in and can't be changed. Final guest count, final menu, final seating chart. **Paid** — money has changed hands.

Auto-fill

The Auto-fill button pulls current metrics from across all tabs: total budget, amount allocated, amount spent, vendors booked, and guests confirmed. It snapshots the state of your planning at the moment of the decision. Six months from now, you'll see not just *what* you decided, but *what the world looked like* when you decided it.

CLOSE THE LOOP

When one wedding ends, the Decision Log becomes your reference for the next — whether that's your own future events or, if you're a planner, your next client. What worked? What didn't? What would you do differently? The answers are in the log. The Decision Log is the feedback loop that connects the end of one analysis to the beginning of the next — like a stone thrown from the shore back into the pond.

FEATURES

The Oracle

The sensitivity analysis that shows you where to look.

Imagine you're €3,000 over budget. Where do you cut? The instinct is to trim a little from everywhere — €200 less on flowers, €300 less on music, €500 less on catering. But trimming from everywhere makes everything slightly worse without making anything dramatically better.

The Oracle takes a different approach. It asks: *which single change would have the biggest impact?*

Sensitivity Analysis

The Oracle models six budget-saving scenarios and ranks them by monetary impact:

Lever	What it models	Typical impact
Guest count -10%	Reducing guests by 10%	High — 5–8% of total budget
DIY flowers / decor	Cutting floral costs by 40–60%	Moderate — depends on allocation
Off-peak date	Friday, Sunday, or winter wedding	High — 15–25% venue/vendor savings
Venue change	Alternative venue type	High — 30% of venue cost
Cut 1 course	Reducing from 4 to 3 courses	Moderate — per-head catering savings
Negotiate vendors -10%	Asking for flexibility on quotes	Moderate — 10% of booked costs

The levers are sorted by impact, with proportional colour bars, so the biggest opportunity is always at the top. Click any lever to jump directly to the relevant tab. The point isn't to tell you what to cut — it's to show you where the leverage is. A 10% reduction in something small doesn't move the needle. A 10% reduction in your biggest expense might solve the whole problem.

Low-Hanging Fruit

Below the levers, the Oracle generates contextual tips based on your specific numbers. These aren't generic advice — they reference your actual contingency percentage, your RSVP response rate, your vendor pipeline, and your risk documentation. Each tip links to the tab where you can take

action.

If your contingency is below 10%, the Oracle will tell you the exact euro amount you should consider setting aside. If half your vendors aren't booked and the wedding is four months away, it'll flag the urgency. If you have high-severity risks without mitigation plans, it'll prompt you to document them.

THE ORACLE AUTO-REFRESHES

Every time you open the Dashboard, the Oracle recalculates. As your numbers change — vendors booked, budget allocated, guests confirmed — the levers and tips update to reflect your current reality. It's a living analysis, not a one-time report.

Files & State Management

Your data. Your machine. Your control.

Your work is saved automatically in the browser's localStorage every time you make a change. This means if you close the tab and reopen it, your data is still there. But localStorage is tied to one browser on one device. If you clear your browser data, switch laptops, or want to share your planning state with your partner, you need to export.

Exporting

Click 'Export All' on the Files tab. A JSON file downloads with all nine tabs' data, timestamped with the current date. Keep this file alongside the HTML. Together, they are your complete wedding planning system. Email them to yourself. Put them on a USB stick. Store them in a cloud folder. The JSON file is tiny — typically under 50 KB.

Importing

Click 'Import All' and select a previously exported JSON file. The system validates that it's a Wedding Planner's Pond state file, then restores all tabs. Everything ripples on import, so all downstream calculations update immediately.

The Reminder

If you've made changes but haven't exported in 15 minutes, a gentle toast notification appears in the corner: *Your work lives in this browser only. Export to keep it safe.* You can export immediately or dismiss and come back to it later. The amber dot on the Files tab indicates unsaved changes.

