

# The Seven Most Overlooked Dance Floor Killers



BY DJ TRACK STAR STACI, [PALMSPRINGSCORPORATEDJ.COM](http://PALMSPRINGSCORPORATEDJ.COM) | (C) 2023



# #1 - STRING LIGHTS OVER THE DANCE FLOOR

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String lights (or "bistro lights") and paper lanterns are a problem because they are never attached to a dimmer. This means they are too bright for dancing. People feel more comfortable dancing when they can "disappear" into a sea of people.

The general "dance floor rule of thumb" is to keep it dimly lit, just like they would at a night club. If you already have your heart set on string lights or paper lanterns at your event, string them up around the perimeter of the event space so the dance floor won't be bright.

# #2 - THE DANCE FLOOR BEING TOO BIG

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If your dance floor is too big, even if everyone is dancing, it will still look and feel empty.

Always err on the side of having your dance floor be too small rather than too big (and steer clear of venues with built-in dance floors)! If it's too late, and you've already booked a venue with a 50' x 50' dance floor, shrink down the dance floor by setting up some of your tables (or set up a lounge area) on the dance floor. Draping is another way you can block off the extra dance floor you don't need.

## TOTAL NUMBER OF GUESTS

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100 GUESTS

150 GUESTS

200 GUESTS

285 GUESTS

375 GUESTS

480 GUESTS

600 GUESTS

## SIZE OF DANCE FLOOR

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12' x 12' (144 SQ. FT.)

15' x 15' (225 SQ. FT.)

18' x 18' (324 SQ. FT.)

21' x 21' (441 SQ. FT.)

24' x 24' (576 SQ. FT.)

27' x 27' (729 SQ. FT.)

30' x 30' (900 SQ. FT.)





# #3 - EXTREME TEMPERATURE

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Hosting an outdoor gala in Palm Springs in June? Planning a holiday party in a wine cellar in Temecula? Sweaty, sunburned guests are definitely difficult to motivate! Likewise, guests who still have their coats on and can see their breath are also a hard sell.

To cool off hot guests, rent shade umbrellas, give out hand-held fans, rent a portable swamp cooler, and offer moist, chilled towels. To thaw out cold guests, rent heaters, have baskets of fleece blankets available, and serve hot drinks.



# #4 - READING RAFFLE TICKET NUMBERS

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Nothing kills dancing faster than stopping the music to read long numbers to drunk people. Sending your guests scrambling for their tickets (and their reading glasses) takes time, which means each ticket number needs to be read 4-5 times. It's tedious and takes forever.

Instead, have guests write their names on the back of their raffle tickets. Then, have the DJ read 5 names (not numbers) quickly while the music is still going. Keep the prizes next to the DJ. Winners can walk over and grab their prizes at their leisure.



# #5 - A SPREAD-OUT EVENT FLOOR PLAN

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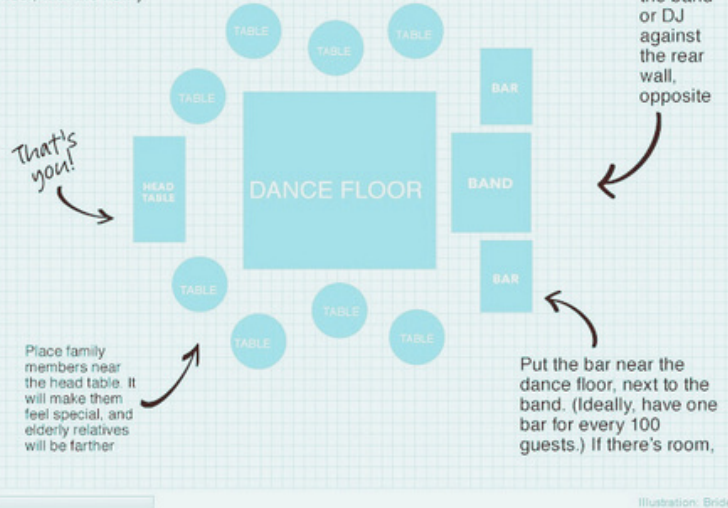
If the built-in bar is outside the ballroom and around the corner or the photo booth is out in the foyer, this thins out your crowd. The result is always less dance floor action.

Likewise, if the dance floor is not in the center of your event area, expect less dancing. A dance floor tucked in a back corner is not ideal, but a dance floor that isn't even visible from your food and drink service area is a battle that, in 15 years, I've never won. Even with the Cha Cha Slide.

Feng shui will make or break your dance floor.



