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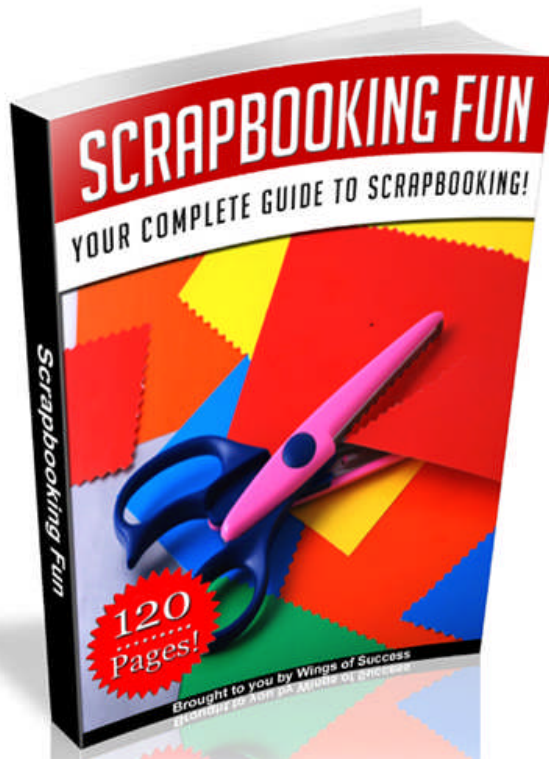
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How To Prepare For Your Scrapbook

Creating your first scrapbook can seem very overwhelming; however, with these helpful tips it can become a very rewarding experience. When you decide to start on your scrapbook you will have to ask yourself a few questions.

- What is the purpose of this album? For who or what am I creating this for?
- How will I choose the size and style of the album that is the easiest for me to create my scrapbook?
- What are the basic supplies I will need to complete my album?
- How many photos will I need to fill my album? Do I have copies available of the photos I am going to use?
- What is the easiest and least expensive way to design a theme for my album?
- How much time will I have to spend on my scrapbook? What shortcuts can I take to save time and money?

Deciding on the album that is right for you is the first step towards preserving your memories. Albums come in many sizes, themes, and styles. The most common size albums are 12x12 and 9x9. If you feel the larger albums would be time consuming you can choose an 8x10 scrapbook. This would be a good selection if you feel you will not have enough photos to display in a 12x12 album. Many people prefer the 12x12 album, due to the fact that many stores carry ready to make pages in this size. There is also a 6x6 album that is perfect for a brag book. This size is convenient to take with you to display outside of the home.

Once the album size is decided, you can choose the type of album that will best suit your individual needs. There are many styles to choose from. Popular albums for many first time scrapbookers are themed albums. They come in several different options. The albums could

Scrapbooking Made Easy!

be portrait themed, baby books, ABC albums, or wedding albums. You can choose an album for any theme you are creating a scrapbook for.

You will also need to decide on the style of album you would like to work with. There are three main types.

Organizing Your Photos

The biggest challenge to starting your scrapbook is organizing your photos. This may seem overwhelming to many, but can be done in a minimal amount of time using these helpful tips.

- First, start in an open area of your home to allow space for several piles of photos. Preferably a part of your home that is not a common meeting area, such as a spare bedroom or office.
- Next, discard of any photos that are out of focus or damaged. You will also want to place Polaroid pictures in a separate pile. You do not want these pictures to leak onto your good photos. Polaroid pictures may contain a certain acid that will permanently damage your photos. Save any copies of photos you may want to use in your scrapbook. Copies will come in handy if you make a mistake and need to replace a photo. You may also want to use them in another scrapbook.
- Start putting photos into piles by chronological order. This task does not have to be exact. You may start with photos from certain decades, such as, 70's, 80's, etc. You can also organize them through the years, for example, early eighties, mid eighties, and late eighties. If you are making a scrapbook for your child, it would be best to start from birth to present. If you are creating a scrapbook with a holiday theme, then start with the holiday closest to the beginning of the year.
- Now you can organize the piles into different events or special moments. This could include; birthdays, graduations, sporting events, and vacations. Create a system that works well for you.
- For a wedding album you should organize the photos of each partner from childhood to adult. Adding pictures of the couple together in a separate pile. If the couple has children from a previous marriage you would place their photos in a separate pile as well.
- If you are creating a family tree scrapbook start with each side of the family members relatives. Sometimes it is easier to start with the most current members of the family. This would could be grandchildren or great-grand children and then work backwards from there.

Cropping Your Photos

Cropping is simply cutting away the distracting elements in your photos. There are several techniques to achieve this look. Listed below are some tips to do so.

- Some of your photos you may want to use can have distracting backgrounds. You will need to crop out the elements that take the attention away from your subject.
- Some pictures may contain backgrounds of personal meaning. Look over your photos carefully before you crop them. Perhaps the photo contained a home where you grew up or a landmark from your childhood. You may want to leave these in your photo for your memories.
- The quickest and easiest way to crop photo is to use a straight edge. You can accomplish this by using a ruler, pencil and scissors. After you are done tracing the line with your pencil, be sure to clear off any residue left behind. You do not want to harm your photos in any way. If your budget allows, you can purchase a small paper cutter. This technique is the safest crop to use. If you use different shapes to crop photos, you may regret it later. Too many shapes can often make a page look busy and cluttered.
- Another way to save time and money is to over lap your photos. This can also add different styles to your pages.
- To add a little creativeness to your scrapbook you can crop your pages with decorative sheers. Cropping your cardstock with the same sheers will give the photo a defined space on your page.
- To add a different touch to your page you can get color copies made of your photos. Then crop the photos in a variety of sizes and styles. It does not have to be perfectly cropped; you can do this free hand with ordinary scissors.
- If you have a photo and want to display several elements you can make copies of the photo and crop them different ways. This technique is good to use if there are several persons in the photo or to capture a landmark in the background.

Scrapbooking Made Easy!

- To make a silhouette, crop close to your subject in your photo. Adding black or another dark color of cardstock will help with this design. You can use the dark color cardstock to accentuate a black and white photo.

Creating Your First Page

Your first page will also be known as your introduction page. It is the beginning of your story. This is the page where your title should be placed. You can also display a large photo of the subject here. In this chapter you will learn how to place your photos onto the cardstock, as well as some other tips.

- To start, you will need to think of a title. It could be as simple as, Our Wedding Day. You can also think of a personal title, such as, The Day I Married My Best Friend. This page should contain the subject or subjects and some information about them. The journaling around the page can tell a story about the scrapbook if it is an all occasion's album. If the scrapbook is about one person this page should tell us the name, birthday, and other important facts.
- The title should be stenciled in pencil first, and aligned with a ruler. Remember, after you are done stenciling, clear away any residue left from your pencil.
- You may want to choose different styles to write the title. It depends on what technique would go with the page. The title can be in sticker lettering or handwritten without the use of the ruler. Don't stress on trying to get it perfect every time. Add your own style and design to achieve a personal touch.
- You can use left over background scraps for title letters. Trace the letters onto the scraps from a stencil and cut with scissors or decorative shears. This will eliminate spending money on extra paper.
- Next, you will place the pictures in the order you want them to be viewed. This will be the layout you want the eye to follow. Try to be creative and give each page a different type of layout. You can construct several designs for the layouts.
- For a basic layout, many scrapbookers use a "Z" format. This means the flow of the page follows the letter Z.