Keyboard Shortcuts

Shortcut	Action
Ctrl/Cmd + 1	Couple's Brief tab
Ctrl/Cmd + 2	Budget Allocator tab
Ctrl/Cmd + 3	Vendor Tracker tab
Ctrl/Cmd + 4	Day-of Timeline tab
Ctrl/Cmd + 5	Guest Flow & Seating tab
Ctrl/Cmd + 6	Risk & Backup Plans tab
Ctrl/Cmd + 7	Dashboard tab
Ctrl/Cmd + 8	Post-Wedding ROI tab
Ctrl/Cmd + 9	Decision Log tab
Ctrl/Cmd + S	Export full state
Escape	Close modals

REFERENCE

How to Think About Your Budget

A framework, not a formula.

Wedding budgets are peculiar. You're spending more money in a single day than most people spend in months, on a combination of products and services you've never purchased before, in an emotionally heightened state, with limited ability to comparison-shop because every vendor is slightly different.

Here's a framework that might help.

The Three Layers

Layer 1: Non-negotiables. These are the things your wedding cannot happen without. A venue. Food. An officiant. Whatever you both agree is essential. Allocate for these first.

Layer 2: Important-but-flexible. Photography. Music. Flowers. Attire. These matter a lot, but there's a wide range of options at different price points. A brilliant photographer at €2,000 might serve you better than a mediocre one at €4,000.

Layer 3: Nice-to-have. Favours. Elaborate stationery. A photo booth. A live painter. Sparkler send-off. These make the day special, but the wedding would still be beautiful without them. Allocate for these last, from whatever's left after layers 1 and 2.

The Per-Head Reality Check

Divide your total budget by your guest count. This gives you your per-head spend. Industry averages vary wildly by location, but here's a rough guide:

Per-Head Range	What it typically looks like
€80–€120	Budget-conscious. DIY-heavy. Smaller venue. Buffet catering.
€120–€200	Mid-range. Good vendors. Seated dinner. Solid photography.
€200–€350	Premium. Excellent venue. Top vendors. Few compromises.
€350+	Luxury. Destination. Designer details. Full production.

These are not prescriptions. A €100/head wedding can be more joyful than a €500/head one. The number tells you what's *available* at each level, not what's *required* for a good wedding. The best weddings are the ones where the couple spent their money on the things that mattered to them and didn't spend it on things that didn't.

The Countdown Calendar

What to do when.

The Dashboard shows you days remaining. But what should you actually be doing at each stage? Here's a rough guide. Your mileage will vary — destination weddings need longer lead times; intimate weddings need less.

Timeline	What to focus on
12+ months out	Set the date. Book the venue. Establish the budget. Start the guest list. Book the photographer (they go early).
9–12 months	Book remaining big vendors: catering, music, flowers. Choose bridal party. Start dress shopping. Send save-the-dates.
6–9 months	Book remaining vendors: cake, transport, officiant. Finalise guest list. Book hair & makeup trials. Choose stationery.
4–6 months	Send invitations. Plan ceremony details. Book honeymoon. Schedule fittings. Start seating chart.
2–4 months	Confirm all vendors. Chase RSVPs. Finalise menu. Write vows. Plan rehearsal dinner. Build day-of timeline.
1–2 months	Final fittings. Confirm final guest count with caterer. Finalise seating chart. Prepare vendor payments. Brief bridal party.
2–4 weeks	Final vendor confirmations. Prepare tips/gratuities. Break in shoes. Prepare emergency kit. Print timeline for bridal party.
Week of	Rehearsal. Pack for honeymoon. Delegate day-of tasks. Breathe. Remind yourself why you're doing this.
Day of	Follow the timeline. Trust your vendors. Let small things go. Be present. Eat something. Dance.

