

DIGITAL PROPOSALS

Bring on the glitter and propose on Twitter

Have you ever wondered how your other half may pop the question? We are brought up to believe that a marriage proposal is going to be one of the most romantic times of our lives, and one of the most common questions you will hear is “how did he/she propose?” Just queue up, Facebook, WhatsApp or YouTube, it’s all being done there. We live in a digital era, and some of you may be surprised at the trend becoming more and more popular of proposing online.

Sometimes it is hard to switch off to the real world, so why not make technology part of your marriage proposal? I hear you thinking, “so this is what civilization has come down to”. Instead of tradition we orchestrate our lives according to the pressures of social media. It should be noted, however, that people have been proposing through billboards, newspapers, adverts on buses and such like things for many years, long before the internet. People have been proposing in the middle of restaurants, in busy shopping malls in parks, football stadiums, skating rinks, and any other public place one can think of. So why the hype over digital proposals? After all we are living in a fast paced technologically advanced digital age, where the sky seems to be the limit. Elaborate proposals might not have been due to the rise of social media, but going public has certainly become the norm, as sharing it online has become the trendy thing to do. There are loads of great ideas you could use to propose using technology, take for instance, the man who hacked his girlfriends computer game to present her with a digital engagement ring. From hacker to gamer, from Twitter to Instagram, you can use the digital universe to create a unique personalized style to ask your partner to marry you.

Whether the proposal is public or private, there has to be the element of surprise. The risk with social media is that the answer may be “no”, and you may feel embarrassment and some humiliation. Social media has taken hold of marriage proposals, and has turned it on its head. Where once a marriage proposal was expected to be intimate, they are now expected to be over the top, for the sake of advertising your love digitally.

There is no doubt that online wedding proposals are all the rage, but please remember

there will always be a digital footprint left behind. Social media has raised the bar when it comes to proposals, with many a proposal on YouTube. Some are funny, some are serious, but they all catch the public eye and many have even had as many as over five hundred thousand views, in a matter of months. This just goes to show what a resounding success the digital platform has become in terms of public involvement.

Social media has become so embedded in wedding ceremonies that even Martha Stewart (a leading business woman in the lifestyle, weddings and cooking industry), has come up with a “ten step” plan regarding the use of social media during the bride’s big day. Nowadays all weddings seem to have their own hashtags and couples even live stream these tags to project, on the wall for guests to enjoy. There is also etiquette for guests though, and if you do not want the invited guests to take “selfies” or random pictures, then this needs to be announced at the beginning of the festivities.

Making a YouTube video these days is easy, and more and more couples are doing this, not just at the proposal stage, but of the entire progression, running up to and including the big day. You may ask why we enjoy watching these videos, even as many of us pull our noses up at the thought of our most private moments being captured for the world to see. It is because we experience a bit of life-affirming emotional excitement through other people.

Gaming geeks and anyone with a bit of programming knowledge will know that a great way to propose is by hacking your loved one’s favourite game, especially if they are reluctant to put the game away for all of five minutes. People have hacked websites, PC and console games, even smartphone games to ask their partner for their hand in marriage.

Is your partner a social media addict? If the answer is yes, then you could still gain the upper hand. If your partner is checking Twitter or Facebook every few minutes, why not propose using Twitter? See that smile creeping over their face? Just remember that if you use Twitter for your proposal the whole universe sees it as well, and you are restricted to 140 characters to get your message across, so you will have to keep it short and sweet.

Now, we get to meme’s, they are a relatively recent online phenomena and are designed to make people laugh. This is a really cute and fun way of proposing and will more than likely warm his or her heart. You can YouTube and see exactly how this is done. If you struggle to express yourself, using the humour of internet memes can work really well, at the same time getting across how important your partner is to you.

A website proposal really comes into its own, if you are the shy, retiring type who does not like grand gestures. You will want creative, subtle yet memorable gestures. Other ways to propose on a website is to post a banner on a site your partner frequently visits. Some inventive soul even attached a camera with audio to capture his partner’s reaction to his proposal and was so touched by her response that he was moved to tears.

While a marriage proposal should be an occasion between two people, and the opinions of others should not matter, posting it online, subjects the entire proposal to judgement, not from just family and friends, but from total strangers as well. If you are able to cope with the fall-out or consequences of a public announcement then “go for it”, as times are certainly a changing!

A proposal online or digitally, in whatever form, now leads to the inevitable planning of the future big day, and with the digital platform being so vast, you can even go shopping for the ideal wedding bouquet, dress, suit, hair-stylist, make-up artist, even wedding venue. The list is endless and you can search online to your heart’s content in the comfort of your own home. Wow, digital really rocks, and it can be very informative and educational, so use it wisely.

There is no right or wrong about proposing online, it all boils down to personal choice and what you feel most comfortable with. After all, this is your proposal, and you are the person closest to your partner, so trust that you know them well enough to feel, what they will positively respond to. Once you have thought it through start implementing the process, so that you can go forward happily, knowing that you have captured an unforgettable moment, that will stay with both of you forever, through the walk of time.