Adding Your Embellishments

The next step to put your personal touch in your scrapbook is adding embellishments. These do not have to be expensive time consuming tasks. Here are a few ideas to help get you started.

- Embellishments can be as simple or as creative as you desire. You can be creative without taking a lot of time doing so. There are several types of embellishments you can use in your scrapbook. You can use store bought embellishments or personal items from home. Which ever you decide remember to keep them simple and easy to attach to your pages. You don't want to spend hours applying small enhancements to each of your scrapbook pages.

The most common accessories are metal embellishments. These are the least expensive to purchase and come in a variety of sizes and styles.

- Safety pins can be used to pin a ribbon to your page or used as a baby theme accessory. To add your own touch you can paint the safety pin baby blue for a boy or pale pink for a girl. They can also be used on a page for crafts.
- You can achieve a distressed look to your safety pins without little effort. To achieve this look you can use steel wool or sandpaper. Merely scrap your safety pin or other embellishments you are using back and forth with the steel wool until you achieve the desired look you are creating.
- Eyelets are another popular embellishment to use in your scrapbook. You will need to purchase an eyelet setter to place these on your pages. They are relatively inexpensive and can be purchased at a craft store or any local retailer. Eyelets can be used for a variety of things from holding photos together, to adding a decorative touch to any scrapbook page.

Making Scrapbooking A Part Of Your Life

There are many rewards to scrapbooking. Not only do you get to provide your loved one with a way to remember the important people and events in their life, but you also get to allow them to remember the love that you took to do this for them. Scrapbooking is also a way to let out your creative energies and to create something that will last a lifetime. You can make scrapbooking a part of your life. In fact, you may find it to be one of the most rewarding things that you do.

Scrapbooking can be difficult to get started with, if you feel that you will need to put out some huge project right off the bat. Don't overwhelm yourself. Start with a small project, maybe just a few pages, and then build from there. You'll find many of the products that you need to get started available right here on the web. You can easily afford a few kits to get you started too. Yet, you can use the products that are within your home to get you started. For example, you can easily find things within your home such as pieces of your child's past to help you to create their scrapbook.

Making scrapbooking part of your life will help you to create some of the best things for you to remember your loved ones by. Luckily for you, you will find a wide range of helpful tips to get you through the first hard project and well on your way to making some very unique and perfectly designed scrapbooks. All you need to do, of course, is to come up with a few ideas to get you started. Then, you can work through the project, meeting all of your goals and creating for yourself or your loved one a book that they will cherish forever.

Scrapbooking Ideas

Having a wide range of ideas to share your memories with can be one of the most challenging aspects of creating a scrapbook. Many do not move forward on their dreams of creating a scrapbook simply because they do not have any ideas to get them started. Yet, you do not need to be very skillfully trained or very creative to have ideas when it comes to scrapbooking. You can even find some of the best ideas for your scrapbook right here waiting for you.

Ask yourself a few questions when it comes to scrapbooking. This will help you to gather some information that you need to have.

- What would you like the scrapbook to say about the persons in it?
- What would you like the scrapbook to look like? Some have expectations that should be met here.
- What qualities does the person that you love have that you want to make sure come through in their scrapbook?
- What milestones, important aspects or otherwise life changing events have occurred in their life that should be included in their book?
- What memories do you have of this person with you and with others that you would like to come through in the scrapbook?

Asking yourself these questions can help you to come up with more than a few great ideas for the pages in your scrapbook. This will help you to secure the best scrapbook project because it will allow you to mentally picture what the finished product will look like. Of course, if you still need some ideas to help you to get started on your scrapbooking project, you can always tap in the resources that you will find here. Think about the person in your scrapbook. What makes them, them? What qualities do you want them to show in the pages of your scrapbook? Finding ideas does not need to be too hard.

Making A Space For Scrapbooking

One thing that you should do when beginning to scrapbook is to set up a place for you to actually do the work. Now, it can be easy to get started on a lazy Sunday afternoon and lay all of your projects out on the kitchen table. Yet, more than likely, your scrapbooking project is going to take you some time to do. That said, you should insure that you have a specific place to do your scrapbooking that is out of the way, safe for your supplies as well as safe from little intruders.

More than likely, you will be spending at least some money on your scrapbooking project. Even more so, you will also be spending quite a bit of time on your pages. For these reasons, you should find one location to do your projects. This area should be out of the way enough that they will not be damaged by water spills or other things. The area should be cleaned up when you are done too, so that your project is not vulnerable to those that are around you.

To help you with keeping your scrapbook projects organized, you should carefully store them away when completed. This may mean purchasing a few things for this area. For example, you will likely want to purchase a wide range of scrapbooking supplies from unique scissors, glues, pens and stickers. These things can be stored in a chest or a plastic box that has a lid on it. For your pages that you are working on, you may want to consider a drawer system that is wide enough to hold the pages so that they are out of the way but that they can lay flat to dry. Taking care of your scrapbooking supplies is something that you will want to do so that you can insure that they are essentially safe and that your project gets the best result.

Designing Your Scrapbooking Pages

One of the biggest hang ups that people have when it comes to scrapbooking is designing their pages. They think that every page needs to be spectacular and amazing. While you will want to do this, you should not be too worried about it. Often, the pages will take on their own design elements as you go. For those that are worried about designing their pages, though, there are many things that can help you to come up with some really great ideas.

You can use scrapbooking kits to help you. You will find a wide range of these products available for you to check out. For example, you may enjoy the theme of a birthday for your child. You can purchase themed scrapbooking pages to help you to communicate this to the pages. You can find them for most holidays, most types of favorite hobbies, sports, and a wide range of others. The kits usually will come with a few pieces of paper for the actual page. They can also have in them other elements that will help to convey the message such as stickers, colorful cut outs, layovers, and a wide range of other products. These can actually give you the ideas that you need for the scrapbooking pages.

Designing pages for your scrapbook can be done well when you take the time to insure that the pages are designed to show off the characteristics of the person being described. You can do so many things on the pages including incorporating all of the elements that are meaningful to that person. Including pieces of their past in the scrapbook can make it really great. For example, including the baby's first slippers in the scrapbook on one of the pages to add personality to them will work wonders for your page design. These things make for the best type of finished project too.

Preserving Memories By Scrapbooking

One of the best ways that a scrapbook can work for you is to preserve memories for you for a lifetime to come. Not only do they have pictures in them that tell their own stories, but they also have a wide range of other elements in their pages to help you to remember, smile and pass on these memories to those that you love. Preserving memories is what a scrapbook can do for you and for those that you love.

Sometimes, individuals will make up a scrapbook to give as a gift. Other times they are making them up to simply remember their own memories for years to come. In any of these cases, the goal is to provide meaningful memories that will help to show who the person is or what this family has been like. To accomplish these goals, though, it is essential that the book portray all of the things that are characteristic of those that are within the pages of the scrapbook.

When trying to accomplish this, one of the best ways to do so is to include more than just photos in the scrapbook. You can include pieces of the things that make this person them. If they love baseball and have spent many of their summer days at the baseball park, then including some ticket stubs from the game will add dimension and meaning to the scrapbook. If they are a child that loves to make pictures, making one of the pages an actual art project that they accomplished is a great way to accomplish these goals.