That last row — 'Day of' — deserves its own meditation. You've spent months planning. You've tracked every euro, confirmed every vendor, chased every RSVP. And now the day is here. The single most important thing you can do is let go. Trust the timeline. Trust your vendors. Trust the people you've asked to help. If the buttonholes are the wrong shade of blush, nobody will notice except you — and only if you're looking.

Eat something. Seriously. Brides and grooms routinely forget to eat on their wedding day, and by 4 p.m. they're running on champagne and adrenaline. Ask your coordinator to make sure a plate appears in front of you. This is not optional.

The Art of Vendor Conversations

What to ask, when to push, and when to trust your gut.

Talking to wedding vendors is unlike any other transaction in your life. You're not buying a car, where specs are objective and the dealer expects you to haggle. You're hiring an artist, a craftsperson, a professional who does this every weekend and cares about their reputation as much as you care about your day.

That said, it's still a business transaction. And the best business transactions happen when both parties feel respected and informed.

The First Conversation

Before you talk numbers, talk vision. Tell the vendor what kind of wedding you're planning: the style, the vibe, the things that matter to you. A good vendor will ask follow-up questions. A great vendor will tell you something you hadn't considered. If they jump straight to the price list without asking about your day, that tells you something about how they work.

Ask to see recent work. Not their all-time greatest hits — their *recent* work. A photographer's style evolves. A florist's technique changes. The work they did last month is a better predictor of what they'll do for you than the portfolio shot from 2019.

The Money Conversation

When you ask for a quote, be honest about your budget range. Not the exact number — but the ballpark. 'We're working with roughly €2,000 to €3,000 for photography' is more useful to both parties than 'what do you charge?' A vendor who's out of your range would rather tell you now than waste both of your time with a proposal you can't afford.

When the quote arrives, take a breath before responding. It might be higher than you expected. That's normal. Wedding services cost what they cost because they're bespoke, labour-intensive, and time-sensitive. The question isn't whether it's expensive — it's whether it's good value for what you're getting.

When to Negotiate

Most vendors have some flexibility, particularly in these situations: off-peak dates (Fridays, Sundays, January through March), mid-week weddings, multi-service bookings (photographer and videographer from the same studio), or if you're booking well in advance. The ask should be respectful: 'Is there any flexibility on the package, or could we adjust the scope to fit closer to our

budget?' works better than 'Can you do it for less?'

Some things are non-negotiable. A photographer's day rate reflects their expertise, their equipment, and the 40 hours of editing that happen after they leave your reception. Asking them to halve their rate is asking them to devalue their work. Instead, ask whether they have a smaller package, or whether they offer mini-sessions, or whether an associate photographer might be available at a different rate.

The Contract

Every vendor agreement should be in writing. At minimum, it should cover: what's included, what's not included, the total price, the deposit amount, when the balance is due, the cancellation policy, and what happens if the vendor can't make it. Read the cancellation clause carefully. Some are fair. Some are punitive. Know what you're agreeing to before the deposit clears.

Track all of this in the Vendor Tracker tab. The notes field is where you record what was promised, what was discussed, and any special terms you agreed on. Six months from now, your memory of that conversation will be fuzzy. The notes won't be.

The Wedding Day Emergency Kit

A small bag that prevents large disasters.

Somewhere in the bridal suite, preferably in a clearly labelled bag that someone other than the bride is responsible for, should be the following collection of unremarkable objects. None of them is glamorous. All of them will save someone's day.