To ensure no one has a bad seat, arrange tables in a U shape around the dance floor, with the newly-

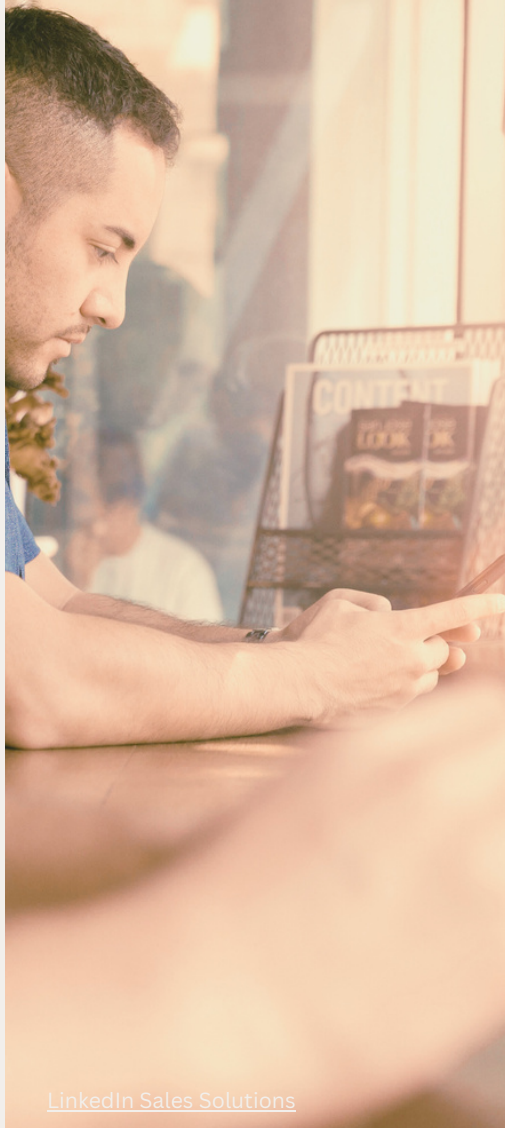


### 3 Reasons to Never Place your DJ in the Corner:

1. Limited visibility of the dance floor
2. Loud volume for the guests seated in front of the speakers (while the dance floor is quieter)
3. If you think the DJ booth is an eyesore, and you're trying to hide it, you hired the wrong DJ.

According to Brides.com, this is the ideal event lay-out...and I agree!  
The dance floor is center stage with your podium, projector screens, and musicians up front. Ideally, your bar is right by the dance floor, and any tables are clustered around the dance floor.





# #6 - TOO MUCH "WAITING AROUND" TIME

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If your guests feel like their time isn't being respected, they tend to want to go home as soon as possible. If the caterer is running 45 minutes late, get creative. Do some trivia, have a dance contest, or hand out the night's awards now instead of waiting. Once people grow roots in their chairs, even their favorite song can't break the spell. Keep the speeches and slideshows brief too!

Avoid games with a lot of rules that have to be explained...otherwise it starts to feel like that episode of Friends where everyone wants to leave Monica's party (drink coasters & word games) to get over to Joey & Chandler's party (barn animals & loud music)!

A vertical image on the left side of the page shows a hand reaching up from the water, with a cloudy sky in the background. The hand is positioned in the lower-left quadrant of the image, with fingers slightly spread. The water is dark blue, and the sky is a mix of light and dark clouds.

# #7 - TOO MANY REQUESTS & "MUST PLAY" SONGS

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No one goes in the kitchen and requests that the chef put raisins in the salad...why treat a DJ this way? In 15 years of DJing, I have observed that events with the fewest requests have the most dancing, and events with the most requests have the least dancing. Let your DJ know to use their discretion with requests and feel safe saying no!

If your DJ isn't following the music guidelines you agreed upon, say something. If no one is dancing, review the items here, THEN say something. Micromanaging or backseat driving a DJ who isn't a good fit for your event isn't going to suddenly make them fit.



# **BONUS! WEDDING DANCE FLOOR KILLERS!**

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**There are two additional things that kill a wedding dance floor: putting the cake too far away and the newlyweds not dancing.**

**Stopping the music, flipping the lights on, and asking everyone to leave the dance floor to watch the Cake Cutting undoes everything the DJ has built up. If the cake was next to the head table, it would get seen more and encourage sitting people to come ONTO the dance floor to watch.**

**Finally, if the newlyweds are outside smoking all night, guests will follow. Guests want to support and spend time with the newlyweds.**



## BY: DJ TRACK STAR STACI, PALM SPRINGS

Thanks for reading. I specialize in luxury and corporate events...with fist pumps, air guitar, and twerking that often involves spilling a drink! To get your boss flossing her jacket between her legs, visit [my website](#), [my Instagram](#), or text 619.504.4626. *Let's go!*