

## Second Photographer Guide

To help tell a cohesive story throughout the wedding day, I've put together a list of photographs & settings I'd like you to use while photographing the happy couple. This will help give consistency to the photos and help create gorgeous layouts for their wedding album. Be creative, have fun and thank you so much for your time and talent!



### Groom Prep & Details

Please photograph these details & portraits straight on with a 50mm lens at a 2.0 aperture. No tilts or angles please. Photograph the details alone & together in natural light (whenever possible). Try to use outdoors if possible or next to a natural light source such as a window. If you can only use the hotel room, please turn off the ambient light in the room to remove the orange glow they cast. Please be sure it's clutter free and there isn't a messy bed, or food lying around. Minimal background is probably best.

**Shot List:** Groom's shoes / Groom's socks (if they have a pattern/initials) / Tie or bow tie / Boutonniere / Cuff links / Monograms (on shirt, inside jacket) / Gifts or letter from bride / Bottles of alcohol / Putting on tie / Getting help tying tie / Helping his dad or groomsmen with boutonniere or tie / Putting on his jacket / Fixing his shirt, cuff links, pulling out his sleeves... notice that having the groom look towards the natural light source works really well!



### Groom & Groomsmen Hanging out

Please take the groom & Groomsmen outside right before they leave for the ceremony (whenever possible!) Find a shaded area or with the sun at their backs without splotchy light from trees. For group shots, please use a 50mm lens (if they don't fit, use a 35mm lens please) at a 4.0 aperture to make sure everyone is in focus.

***If there's 4 or more people have a 4.0 aperture and 3 or less people be at a 2.0 aperture. Be sure they're in a straight line and no one is in front of the other.*** Candid and casual photographs would be great!

### Groom & Groomsmen Portraits - Outside Only





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- \* Groom, full body
- \* Groom, half body – ¾ body
- \* Groom, straight portrait
- \* Groom, close up of boutonniere
- \* Groom close up of tie, bow tie
- \* Groom, adjusting tie, bow tie, cuff links, buttoning jacket, etc...
- \* Groom with each groomsmen (if time allows) – Vertical
- \* Groom with matching details (Like matching shoes, socks, or flasks)
- \* Groom with groomsmen, traditional
- \* Groom, laughing at groomsmen
- \* Groom with groomsmen, posed groomsmen gathered around him, casual.



### **Bride, Groom & Wedding Party Portraits:**

Please shoot different angles & detail photos while we are photographing the bride, groom, and wedding parties together! I always used a 85mm while 2<sup>nd</sup> shooting and it's great from the sides and getting tons of gorgeous details from far away.

### **Cocktail Hour:**

Grip & Grins – shoot 3 to make sure no one is blinking. Try to stay at a 3.5 aperture. Walk around cocktail hour and ask couples, families & groups of people to take their photos together for the bride & groom when they don't have food in their mouths! I know cocktail hour is sometimes tough but be sure to smile and be super friendly and people will be more open to having their photo taken.

Try getting the ambiance of the day. Any signature drinks, straws, lawn games, or candid's of folks laughing. Please find natural light and a stylish guest of bridesmaid wearing the wedding colors and shoot detail shots with the drink – or simple photograph the details in a clean background. Details of personalized cocktail napkins, seating charts or cards and details that help tell a story would be great!

I feel details look best when you photograph them straight on as apposed to shooting “down” on the object. Please photograph more verticals than horizontals, please!



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### Reception:

Centerpiece details – shoot near natural light if possible and NO SALT AND PEPPER SHAKERS! Or anything else like butter or rolls unless it adds to the photograph. **Dancing** – Please shoot between 2.0-4.0 aperture with a shutter speed no lower than 1/200<sup>th</sup> of a second. If you need to increase your ISO to get your settings that way, that is fine, but I generally find it easy to stay at an ISO **2500-3500** in most reception rooms. I found flash to be best at a 45 degree angle. I don't sue a diffuser but I'm open to see what it looks like if you typically use one. We'll match our settings according to whatever crazy lighting we are dealing with!

### Behind the Scenes Photos:

If you see any good opportunities for a few behind the scenes photos of me with my clients, that would be amazing! I always try to get some of my 2<sup>nd</sup>'s too!

### THINGS TO LOOK OUT FOR:

Be careful not to cut off at the ankles. Be careful when photographing on grass if concrete is in front of them. I prefer to see all concrete with them standing on the concrete/or only grass. Depending on situation I feel only grass is best. When photographing getting ready photos of them putting on the cuff links try not to cut off the top of their hand. When photographing bow tie and boutonniere it's important to get full bow tie in the picture and it's not cut off. Be sure to check for closed eyes during groomsmen photos and make sure they are all in focus during the walking pictures. This may take a couple times, so just say it wasn't Mad Men –esque enough or they sprinted and we'll do it one more time for good measure. ☺

\*Note\* Please take 70% vertical and 30% Horizontal. Verticals are better for getting published ☺ Horizontal's are great too!

Below are examples of having fun shooting details with a 85mm at 2.0 aperture to the side while the main shooter is taking standard portraits. Have fun with it! Hope this has helped! I can't wait to create beautiful images together! ☺ - Mekina