Item	Why
Sewing kit (needle, white/black/clear thread)	Hems, buttons, tears. It will be needed.
Safety pins (assorted sizes)	The universal emergency fastener.
Double-sided fashion tape	Keeps necklines, straps, and lapels in place.
Stain remover pen	Red wine on white fabric. Grass on trousers. It happens.
Paracetamol / ibuprofen	Headaches, period pain, hangovers from the rehearsal dinner.
Plasters / band-aids	New shoes and dancing are natural enemies.
Tissues (the good kind)	Tears. So many tears.
Clear nail polish	Stops tights laddering if caught early.
Deodorant	It's a long day. Backup is wise.
Phone charger / power bank	The photographer's phone dies. The DJ's tablet runs out. Your phone is at 4%.
Breath mints	You will kiss people. Many people.
Bobby pins and hair ties	Windy ceremonies, enthusiastic dancing, gravity.
Small scissors	Tags, threads, ribbon, packaging.
Snack bars / crackers	For the couple. Because they will forget to eat.
Flask of water	Dehydration is the silent enemy of wedding days.
Umbrella (clear, if possible)	Even if the forecast is perfect.
Cash (small notes)	Tips, parking, the unexpected taxi.

Item	Why
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Copy of the timeline	Printed. On paper. Because batteries die.
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Assign the kit to someone reliable — the best man, the maid of honour, the day-of coordinator. Not the couple. The couple should not be thinking about stain remover pens on their wedding day. That's the whole point of having the kit: so someone else can handle the small crises quietly, without the couple ever knowing they happened.

Lessons from Real Weddings

The things nobody tells you until afterwards.

Planning tools give you structure. Experience gives you wisdom. Here are the things that couples and planners consistently say they wish they'd known earlier.

The Guest List Is Political

You will upset someone with the guest list. This is inevitable. The question is not how to avoid it — it's how to make the decisions you can live with. One approach: each partner gets an equal allocation of seats. Family obligations come first. Mutual friends are shared. The remaining seats are each partner's to allocate without justification. This doesn't eliminate conflict, but it gives the conflict a framework.

A harder truth: some people you invite won't come. And some people you don't invite will be hurt. Both of these things are okay. Your wedding is not a census — it's a celebration. The right guest list is the one that fills the room with people who are genuinely happy to be there.

Speeches Are Longer Than You Think

If someone tells you their speech will be 'just five minutes,' budget for ten. If they say ten, budget for fifteen. This isn't cynicism — it's acoustics, laughter pauses, and the natural tendency to ad-lib when you're standing in front of a crowd with a glass of champagne. Build the buffer into your timeline. Your DJ and your caterer will thank you.

The Best Photos Happen Between Events

The confetti shot and the first dance are beautiful. But the photos you'll treasure most are usually the in-between moments: the look your partner gives you during someone else's speech. Your grandmother on the dance floor. Your best friend crying during the ceremony and pretending not to. Tell your photographer to watch for these moments. The candid shots are worth more than any posed portrait.

Nobody Remembers the Favours

Ask any married couple what their wedding favours were. Most can't remember. Now ask them what the food was like, whether the music was good, and whether they danced. Allocate your budget accordingly. The things guests remember are: the food, the music, the vibe, and whether they felt welcomed. Everything else is decoration — lovely, but not load-bearing.

The Day Goes Fast

Every couple says the same thing: it goes so fast. The ceremony that took six months to plan is over in thirty minutes. The reception you agonised over flies by in a blur. This isn't a problem to solve — it's a reality to prepare for. Build in pauses. Take five minutes alone together after the ceremony. Sit down and look at the room before the dancing starts. These deliberate pauses are how you actually experience the day you planned.

THE ONE THING

Before the day, agree with your partner on the one thing that matters most to each of you. Not the thing you spent the most on — the thing that would make the day feel complete. For one partner it might be the first dance. For another it might be the quiet moment reading vows. Protect those moments in the timeline. Let the rest be flexible. If your one thing happens the way you imagined, the day was a success — regardless of what else went sideways.

Using the Pond on Mobile

Your wedding planner fits in your pocket.

The Wedding Planner's Pond is fully responsive. Open the HTML file on your phone and it adapts: the tab bar scrolls horizontally, input rows stack vertically, stat cards rearrange into two columns, and touch targets are sized for thumbs rather than cursors.