There are many things that you can include in a scrapbook to make it mean something. The goal is to not only see in pictures those memorable moments but to be able to touch a piece of clothing that your baby wore or to remember the days when they did spend their afternoons finger-painting. Adding these to a scrapbook makes it amazing. It does help you to preserve memories within your mind as well as within theirs

Downloadable Albums For Free Scrapbooking

Technology has changed our way of life. In the past couple of decades, computers and the Internet have changed the world. They've changed the way we do business, the way we find and use information, and the way we interact with each other. And the Internet has been a revolution in the area of entertainment. Perhaps someone out there may disagree, but the Internet is perhaps the most revolutionary thing to come along for centuries. It has opened so many doors for people.

And technology evolves to create new and better tools. Think of the mobile phone, as it was once called. A few years ago, mobile phones were large bulky devices that people used more like walkie-talkies. They just weren't practical for everyday use by all of us. But today, cellular phones are small and capable of providing many services beyond simple calls. You can use a cell phone to check your e-mail, shop, watch videos, listen to music, and transmit and receive text messages.

Technology has definitely revolutionized scrapbooking. Many years ago, scrapbooks were simple collections of photos and newspaper articles with no particular design or artistic flare. Then they evolved to colorful collections of mementos with lots of extras like stickers, ribbons, and unique embellishments.

In order to create a scrapbook, you needed a good unifying theme and plenty of paper, scissors, pens, lots of glue, and your photos and memorabilia. Making a scrapbook took lots of time and work, and creative talent was a definite plus.

The Internet has changed all that. Today, you can find downloadable albums for free scrapbooking at any number of innovative scrapbooking websites. You can create a virtual scrapbook, loading your photos and images to the Internet where they are protected from loss and available to many people. The technology has both advantages and disadvantages you'll want to consider.

Advantages:

1. Saving Time and Effort. It's much faster to download albums for free scrapbooking than to create or purchase them. They give you the base of an overall theme and color scheme. You don't have to waste your time on the basics. You can focus on making your scrapbook unique and creative.

Making your own scrapbook from scratch requires commitment and dedication. You have to put a lot of thought and effort into each page. In addition to deciding how to use your photos and memorabilia, you have to think through and decide on your theme, layout, color scheme, and materials. But in today's busy world, most people don't have the time to invest in every scrapbooking detail. With free downloadable albums, free photo scrapbooking lets you focus on the most important scrapbook element - your memories.

2. Sharing your Scrapbook. Free photo scrapbooking on the Internet gives you access to downloadable albums that you can share with all of your friends and family. You simply upload your photos and images to create a virtual scrapbook. You can have a special password that allows only those people you choose to see your scrapbook, or you can leave it open for everyone. It's an easy way to let people enjoy your scrapbook without running the risk of losing it.

A virtual scrapbook may not be the solution for everybody. It doesn't compare to the traditional scrapbook full of photos, favorite mementos, interesting textures, ribbons, and love. But a virtual scrapbook is great for people who want instant connectivity and ease of access.

Disadvantages:

1. Losing your Uniqueness. Downloadable albums for free photo scrapbooking allows you to choose from a variety of designs, but the designs are not easy to change. There may be many other people using the design you selected for their own virtual scrapbooks. Your virtual scrapbook won't have the same unique quality that your handmade scrapbooks had. It won't reflect your unique personality and creativity.

2. Using only Images. When you create a virtual scrapbook, you're limited to documents you can upload to the Internet. Photos are the most likely documents, though you might also upload scanned images of memorabilia, articles, or things like invitations and announcements. You can't add those interesting political campaign buttons, locks of hair, or pieces of fabric from the prom gown or wedding dress. Your virtual scrapbook won't capture your life experience, just images of it.

So there you have it. The beauty of using downloadable albums for free photo scrapbooking is applying technology to save and share your memories in a prepared format, saving you time and effort. The downside is limits on your creativity and the things you can include in your scrapbook.

A virtual scrapbook is the perfect way to document an event and share the photos from it with your family and friends. It allows you to get these things up quickly so that people can refresh their memories and continue to enjoy the event for a long time. It helps bring people together, and it is a quick easy way to create a simple free scrapbook.

But if you want to create a family heirloom that can be enjoyed for years to come, you may want to create a traditional scrapbook that expresses your personality with lots of different media and materials. You'll want to invest time and effort in this treasure, and you'll have a beautiful permanent record of whole lives and whole phases of life. You are the only true judge for what you want and need.

The best solution is a combination of both! Use a virtual scrapbook using a free downloadable album to collect images recalling a single event for a quick and easy solution. But create a handmade traditional scrapbook to have a collection of memories and memorabilia to document a lifetime.

Quick And Simple Scrapbooking

Unlike many hobbies, scrapbooking produced tangible results. Many people adopt a hobby to gain or improve a skill. But scrapbooking helps you develop your creativity AND produce a great piece of artwork while you do it.

Maybe this is why scrapbooking has become one of the most popular hobbies in the U.S.A. Just look and the number and variety of magazines devoted to scrapbooking on the shelves today! There are annual fairs and regional conventions going on somewhere just about all the time. And on the Internet, a Google searching for the word "scrapbooking" gets over 40 million responses that include websites, articles, e-zines, and webrings devoted to the pastime.

For people that haven't done art or crafts in the past, scrapbooking may be a bit overwhelming at first. Without experience and practice, it's hard to know how to put cutting, designing, and sticking together in a way that creates a thing of beauty. Some may even become discouraged before they get started.

But making a scrapbook isn't hard. It can be really easy with the right tools and materials. New gadgets come out every day, and craft stores are full of useful items for successful scrapbooking. You can even find scissors that cut designed lines with curves, angles, and punch-outs. And there are hole punchers that create shapes like stars instead of the old boring circle. There is a mountain of choices among stickers and embellishments for scrapbooks.

Here are some ideas and tips that will make your scrapbooking a quick, easy project.

*** Prepared Pages**

While it's fun and rewarding to create your own pages, it takes a lot of time and effort. Modern scrapbooking products are designed to make this part of it easy, and the materials on the market are sophisticated and beautiful. You can find them for particular themes you can use for special occasions like weddings, birthdays, new babies, and anniversary parties.

Scrapbooking Made Easy!

Maybe you feel your talents are limited for making your own pages, or you don't have time to do each page yourself. You can opt for prepared scrapbook pages that have prepared layouts and designs. Your part is the fun part - adding the photos, memorabilia, and finishing touches. Prepared pages cut your time investment in half from the beginning.

*** Stickers for Extra Sparkle**

Everyone knows kids love stickers, but scrapbookers make valuable use of them! Scrapbook stickers come in many shapes, sizes, and colors. Some are dedicated to special events and occasions, while others are just plain fun!

You probably already know about the stickers that celebrate birthdays, new babies, weddings, and holidays. But did you know you can also find stickers with favorite Christian sayings, business quotes, kiddie images, sports, and girly-girl stuff. There's probably no theme or idea you can find a sticker set for.

Stickers are great for decorating pages that are almost finished. They add color, interest, and artistic appeal to your pages. And you don't have to draw, cut, or glue them in. Just bring your stickers home, peel of the backing, and stick it on the page. What could be easier?

These two basic tricks will save you lots of time and reduce the need for artistic temperament. Scrapbooking is a great hobby that creates beautiful memory books that your family will treasure for generations. Try these tips and create a beautiful scrapbook in no time!

Firefighter Scrapbooking

Scrapbooking reflects the principle of "organized chaos." You can put almost anything in a scrapbook, and creativity is a major asset for people who make scrapbooks (or scrappers). You can combine a wide range of materials, colors, textures, and images to create something as unique as you are.

