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Donnie Brown

Starting his career as a wedding guru at 16, Donnie Brown landed a high-profile celebrity client when country star LeAnn Rimes and fiancé Dean Sheremet hired him to create the perfect look for their wedding day in 2001. In 2009, he released his first wedding planning book.

Donnie Brown 年約16歲便成為婚禮統籌行列的一份子。於2001年，著名鄉謠女歌手LeAnn Rimes聘請他為婚禮統籌，打造夢寐以求的婚禮。自此，他便成為國際首屈一指的婚禮統籌。去年，Donnie更推出其首本婚嫁指南。

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# How to begin the wedding planning process 籌備婚禮之道

DONNIE BROWN



You're engaged. And this is the happiest day of your life. But there is another exciting moment right around the corner — your wedding. Between now and then is a process that is both exhilarating and fun as well as stressful and often seemingly impossible. Don't worry. You are not alone. There are a number of things you can do in the beginning to make everything go more smoothly. First of all, set your date, then determine how much you want to spend on the event in total — then add 20-25 percent more. Put at least 10 percent in a contingency budget that you will hold in reserve for emergencies. If you don't need it, you won't touch it.

The next step is to determine how many guests you will invite. Once you have the total, divide the amount you will be spending with that number and that will give you the amount you will spend on each guest at your wedding. The fewer guests you have, the higher per person amount you have to spend. Next, develop a working budget for all the categories of your wedding on which you will be spending money. You need to include your gown, a wedding planner (if you will be hiring one), venue rental fees, catering fees, floral and decor, photography and videography, entertainment, invitations, postage, accessory items, transportation, etc. Once your budget is set, research costs for the type of wedding you want. Remember, if you spend too much in one category, you must reduce another.

Once you have done your research and developed your bud-

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最重要的是聽取別人的忠告，確保作出最好的決定，並且避免將大部分事情留到最後。

訂婚，是人生中最開心的一天。接下來，還有另一個令人期待不已的時刻——你的婚禮。籌備婚禮的過程既歡樂又有趣，但同時亦會為你帶來壓力和苦惱。不用擔心，在籌辦婚禮初期，你可以作出一些計劃，讓整個過程更順暢。首先，你要決定婚禮日期和整個婚禮的開支——再多加20至25%的金額。謹記預留10%預算，以備不時之需。沒有需要的話，不要動用這筆資金。

下一步就是要決定賓客的數目。然後，將整個婚禮的開支預算除以人數，便會得出花在每位賓客上的金額。人數越少，數目自然越大。接着，着手擬定預算表，列出所有開支項目，包括婚紗、婚禮統籌服務（如有打算聘請婚禮統籌）、場地租用、酒席宴會、花卉與佈置、攝錄影、娛樂節目、邀請卡、郵費、首飾及交通等。完成預算表後，便開始搜集資料，看看每項花費大約是多少。





get, you will know if you have enough funds to organise the type of wedding you desire. If you have insufficient cash, you can try to come up with ideas for additional revenue. Alternatively, if you are set with your budget, you can move on to interviewing vendors. Get a hold of your vendors from other vendors; they usually have a recommended list. These are normally the best referrals you can get.

The most important thing you can do is to listen to the advice you get, in order to make the best decisions and don't leave your to-do list to the end. Remember you should approach the vendors within each category according to how they work. If they can only be in one place at a time and by virtue, cannot do more than one wedding in a day, like a photographer or a wedding planner, you might want to secure their services first. If they can do multiple weddings over a weekend, like a florist or a cake artist, you can approach them later.

Realise that this is a fun process. Take the good with the bad and don't take it out on each other. This is only the wedding; it is the rest of your lives together that you must focus on. ●

假若在一個項目上多花了錢，那便要減少另一個項目的開支。

完成資料搜集及擬定預算計劃後，你便會清楚知道自己有沒有足夠金錢實現夢想中的婚禮。如不足夠的話，就要想辦法籌集更多資金；否則，你已可以開始登門造訪與婚嫁有關的業內人士，並透過介紹得悉其他有口碑的服務等。

最重要的是聽取別人的忠告，確保作出最好的決定，並且避免將大部分事情留到最後。要謹記的是，你要就不同行業的常規，來決定聯絡的先後次序。若他們一天只能應付一個婚禮，如攝影師與婚禮統籌，那麼你便要提早預訂服務。相反，對於週末期間能應付多個婚禮的行業，如花卉設計師和糕餅創作師，你可稍後才聯絡他們。

籌備婚禮的過程充滿樂趣，當中或會出現一些小插曲，但千萬不要遷怒對方。這只是婚禮而已，婚後的生活更需要二人悉心經營。●