

# Lighting 101

Lighting can be an incredibly effective tool to decorate any room, and any event. You can completely change the feel and mood of a space just by changing the lighting. Outside of Wedding and Event Planners, it seems that few know much about lighting. What can be done, who can do it, and how much does it cost? This is Lighting 101. Most of it is simple and easy to understand, some is technical, so you'll know how to talk to your lighting designer.

## **White lights**

For starters, most facilities use light illuminate a room so that everything can be seen. How often do you walk in a room that has those horrible florescent lights? Do you want this for your wedding or special event? How about only lighting up areas you want people to see or notice, like your flowers for a dramatic appearance? Usually we use PAR cans for this kind of lighting. You can also add dimension and depth to a room when you layer, stagger or space out the lighting.

## **Colored Lights**

You can match the color of the room to your wedding colors, or theme. You simply add color gels to PAR Cans. You can make them all one color or multiple colors depending on your theme.

## **Gobo's**

You can project images, shapes, or texture to a floor, wall, or ceiling. One of my favorite things to do is to project stars on the walls or ceiling in light. This is done by inserting a metal disc called a Gobo to a theatrical light called Ellipsoidal. These Gobo's will have the shape, pattern, or words cut out in metal.

## **Projectors & Screens**

It's becoming more popular for people to show picture slide shows using a data projector and screen at weddings. Sometimes they are used to show old black & white movies just for ambiance or texture. These can also be projected onto spandex screens, walls, and the side of a building. The brightness of a projector is rated in ANSI Lumens. The brighter the more expensive.

## **Save Money!**

Lighting can also save you money. In many cases it's more cost effective to decorate larger rooms with light, that fabric, or props. Simple lighting can be as cheap as a few hundred dollars, to as elaborate as thousands, and anywhere in between.

## **Limits**

There are only 3 things limiting your lighting possibilities:

- Your Lighting Designers skills and imagination.
- Power (electricity) restrictions.
- Budget.

Be unique and dramatic; consider lighting as part of your decorating budget.

Sincerely,  
Ed Griffin  
The Wedding DJs  
Profession Wedding Vendor™