Yet, every scrapbook is organized around a theme, the subject of the scrapbook. It may be a person's life, an important event, a favorite vacation location, or any number of things the scrapper wants to remember. Scrapbooks are meant to preserve and interpret favorite memories, but the best scrapbooks do it in a way that tells a story.

The theme ties every element together in your scrapbook. If you're making a scrapbook for a gift, your theme may be something that is important to the recipient. A very popular theme for young boys is firefighters.

Especially since 2001, all of us have been more aware of how heroic these public servants must be. Many grown men still dream of becoming a firefighter long after childhood is over.

Creating a scrapbook on a firefighter theme is a great project that you can ask your young man to join. Even though young boys may find the idea too girlie at first, they'll love helping find the images and embellishments representing firefighters. You and your project assistant can have a great time collecting the elements and creating a firefighting scrapbook honoring the profession and telling the child's story at the same time.

Here are some ideas for themes and supporting elements that may get your and your young potential firefighter off to a good start.

*** Colors**

There are several colors we associate with firefighting that make great color schemes for scrapbooks. Beginning with the ever-popular "fire engine red" and white, you recall the familiar fire trucks and sirens. But you don't want to create an "ambulancing" scrapbook, so you can add

other colors common to firefighting. Mustard yellow is the color of a fireman's coat or parka and the oxygen tank he wears into burning buildings.

Another nice touch is to use the colors of the traditional firefighting dog. Black spots on a white background help honor the Dalmatian and keep your scrapbook color scheme interesting. Combining red and orange with a deep blue represents flames, and adding aqua or light blue introduces water.

* Images and Firefighting Shapes

Images are an important basic element of any scrapbook. Using familiar images, shapes, and symbols maintains your firefighting theme and adds to your scrapbook pages. Here are some suggestions to get you started:

- **Fire Engine.** This popular vehicle is easy to recognize and easy to reproduce for your scrapbook. Your young man will quickly know what it is by its familiar shape and bright fire engine red colors. You can use it as a background image or make cut-outs to frame your photos and mementos.

- **Firefighter.** Firemen have a familiar and recognizable silhouette, with their fire hat, parka, and axe. You can show your firefighter in different poses and positions throughout the scrapbook to add a sense of action to your pages. Holding the fire hose, climbing the ladder, or bringing a person out of the flames are all exciting ways to honor their courage.

- **Fire Hydrant.** Another familiar shape and image is the fire hydrant. You can add that mustard yellow color to complement the firefighter's parka, and the hydrant shape makes a great frame. But you may want to be careful in how you use it, given the hydrant's popularity with dogs.

- **Hook and Ladder.** This vehicle has very distinctive features that represent the firefighter in action.

- **Firefighter Symbols and Shapes.** Several shapes come to mind when thinking about firefighting. The familiar shape of the fireman's badge is a nice one for scrapbooks. The fireman's hat is a distinctive shape easy to recognize. You might also consider cut-outs of

Scrapbooking Made Easy!

Dalmatians, flames, the fireman's axe, or the siren to accent your pages and make your theme loud and clear.

These are just a few ideas for a firefighting scrapbook. You and your young boy will have a great time thinking of other ways to incorporate the firefighter theme in your scrapbook.

Free Digital Scrapbooking

Scrapbooking is one of the most popular hobbies around these days. Scrappers are well-acquainted with the craft, working with the materials and tools like pros. Combining cutting lots of paper shapes, gluing photos, and sticking a collection of ribbons, die-cuts, and stamps on each page is their passion. It's hard for an experienced scrapper to imagine doing it any other way.

But computers can invade anything - even scrapbooking. Modern technology introduces a whole new approach to scrapbooking that uses graphics programs to create the basic scrapbook elements and page layouts. Using a computer to create scrapbooks, known as digital scrapbooking, involves creating page layouts with the help of computer software that edits photos, creates graphics, inserts borders and text, and allows you to "paste in" digital embellishments.

Using high-quality paper, you print your scrapbook pages on a high-resolution printer and then attach your traditional scrapbook materials. More tech-savvy scrappers can even save elements and pages on the hard drive or store them to DVD or CD to share with others electronically. These days, several websites give you the ability to create an online scrapbook by uploading your photos and images to their prepared digital scrapbook albums.

There are several computer programs that are great for scrapbooking. Most popular are Adobe Photoshop Elements 2.0 and CS, Microsoft Picture It!, Lumapix, and JASC's Paint Shop Pro. They are all effective for manipulating designs. The features that scrappers will appreciate include cropping photos, replacing backgrounds and colors, adding text, and inserting borders and graphics.

The programs we've mentioned weren't created for scrapbooking, but they offer many features scrapbookers will find useful. It's easy to isolate and "cut out" specific images from a photo. You can apply color schemes to your designs. Cropping photos and trimming page elements is easy and quick, and the programs allow you to create your own design elements.

Scrapbooking Made Easy!

The major obstacle to applying these high-end programs to scrapbooking is in learning how to use the software. For people who haven't used graphics programs, there can be a steep learning curve, and becoming adept may take some time. They're expensive too. You can expect to pay several hundred dollars for one of these software packages.

Once you are familiar with the programs, though, using the software for other projects is interesting and fun. Their great value for scrapbooking lies in their versatility. You're only limited by your imagination in what you can create to make a super scrapbook. You can blend your own colors, create your own borders, and add texture digitally. These programs offer a variety of virtual textures: marble, canvass, cobblestone, leather, silk, and a range of natural color-texture combinations.

Easier programs dedicated to scrapbooking are also available. They include Hallmark, CK, Scrapbook Studio, and Scrapbook Assistants. Designed specifically for digital scrapbooking, they're easier and faster to learn and much less expensive. However, they are not as flexible as the high-end programs, and your options can be limited to a prescribed set of colors, pre-set page settings, and canned layouts. But they do make the job easy, and you won't spend weeks to months trying to figure out how they work.

An in-between solution might be a program like Microsoft Digital Image Pro. Less expensive than Adobe Photoshop, it's easier to learn and has more features than the digital scrapbooking programs.

If you're not sure whether you want to try digital scrapbooking, you can try it out by downloading free digital scrapbooking programs from the Internet. Be aware, though, that these programs may not be as effective as those you purchase. That's because free downloads are often used as product samples, and not all menu features are turned on in the free trial offers and downloads. They will give you a sense of what the software can do, and trying out free digital scrapbooking software may help you make your decision.

Most programs come with tutorials and help features that teach you how to do major tasks. The step-by-step instructions allow you to explore features and sharpen techniques as you learn the software. You can also probably get online help through blogs and forums run by scrapbooking websites.

Free Digital Scrapbooking Charms

We're all aware of the quick pace of changing technology. Many things we take for granted today were completely unknown decades ago. Activities we pursue every day would have been impossible a few years ago. Without doubt, technology has changed many things in our world.

Take scrapbooking, for example. This fun pastime used to involve collections of many different types of paper, different types and colors of pens, a variety of glitters and ribbons, and a lot of glue. Scrapbookers needed a lot of space to store and work with the wide range of materials and tools needed to create beautiful family heirlooms.

But today, more and more scrapbookers are charmed by free digital scrapbooking. This approach is changing the way people look at arts and crafts in general. But for scrapbooking, it's a virtual revolution!

What's so great about digital scrapbooking? What are the charms that make digital scrapbooking so irresistible? Well, here are a few ...