This matters because wedding planning doesn't happen exclusively at a desk. It happens in venue car parks, at bridal shops, during vendor meetings, and — inevitably — at 2 a.m. in bed. Having your budget, vendor pipeline, and guest list in your pocket means you can answer questions on the spot.

Touch Interactions

Tooltips — the little question-mark circles next to field labels — work differently on mobile. Instead of hovering, you tap them to pin the tooltip open, and tap again (or tap elsewhere) to dismiss. This means you can read the help text without it disappearing the moment your finger moves.

The tab bar scrolls horizontally on small screens. Swipe left to reveal tabs that don't fit. The Files and Help tabs are always accessible at the right edge.

Light and Dark Mode

The toggle in the top-right corner of the header — the small circle marked / — switches between dark mode (the default) and light mode. Your preference is saved to `localStorage` and persists across sessions.

Dark mode is designed for screen use: easy on the eyes in low light, reduces glare, and looks beautiful on OLED screens. Light mode is designed for situations where you need maximum readability: bright environments, screen-sharing with vendors, or when your partner's parents are looking over your shoulder and you want it to feel 'professional.'

Both modes use identical functionality. Only the colour palette changes. Every stat card, badge, button, and table adapts to the selected theme.

Offline Use

Once you've opened the HTML file in your browser, the Pond works without internet. You could be on a plane, in a rural venue with no signal, or in a country where your data plan doesn't work.

The tool runs entirely in your browser — no server calls, no API requests, no cloud dependency. Your data lives in localStorage and in the JSON files you export.

The only thing that requires internet is loading the Crimson Text font from Google Fonts on first open. After that, the browser caches it. If you're truly offline from the start, the tool falls back to Georgia or Times New Roman — still perfectly functional, just slightly less elegant.

Data Flow — A Deeper Look

What happens when you change a number.

The ripple metaphor is intuitive, but understanding the specific mechanics helps you use the tool more effectively. Here's what happens, step by step, when you change a key number.

Scenario: You Increase the Guest Count from 100 to 130

The moment you change the number on the Brief tab and release the key, the ripple function fires. Here's the cascade:

Brief tab: The stat cards update. Per-head cost drops (same budget, more people). The countdown remains unchanged.

Budget tab: Per-head cost recalculates. If you had €30,000 for 100 guests, that was €300/head. For 130 guests, it's €231/head. The number on the stat card turns amber — you're spending less per guest, which might mean a different tier of catering.

Dashboard: The RSVP tracking now measures against 130 instead of 100. If you had 80 confirmed guests, you were at 80% for 100 guests (green badge) but only 62% for 130 guests (amber badge). The Oracle recalculates — the 'Guest count -10%' lever now saves more money because 10% of 130 is larger than 10% of 100.

ROI tab: Cost per guest recalculates based on the new count.

All of this happens instantly. No save button, no refresh. Change the number, see the consequences.

Scenario: You Book an Expensive Venue

You add a vendor on the Vendor Tracker tab: 'Grand Estate, Venue, €12,000, Booked.' The ripple:

The vendor stat cards update — booked cost jumps. On the Dashboard, the 'Vendors Booked' count increments. If your venue budget allocation was €8,000, the Oracle's low-hanging fruit section may flag that you've exceeded your venue allocation by €4,000 and suggest reviewing other categories to compensate.

This is the power of interconnection. A single entry on one tab creates visible pressure on three others. You can't hide a budget overrun in a spreadsheet tab that nobody looks at — the Dashboard sees everything.

Glossary

Allocated

The amount of budget assigned to a specific category. Not yet spent — a commitment, not a transaction.

Ancillary Income

For planners: revenue beyond the planning fee, such as vendor commissions, styling fees, or coordination surcharges.

Break-even Guest Count

The number of guests at which wedding gifts approximately equal the total cost of hosting those guests. Useful for understanding the economics of the guest list.

Canapés

Small, bite-sized appetisers served during the cocktail hour or drinks reception. Typically 4–6 varieties, 6–8 pieces per guest.

