

Everything You Never Knew You Needed to Know About FIREWORKS

Sparks flew when you first met, so what better way to celebrate your love now? Here's what to keep in mind as you plan to light up the night. **TEXT BY CHRISANNE GRISE**



SNAP, CRACKLE, POP

There are as many kinds of fireworks as there are ooohs and aahs, but these are some of the most common.

PEONY: The colorful classic.

CROSSETTE: Crisscrossing sparks, loud crackling sound.

ROMAN CANDLE: Dramatic upward stream of sparks.

SALUTE: Bright burst, then a loud bang.

PALM TREE: Rising comet flaring into trailing stars.

STROBE: Flashing stars.

BIG BANG

In January 2016, a church in the Philippines set off 810,904 fireworks, earning a Guinness World Record for the biggest display ever.



THINK AHEAD

Planning to wed on or near July 4? Fireworks are a no-brainer, but you'll have competition. Book at least six weeks ahead of time—and the sooner you can finalize your plans, the better, says Brendan McKenney, a pyroshow producer with Pyro Spectaculars, in Rialto, California.

Glow for It

If you're using sparklers, look online for 20- or 36-inch ones designed specifically for weddings. They give off a golden glow, produce less smoke, and tend to burn for at least a few minutes, making them perfect for photos.

\$5,000

Starting price for a three-to-seven-minute fireworks show (the ideal length for a wedding, pros say).

Ancient History

The earliest explosives date to 800 C.E., when a Chinese alchemist accidentally created gunpowder while trying to discover the secret to eternal life (yes, really!). However, the elaborate, colorful style of fireworks we know today was invented in Italy in the 1830s.

PERMIT ME

Some states are okay with consumer fireworks, while a few have even banned sparklers. The American Pyrotechnics Association has an online directory of state laws (americanpyro.com/state-law-directory) that will help you figure out what exactly is allowed in your area.

HOT SPOT

Consider asking about close-proximity pyrotechnics, which are cleaner and safe to use indoors (like something at a concert). "Setting them off during the first dance adds a special touch," McKenney says.