* **Versatility.** The charms of free digital scrapbooking bring the miracles of technology to the scrapbooker's toolkit. The only limit is the imagination. People can make their scrapbooks take any form they want. Here are some examples of the versatile charms of free digital scrapbooking:

- **Animation.** With this technology, you can actually make your scrapbook move! Animation brings life and excitement to your scrapbook. You can add funny faces, cute little dogs and cats, anything you can imagine, to make your scrapbook more interesting and entertaining. Animation gives your scrapbook a life of its own. Whether true or not, many people are talking about traditional scrapbooks as boring these days.

- **Video.** Conventional scrapbooks can only contain static photos and mementos. If a picture is worth a thousand words, a video recording is worth millions. One of the charms of free digital scrapbooking is the ability to add videos that show the family swimming together, catch those wonderful bloopers, and capture more of the subjects' personalities than ever possible with

photos. You don't have to be satisfied with trying to figure out what was going on when a particular photo was taken. Your video tells the whole story. With videos, you can relive those memories as if you were there now.

- **Sound.** Even video is limited when it's just a moving picture. Today, you can include sound to further enhance your video recordings and truly bring those memories back to life. With sound, you're really in the center of the action. Memories aren't old stale posed pictures. They're living, breathing, talking action. Free digital scrapbooking lets us add sound to pictures to form a lasting record of important events.

* **Savings.** Free digital scrapbooking is FREE! Not many things come without a price tag today. In reality, the reality of inflation means things get more expensive every time you pay for them. So a major charm of free digital scrapbooking is the cost - or the absence of cost. Think of the investment you made to purchase albums, paper, embellishments, and tools to create your old scrapbooks! By using free digital scrapbooking, you save a small fortune.

* **Sharing.** The traditional scrapbook was a physical item that only one or two people could enjoy at the same time. And if you wanted to share it with many other people, you almost had to create a library circulation system. Then you had to remember who had it and when they promised to return it. And think of the disappointment when it got lost in transit.

Today, free digital scrapbooking allows us to share our golden memories with anyone anytime. Linked to e-mail, scrapbookers can send records of their favorite moments anywhere in the world. The scrapbook is easy to find and easy to review and enjoy. Any number of people can be enjoying it at the same time, and no one has to worry about getting it back to the scrapbooker without damage. Free digital scrapbooking makes sharing easy, fast, and convenient.

* **Entertainment.** Let's face it, working on the Internet is just down-right fun! Playing with new technologies to create your own scrapbook teaches you new skills and gives you hours of enjoyment. You get the satisfaction of conquering a new technology and the pride of creating something unique. Free digital scrapbooking makes life more interesting!

Scrapbooking Made Easy!

* **Celebrity.** Let's face it, most people like to be admired and popular. Getting applause from people we care about is a wonderful experience. We are social beings, frequently trying to win the love and admiration of our fellows. Free digital scrapbooking charms people because it gives them a product that impresses their friends and acquaintances and makes them web-celebrities in their own circles.

Free digital scrapbooking has many charms. It's easy to do. It's FREE! It gives you an archive for your favorite memories. It allows you to enhance your scrapbook with animation, video, and sound. It gives you a chance to play with new technologies and improve your skills. It's just good fun, and it builds your image with others. If you love scrapbooking, and you haven't tried free digital scrapbooking, you're missing a fantastic opportunity. Don't wait another day. Get out there and try some free digital scrapbooking for your own precious memories!

Free Scrapbooking Catalogs

Well, it's time for another general house cleaning. This is the time when you stumble across those valuable sentimental items you want to keep forever. Pictures of you and your best friends, family gatherings, and those great shots of the kids doing the fantastic recall happy times you never want to lose. Then the idea strikes: How can I keep these in a safe place?

This is the perfect time to start building a scrapbook to preserve and protect your favorite memories. Scrapbooking is a fast-growing hobby - so fast, in fact, a new industry is growing up around it. Scrapbooking is a great way to express your individual personality and creativity while creating something your whole family will treasure and enjoy for years to come. It takes time and effort, but it's so worth it!

If you're a novice at scrapbooking, you may want to try some free scrapbooking catalogs for your first efforts. You can find free scrapbooking catalogs in local stores and on the Internet. They are full of useful information that will give you a lot of great ideas for your scrapbooking projects. Even better, they outline the basic steps in scrapbooking so that beginners will be able to create beautiful pieces right off the bat.

If you have a shoe box full or a big stack of photos, why not get them organized? Sort them by event or occasion or by specific people. This way, you'll get your photos organized and stimulate your mind to think about how you might want to present them in a scrapbook. A very helpful addition to your photo sorting task is attaching notes to each one. Your notes describe the photo, its context in time and place and its importance to you.

This is a critical step everyone who scrapbooks goes through before they begin a project. Inventorying your materials and pondering the best way to assemble them prepares you for your project and helps you decide what materials you need. And if you can't find a retail supplier nearby, you can order your materials through the catalog or the company's online store.

Free scrapbooking catalogs are a great tool for shopping without getting in the car. They will describe the following steps in more detail, and they will give you images of the kinds of supplies available including decorative papers and paper sets, stick-on borders and alphabets,

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ribbons and trims, cut-outs and die-cuts, frames, felt flowers and paper blossoms, rubber stamps, glitter pens and cuts, and colorful acid-free pens.

And you'll find all the tools you need in free scrapbooking catalogs: paper cutters, scissors, organizers, brads and clips, and the ever present acid-free glues. These days, you can even find special pieces and embellishments to use on the Internet when you decide to make your first web-based scrapbook!

To get a free scrapbooking catalog, look for one of these three outstanding companies who'll mail you a paper catalog: A.C. Bailey Designs, Times to Cherish, or Creative Express. Of course, there are dozens of online catalogs you can browse while you're surfing the web.

No matter what free scrapbooking catalog you use or what supplies you need, there are some basic first steps involved in scrapbooking.

*** Gather Your Photos and Memorabilia**

If you're like most of us, you have photos and other mementos scattered all over the place - ticket stubs in coat pockets, receipts stuffed in pants pockets or purses, invitations stacked with your old bills, confetti from that great New Year's Party, buttons from political events, and many other precious items.

Gather these mementos in one place. Search closets, drawers, the attic, even the garage to find them. Now, just pile them up on a table and start spreading them out so you can see what you have. As you go through them, put them in individual stacks of items that are related to each other. You may have enough treasures to build several scrapbooks!

*** Sort Your Mementos**

After you have separated the items into related groups, you'll want to sort through them to figure out which ones to use in a scrapbook, which ones to throw away, and a logical order for the ones you want to keep.

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There are several ways to group your photos and memorabilia: by family or family member, by how you're related, by friend or groups of friends, by clubs or associations. Those are a few approaches for sorting by people.

But you can also sort by events and times. Perhaps you have a bunch of memories for a specific wedding, anniversary, or the birth of a new baby. Maybe you want to group them by a time in your life like your college days or your first job. You can also sort them chronologically, showing the passage of time in your life.

*** Label Your Items**

It's important to add some information to each piece you plan to use in your scrapbook. Short notes may simply remind you when and where photos were taken or the date and place where a ticket stub was used. You may want to write more about the event or person, though. Detailed notes can be used to give depth and meaning to the items you mount in your scrapbook. Clip or tape your notes to the item for later use.

