

“I’m using an iPod at my wedding reception.”

10 Reasons Why That’s Not A Good Idea – By Greg Tutwiler

Okay, let’s face it. The iPod generation is not going away. In reality, it’s the greatest invention since the TV remote in my opinion. But hey, I’m a DJ. I love music. And I love my iPod. It’s better than any radio station I can find because I get to choose what’s on it, when it gets played, and in what order. It’s a controlled listening environment. And I can take it everywhere I go.

Now the flip side: My son has one too. Surprise. Nearly all teens do. And they walk around with those “buds” in their ears everywhere they go. Occasionally he’ll plug his iPod into the stereo in my tech savvy vehicle, and my ears curl. Not all, but some of the tunes he listens to make me never want to listen to music again if I had to listen to those for very long. But he puts his ear buds back in, and I plug in my iPod (with my *exclusive* play list), and we’re all good.

Here’s the rub. The iPod is an incredible device. Some may even refer to it as a tool. I do, when I occasionally enlist it as a music source during a DJ performance. Likewise, a plumber’s wrench is a tool, albeit considerably less intricate. But when I have a leaky pipe or a seriously clogged drain, I’m going to call a plumber. I could go to the hardware store and buy my own wrench and try to fix it myself. But I dare say that in most situations, I’d make things worse.

Brides hire DJs to play music at their wedding receptions for many reasons other than the playback devices we carry. In fact, there aren’t many Jocks now that don’t use some sort of hard drive sourced playback system (computer, disc drive, *iPod*). A good friend of mine though still uses those old vinyl records. He loves the nostalgia effect. And he’s booked solid. But it really doesn’t matter. DJs are more than *juke boxes*; Even the ones who don’t say much over the microphone. An iPod (modern day juke box) is not a DJ nor can or should it take the place of one. Why?

Here are just a few things (10) your iPod can’t do, but your DJ will:

- Consult with you about your specific tastes
- Show up in advance with all of the necessary equipment
- Start appropriate music long before you arrive at the reception
- Work closely with other professionals at the reception to coordinate timing
- Anticipate unforeseen events and changes in the format
- Monitor the lyric content for questionable language
- Control the volume for appropriate levels
- Make announcements, introductions, and keep your guests informed
- Read the dance floor and discern when a shift in genre’ is in order
- Take requests and dial up that special song at a moments notice

I’m sure I left some out, but I hope you’re getting the point. **If the music at your wedding reception is going to be an important component and you’re considering using an iPod – please think again.** My company has been providing DJs to brides for 25 years. We have so much more experience than any iPod. We know how important **the right music, played at the right time** is, and how pivotal it is to the outcome of your reception. We’d love the opportunity to talk with you about the music at your wedding reception. But even if you don’t hire us, do yourself and your guests a favor and let Mr. iPod ride this one out.

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