

1. Shower Yourself with Pictures

Start making memories before the wedding begins with a photo theme shower. Have the shower host ask everyone to bring a photo-related gift. The presents might be a memory-making object like a camera, slide projector or mini cam; a memory-keeping object such as a picture frame or photo album; or a ready-made memory, such as a collage of photos of you and your friends from high school or a framed picture of you and your fiancé.

2. The Write Invite

Rather than ordering standard engraved invitations, why not incorporate some of your own great art? Uncover that fabulous drawing of a bride and groom you did when you were five, and do your invites on copies of it. Or unearth that letter you wrote when you were eight, vowing never to kiss a boy (except your dad and brother), and reprint that along with a picture of the two of you.

3. Silent Stars

If your parents took baby movies while you were growing up, you could create your own video of the two of you as toddlers. Put it on a loop and let it run silently in a corner throughout the cocktail hour and/or reception; your guests will get to know you even better, and it's a great conversation piece!

4. The Making Of: Your Wedding

Instead of hiring a videographer during the wedding, why not make a video of the planning process? Have one of your friends follow you around during the wedding preparations – to the dress fitting, the stationary store, the caterers, the hairdresser. Ask your friend to put together a 15 or 30 minute “documentary” of the making of your marriage. Show it at the shower, before your bachelorette party, during the rehearsal dinner, or at the brunch the morning after the wedding. It's sure to make every one laugh – especially you!

5. Instant Album

Hire a professional photographer or friend to take Polaroids of all the wedding guests, then slip them into a photo scrapbook you have ready right there on a table. The photographer will insert the pictures on the spot, and ask everyone to write messages to the newlyweds, creating an instant wedding album.

6. Picture This

Use small picture frames as table card-holders. Slide the guests' table card into the frames, and line up all the frames the way you would ordinary table cards. Guests will take the frame with them to find their tables, and then take the frames home. Instead of putting the guests name in the frame, put their picture.

7. Parental Pride

Display your parents and grandparents' wedding photos on the entry table, creating a sense of history at your wedding and honouring them at the same time.

8. Scatter Shots

Help your friends and families get to know each other through a visual history of your lives. Scatter handfuls of both your families' photos on each table, along with a card offering short explanations of the scenes. Sharing your photos can help create the feeling of a shared past, something your families will appreciate, particularly if they come from different states or countries.

9. Share the Shooting

Put a few disposable cameras on each table and ask guests to take pictures of anything that seems interesting. When you develop the film later, you'll be surprised by what you find.

10. Start an Anniversary Album

Decide now to take a photo, or roll of film, on every anniversary, and keep them all together in one anniversary album. Start with pictures of your wedding. Each year, add a shot of the two of you that depicts the changes in your lives – your new house, your new car, your new kids..