*** Store Your Treasures**

Now that you've got them organized and labeled, you may need a break before starting your scrapbook. This time, you'll protect them from further damage by keeping them cool and dry. You can use any number of organizing systems - bookshelves, filing cabinets, bins. Whatever is most appropriate for your space and the way you operate is best for you. One note: when you use plastic containers or bins, avoid PVC plastic. It's corrosive and can damage your photos and delicate pieces beyond repair. And remember when you prepare your storage space that there are three elements to protect your treasures from: light, humidity, and heat.

*** Plan Your Scrapbook**

Now the time has come. You've got your photos and memorabilia nicely organized, and you know what you want to include in your scrapbook. It's time to give some serious thought to your presentation.

Scrapbooking Made Easy!

Think about the type of scrapbooking album you'll use. The amount of photos and keepsakes will determine the size of your scrapbook. Albums come in a variety of sizes and shapes. The smaller square ones (6x6") are portable and easy to handle. But they won't give you as much space for creative touches and embellishments. The larger ones, usually 8-1/2x11" or a foot square, give you plenty of room to decorate the pages and insert larger mementos.

Now you know what you want to include and what album type you'll use to present your memories. It's time to think about your theme. The theme will determine page layout, color scheme, and the types of embellishments you choose. Themes vary widely. You'll want to think about your memento group and the common thread that ties it all together.

Is your material related to a holiday season? A baby's first years? Your family's history and heritage? A specific person's whole life? A period in your life? A favorite sport or family activity? A special relationship?

As you can see, the themes you can choose are limitless. The important thing about YOUR theme is that it's personal and meaningful to you. When you've decided on a theme, it's time to get your supplies, and that's where the free scrapbooking catalog will come in very handy.

You can select and coordinate your paper and your decorative touches. You can find or make a scrapbooking template that will be the basic design for each page. You can choose from a wide range of embellishments. You can spend a fortune or stick to a set budget. This may be the most fun part of the scrapbooking project, so enjoy!

See how great it is to use free scrapbooking catalogs?

Free Scrapbooking Layout

Believe it or not, the hobby of scrapbooking is now more popular than golf! A scrapbook used to be a simple collection of newspaper articles, cut-outs from magazines, or a group of related photographs. In the old days, you wouldn't see nice borders and designs in a scrapbook.

Today, scrapbooking is an art form and a billion-dollar industry. Where once it was hard to find scrapbooking materials and accessories, an overwhelming variety of albums, papers, designs, and embellishments is available to scrapbookers. And the community of collectors and vendors continues to grow.

As the craze grows, more and more websites devoted to scrapbooking are popping up on the Internet. They offer free advice and items for purchase. Some sites make free page templates available and contain many great suggestions for theme-based scrapbooks.

If you're new to scrapbooking, the Internet offers all the information you need to build a beautiful container for your precious memories. And whether through a local retail or the web, you can find an endless variety of supplies to accent your personal photos, decorations, and embellishments.

In fact, the range of products is amazing. You can find anything from scrapbooking software to help you create your own pages electronically to stick-ons that add sparkle to your scrapbook pages.

One basic step in scrapbooking is deciding on your layout - the basic design or format for your presentation. A good layout helps you carry your theme throughout the scrapbook and brings your bits and pieces together to tell a story. Your layout expresses your personality and style and helps you organize every page.

Here are some popular layout plans that you may want to try for your first scrapbooking adventure. The possibilities are limited only by your imagination, so review these descriptions for ideas. You may come up with some original layout plans of your own.

* **Newspaper Style.** Newspapers have worked on efficient layout for hundreds of years. The layout is a great way to tie pictures and text together. The layout creates the impression of a newsy journal, and it's a wonderful format for events like birthdays, weddings, and anniversaries. The basic layout is columns. Depending on the size of your pages, you can use from two to four columns to create an interesting newspaper-like impression. You can choose fonts resembling those in the news for further effect. Times New Roman is an accepted and easy-to-read font, and Old English is wonderful for bold titles and headings.

* **Handprint Approach.** Best in albums about your children, you trace their hand or foot to use on every page. You can use the outline on the pages as a background. You can use it as a frame for photos and mementos. Or you can use it to make a stick-on for your pages to frame your favorite pieces.

* **Rub-on Transfer Technique.** Rub-ons have long been a favorite of scrapbookers. They create a textured effect that make your page layouts special. You can apply them to cardstock and a variety of papers. Whether patterned or solid, the rub-ons add a special flare to your pages. Be aware that it takes some time to get good at making rub-ons. You'll want to practice the technique before using it in your scrapbook. But once you've mastered the technique, you can incorporate other media like ribbons, mesh, and glass. A tip: rub-ons need to be adhesive enough to create a lasting effect.

* **Chalk for Texture.** Chalks add a nice texture to your paper. They give color and dimension, and they adhere well to most surfaces. You can use soft colors for your baby's scrapbook and deeper dark colors for your memorial scrapbooks. Chalks add a unique effect you can't duplicate with any other medium, but they can be messy. You'll need to use a fixative spray to be sure they don't rub off your page onto your treasures or your hands!

These are just a few of many layout approaches. You can combine layouts to make the scrapbook more interesting, but be sure that you use your final layout plan consistently throughout your scrapbook to maintain your theme. Layout design can be as simple as a page border or as fancy as you can imagine. They bring unity to your photos and mementos and add your personality to your pages.

How To Search For Free Scrapbooking Templates On The Internet

Using templates to create your scrapbook pages can be a great timesaver. Scrapbook templates help you be consistent in cropping your photos and in creating a more organized look. You can place them over photos, and they're good tools for all your pages. Examples of the types of templates available include templates for journaling, cropping, and layout. And many templates are available without charge. Here are some reasons to use free scrapbooking templates.

1. Save Effort. Selecting a theme for scrapbook is no simple feat. Choosing colors, designs, and layout takes time and thought. Free scrapbooking templates save you from that chore. They also save you the task of researching different ideas and finding the right ones for your scrapbook project. By using free scrapbooking templates, things are already coordinated, and the pieces fit together well without work on your part.

2. Save Time. While great fun, scrapbooking is a time-consuming activity that many of us can't afford today. Planning layout, design, and color schemes comes first. Assembling photos, mementos, and embellishments comes next. Then assembling everything into an attractive package requires a major time investment. We look everywhere for ways to save time, and free scrapbooking templates are a great time-saver. When you use free scrapbooking templates, you already have the basic page for your pictures. All you have to do is add your personal elements, and you're done!

3. Save Money. You can spend a good deal of money creating your own template. Scrapbooking supplies and materials aren't cheap, as any trip to the craft store will prove. By using free scrapbooking templates, you don't have to invest your hard-earned dollar in a quality design. And you don't have to buy new tools to create your own.

Can I find free scrapbooking templates on the Internet?

Yes. There are several websites dedicated to arts and crafts. They offer a variety of resources on home crafting projects, and they're the most likely places to find free scrapbooking templates.

*** Craft and Scrapbooking Websites**

In addition to free scrapbooking templates, these sites offer valuable tips and advice for some great scrapbooking ideas. Many of them include photographs they've assembled into related sets to support various themes. You can search their sites for your theme or browse the designs they display. Although this is not a complete template, it gives you free building blocks to build your own templates. Rather than tying you down to someone else's idea of what your scrapbook pages should look like, you can use these free resources and your own creativity to develop exactly what you want.

The websites offer groups of images and other elements focused on specific themes. You can browse these materials to find a theme you like. You can also search for a specific theme using a search engine like Google to find a site that may be dedicated to your theme. Many of these websites are designed specifically for people who want to use a theme for their scrapbooking project, and they may contain additional hints and information prepared by the person who created the specific template.