Contingency Fund

A reserve portion of the budget (typically 10–15%) set aside for unexpected costs. Subtracted from the total before category allocation begins.

Corkage

A fee charged by venues for opening and serving wine or champagne that the couple supplies themselves, rather than purchasing from the venue's stock.

Day-of Coordinator

A professional who manages logistics on the wedding day itself, following the timeline and handling vendor communication. Not the same as a full wedding planner.

Deposit

An upfront payment to secure a vendor's services. Usually 20–50% of the total quoted price. Often non-refundable.

Effective Hourly Rate

For planners: profit divided by hours worked. The true measure of what you earn per hour of effort on a wedding.

First Look

A private moment before the ceremony where the couple sees each other for the first time in their wedding attire. Allows for intimate photos and reduces ceremony nerves.

Golden Hour

The period shortly after sunrise or before sunset when natural light is warm, soft, and ideal for photography. Plan couple portraits around this window.

Guest Count

Total number of individual guests expected. Includes plus-ones and children. This is the master number for per-head calculations.

Head Table

The main table where the couple sits, often with the bridal party or immediate family. Also called the top table.

Micro Wedding

A wedding with 50 or fewer guests. Often allows higher per-head spending and more intimate venues.

Mitigation

An action or plan that reduces the likelihood or impact of a risk. Having a marquee on standby mitigates the risk of rain.

Net Cost

Total wedding cost minus gifts received and resale value. The actual out-of-pocket cost of the wedding.

Off-Peak

Dates or seasons when wedding venues and vendors charge less due to lower demand. Typically: winter months, Fridays, Sundays, weekdays.

Oracle

The sensitivity analysis tool built into the Dashboard. Models budget-saving scenarios and ranks them by impact.

Per-Head Cost

Total budget divided by guest count. The fundamental unit of wedding budget analysis.

Pipeline (Vendor)

The progression of a vendor relationship: Shortlisted → Contacted → Quoted → Booked → Deposit Paid → Paid in Full.

Receiving Line

A formal line where the couple and their parents greet each guest individually after the ceremony. Budget 2–3 minutes per guest.

Ripple

The cascade of downstream effects when a single number changes. Central to the Pond methodology.

Room Turnaround

The time required to reconfigure a space between ceremony and reception, or between dinner and dancing. Typically 30–60 minutes. Must be accounted for in the timeline.

RSVP

Répondez s'il vous plaît. A guest's confirmation of attendance. Tracked as Attending, Pending, Maybe, or Declined.

Satisfaction Score

A self-assessed rating (1–10) of overall wedding experience. Used in the ROI tab to calculate cost per satisfaction point.

Save-the-Date

An early notification sent to guests 6–12 months before the wedding, before formal invitations. Typically includes date, location, and a note that a formal invitation will follow.

Sweetheart Table

A small table for just the couple, set apart from other guests. An alternative to the traditional head table.

Usable Budget

Total budget minus contingency fund. The actual amount available for category allocation.

Venue Curfew

The time by which music must stop and guests must leave, as stipulated by the venue's licence. Typically 11 p.m. to midnight. Plan your timeline backwards from this.

Disclaimer

All calculations, projections, and analyses generated by The Wedding Planner's Pond are estimates for planning purposes only. They do not constitute financial, legal, or professional advice.

Wedding planning carries inherent uncertainties including but not limited to vendor availability, pricing changes, guest count fluctuations, weather, and the general unpredictability of life. Users should independently verify all outputs and confirm details directly with vendors and service providers before making commitments.

The software is provided 'as is' without warranty of any kind, express or implied. Offline.Ltd's total liability shall in no event exceed the purchase price paid for the software.

Offline.Ltd

"No cloud. No nonsense. Just tools."

The Wedding Planner's Pond is part of the Offline.Ltd collection. Nine tools, zero dependencies, works forever. Your wedding data stays on your machine — always.

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