For scrapbookers who prefer that look of organized chaos, getting individual scrapbook components is also possible. Just remember that free scrapbooking templates help you organize your work around a single unifying theme and makes your scrapbook more attractive. After all, we usually create a scrapbook to memorialize a single event or idea, making templates ideal.

*** Group Websites**

Several sites provide free scrapbooking templates for their group. Members can create scrapbooks reflecting their group experience. Using these free scrapbooking templates gives you an opportunity to meet others with your interests and helps you build relationships with other group members through your scrapbooking project. You can compare each others' work and get new ideas.

Scrapbooking Made Easy!

These are just a few ideas about using free scrapbooking templates for your next scrapbooking project. Whether you want a complete page template or elements, you can find them at one of many websites dedicated to scrapbooking. Not only do they offer the template, most of them also offer careful instructions that show you how to use it. Adding your own touches, of course, makes the design yours and your scrapbook more interesting and unique.

Qualities That Determine The Right Hugz For Scrapbooking

Today, you can find an almost limitless variety of materials to use for scrapbooking. In the past, every scrapbook was as unique as the person who created it because they had to rely on items from their home for decoration and embellishments.

Once you've identified the personal memories you want to capture, you have to decide how to organize and present them. Perhaps you have old photos of your college days in a shoe box with tickets to football games and concerts, cards from your best friends, articles from the college newspaper, and other reminders of some wild college parties. Now, you need to find a way to tie them all together in an attractive layout. You'll want to make each page represent a different part of your college experience.

Years ago, you'd have to find your materials from a variety of locations having nothing to do with scrapbooking. But today, there are so many commercial materials available that uniqueness comes with each person's special combinations of paper, embellishments, stickers, and decorations they purchased from a scrapbooking supplier or craft store.

You can find background papers in your college colors, stickers reflecting sports and study, and alphabet cutouts for club names. You'll find all the cut dies, emboss shapes, and a variety of craft papers to help you create an attractive and interesting memory book for your college days.

There is a new product on the market for scrapbooks. It's called a Hugz. Scrapworks makes these little metallic frames that let you attach items to your pages without using tools. They come in a wide range of sizes, colors, and shapes. They aren't a requirement. You can still create an attractive scrapbook without Hugz, but they add a special quality to your pages that makes your scrapbook special. Hugz are available at most retail locations, and they're often found as part of an embellishment kit.

So what Hugz do you want to use? Here are some considerations when deciding what Hugz to use in your scrapbook.

* **Color.** You can select Hugz to compliment your overall color scheme, or you can use Hugz that help express the emotional tone of the specific photo or memory you're displaying. Colors have meaning, so you might want to select a color that reflects the emotion a memory evokes.

- Red stands for passion, courage, honor, and loyalty to family. Being the color of blood, it can also represent violence. After the 20th Century, red is also associated with revolution and communism.

- Black represents mystery and sometimes inner peace. It's also related to non-conformism, the dark night, or evil. Black also evokes loss, grief, sorrow, or pain. Black may be especially useful when your scrapbook captures a sorrowful or difficult period in life.

- Purple symbolizes wisdom and royalty. Roman emperors and European kings and queens wore purple as a show of their nobility. Purple represents heroism, endurance, and victory over difficult challenges.

- Pink depicts innocence and love. In eastern philosophy, pink is the color of the energy of love flowing from a human chakra. Many people believe a pink aura radiates from people who are full of love and compassion.

- White stands for purity, spiritual glory, and peace. It also represents new beginnings, making it especially appropriate for scrapbooks memorializing births and new phases of life.

* **Theme.** When you're creating a scrapbook, you want to be sure that every page reflects a common theme. Whether it's a person, place, event, or emotion, the basic theme of your scrapbook should shine through. You can find Hugz to support and complement your theme.

* **Size.** Hugz come in a variety of sizes to fit every scrapbooking need. The size you choose may be symbolic, or it may be used to draw attention to specific photos or memorabilia. Small Hugz are often used for memories only the scrapbook creator understands or to mark particularly sweet memories. Medium-sized Hugz can mark important events and objects. Large Hugz are often used to frame very significant events, life's turning points, and important milestones like graduations, weddings, and births. Large Hugz are effective for memorializing emotionally-intense periods and events.

* **Shape.** Most Hugz are shaped like circles or squares. They got the name from the "XOXO" marks that symbolize hugs and kisses in a letter or note. Circles represent hugs, and the "X" represents a kiss. The circle shape can express love, meaning you can use this shape of Hugz for sweet romantic memories. Circles can also represent magic. They also symbolize reincarnation and the circle of life. Hugz are available in other shapes as well, and you can find one to capture your special meaning. The triangle shape can be used to represent intelligence, heavenly powers, or the Trinity.

Ideas For Cost-Free Scrapbooking

Americans love scrapbooking! And why wouldn't this be a popular hobby? You get to recall and preserve your special memories by doing something really creative. It's addictive! There's no wonder so many people enjoy scrapbooking.

But scrapbooking can really put a dent in your pocketbook. You have to get the scrapbook itself or an album, usually from craft store. And then you have to find plenty of special papers and decorations to add some flare to your scrapbook. Tools like glue and scissors add to the cost. If you're an avid scrapbooker, you can invest a good part of your spending money.

Scrapbooking doesn't have to be expensive, though. In fact, you can turn it into a cost-free hobby. We already know you're resourceful because you're a scrapbooker! Now, apply that resourcefulness to your hobby and find the things you need around your house. Here are some ideas that may help you turn scrapbooking into a cost-free pursuit.

Don't Buy Your Paper - Recycle It

You can buy a prepared scrapbook or album for your scrapbooks, but you don't have to. You can create most of the books that you find in craft stores today. Just give it a try.

If you have the time and patience, recycle your own papers. Use newspapers, loose papers from around the house, or scratch paper from your kids' school. Recycling is easy, even though there are many steps to the process. All the materials you'll need are scrap paper, a bucket, water and bleach, a blender, an embroidery hoop, and some netting. Create your own colors and textures for a truly unique scrapbook.

It can take some time, too. First, you have to tear the paper into smaller pieces. Then you have to dry the pieces after the recycling process. Imagine your pride when you respond, "Oh, no. I did every bit of it myself, even the paper!" If you're interested in how to recycle your own scrapbooking paper, do a little research on the Internet, and have at it!

Scrapbooking Made Easy!

If you don't have the time or interest in recycling your own scrapbook paper, you can use plain bond or pages from magazines or newspapers. They don't have to be recycled to add some real flare to your scrapbook. For example, you can use photos and ads to add color and graphics to your pages. You can find photos and articles related to your scrapbook theme and add some interesting touches to your scrapbook pages.

Don't Buy Embellishments - Go Through Your Cabinets, Drawers, and Closets

Most of us are pack rats. We keep everything just in case we'll need it for a scrapbook. Well, now's the time to hunt all those treasures down. You don't have to buy fancy new decorations for your scrapbook. You can make your pages look great using items in your home. The benefit of doing this is that it adds unique personal touches to your scrapbook that you can't buy from a craft store.

Examples include old buttons you've saved to put back on that old blouse or shirt, lace from old lingerie, or ribbons you've been saving to wrap gifts. You can get faux gemstones from old or broken costume jewelry. You can use scraps from old clothing to add texture to your scrapbook pages. You can use broken chains from old belts, jewelry, and clothing to add interesting borders.

Personalize Your Scrapbook with Paper Memories

You can literally fill a scrapbook without having to buy anything. Use old tickets for movies, busses, and concerts to mirror your theme. You can use reminders like old parking tickets or receipts from the time of your page focus items. Old programs from school plays, greeting cards, party invitations, old shopping lists, and personal notes add to the memories and make great decorations and graphics.

Scrapbookers are creative people from the start. Apply that resourcefulness to finding your own scrapbook materials, and you save a bundle while you create a family heirloom!

How To Lengthen The Lifespan Of Your Scrapbooking Albums

When you create a scrapbook, it's because you want to save and recall memories for years to come. Nothing is more disappointing than investing many hours creating a beautiful scrapbook with precious treasures from the past, only to have the album fall apart, the pictures fade, or the labels disappear. Here are some tips on protecting your scrapbooks and giving them a long, healthy lifespan.

*** Use a Good Album**

Your scrapbook album is the single most important material for capturing and keeping your precious memories. It's the backbone of your collection of cards, photos, papers, and embellishments. And while it provides the stable framework to house your memories, the album can't preserve them.

You have so many choices today in selecting a scrapbook album. In fact, there are so many different types that they don't fall into easy categories. Most modern scrapbooks are rectangular, the size of a piece of paper (8-1/2x11"), or their square, coming in sizes ranging from one square foot (12x12") to half of that (6x6"). Size selection is completely a matter of personal choice. Smaller sizes are more portable, while larger sizes allow more decoration and embellishments.

The more use a scrapbook gets, the more time it's reviewed to recall special times, the more likely it is to degrade. Wear and tear will show, and your album could literally fall apart. But there are things you can do to protect your album and extend its life.

*** Beware Disaster!**

Perhaps the worst thing that could happen to your scrapbook and its contents is a spill, so it's important to keep it away from liquids. They not only spoil the album cover materials, but they can destroy your favorite photos and memorabilia. Make sure your working area is clear of liquids, and that includes your coffee or tea!

*** Prevent Fading**

Direct sunlight will fade your album's color and reduce the overall quality of your scrapbook. Extreme temperatures will also cause changes in the surface material. Very low temperatures can create moisture that could lead to mildew, while very hot temperatures could cause warping of the album cover backing. Use page protectors inside to prevent damage to photos and memorabilia.

*** Avoid Oil Stains**

If you've watched any crime shows, you know that fingerprints leave an oily stain that can detract from your carefully-planned decoration and design. To avoid leaving these marks on your scrapbook album or contents, you could wear cotton gloves. But more practical approaches include washing your hands with acid-neutralizing cleaners or even simply using special care when handling photographs and delicate items.

*** Store Your Materials Properly**

Don't leave your scrapbook materials out where they can get lost or damaged. Properly storing your negatives and layouts will prevent tearing, scratching, and bending. Storing all your materials in a cool dry place will increase their quality and lifespan. Use sturdy bins and containers, and be sure that envelopes are acid-free.

Take care in selecting plastics to use as sealers or protectors of photos and memorabilia. Plastic wraps and covers come in a range of quality, and not all will be suitable for preserving your precious mementos. Be sure to check with the retailer about the quality of the plastic protectors you consider purchasing.

Avoid vinyl plastics completely. They contain polyvinyl chlorides (known as PVCs) that can be dangerous and corrosive. While you may not see damage immediately, PVC plastics are a bad choice for storing scrapbook materials or for use in your scrapbook. Instead, use polyester or acrylic plastics that are more stable and less corrosive to give your scrapbooks long life and durability.

*** Use Acid-Free Paper**

Be careful to use **ONLY** acid-free papers for your scrapbook. Many retailers include acidic papers in their inventory, so you'll want to double-check before making your purchase. Staying with one manufacturer is not a guarantee, either. While a company may make acid-free pastels, their darker colors or cardstocks may not be as safe for your scrapbook. When in doubt, always check the package label or test unlabeled papers before using them.

Using acid-free papers is important because acids promote immediate deterioration of the non-paper materials in your scrapbook. The acid will make paper and other scrapbook items turn yellow and dry out. You're making a scrapbook to preserve your memories, and acidic papers will definitely circumvent that objective.

*** Use Quality Markers**

Years from now, you'll want to check to see when a photo was taken. You'll want to read the notes you added to explain details of an event. You should be sure that the materials you use to label and identify your scrapbook items last for as long as the scrapbook does.

Ballpoint pens transfer ink from page to page, as it takes them a surprisingly long time to dry. And when using a ballpoint, you use more pressure than you would with another type of marker or pen. Look for archival quality, acid-free, and fade-proof markers for best results.

Following these simple guidelines will keep your treasured scrapbooks looking fresh and new for years. Your memories will be preserved for your children and their children. Don't let carelessness and poor-quality materials spoil your scrapbooks!

Scrapbooking Materials: Know What To Buy

Years ago, it was hard to find stores that sold scrapbooking materials. But avid scrapbookers created a demand, and today you can find local stores devoted to scrapbooking and other retailers like craft stores that sell a huge variety of books, papers, and decorations. In fact, the hard part today is choosing what to use in your scrapbook. This article covers some basis that will help you make wise purchases and create a beautiful scrapbook.

Beginners are overwhelmed by their choices when they get into the store. There is so much variety that it's hard to pick out items from over-stocked shelves. And if you're making your first scrapbook, the excitement of discovering so much variety of color, design, layout, and concept available to you is overwhelming.

The trick for beginners is realizing that there are a few basic things to buy in the beginning. It's best not to get everything at once. The best start is selecting a few key pieces and building some test pages first to be sure you enjoy the hobby and to see if those materials are what you really want to support your theme.

Planning your project is a great way to limit initial purchases and focus on a few items. That way, you're not overwhelmed by the range of options, and you don't get home with many items you'll never use. Making that first trip for scrapbooking materials can be an expensive lesson in planning!

Even seasoned scrapbookers fall into this trap. Stumbling upon a great sale is a sure way to overstock your own scrapbooking supplies. We see things that look great on the shelf and, even though we don't have a use for it now, we just have to have it for later on. Planning your shopping trip by focusing on a few pieces will help you practice some self-restraint and save your hard-earned pennies.

Your first step for creating a wonderful scrapbook without going broke is planning. Sit down and think about what you want the final product to look like. Your vision doesn't have to be detailed, but you should have a good feeling for your subject, colors, and how much material your scrapbook will contain.

*** Finding the Right Album**

The most important material for your scrapbook is the book itself. You'll find hundreds of sizes, designs, and presentation formats at the store. These are a few basic choices that make sense.

Traditional albums are the size of typing or copy paper (8-1/2x11") or one-foot squares (12x12"). Smaller albums are growing in popularity as new scrapbooking approaches increase. You'll find smaller squares that are easy to pack, carry, and decorate (for example, 6x6" to 8x8").

*** Page Protectors that Don't Also Detract**

You'll need page protectors to preserve your pages and the photos, memorabilia, and decorations they contain. Scrapbook pages can be vulnerable to tearing and other damages. Page protectors also help keep stock-on items from falling out of the book as it ages.

There are two basic choices for page protectors: clear transparent protectors and non-glare protectors.

*** Using the Right Papers**

Papers are basic to your color theme and overall design. The paper you choose for your background is an important part of the overall appeal of your scrapbook. Patterned papers are the most popular today. But it's important to remember that your backgrounds should frame your pages, not overwhelm them. They should be in subtle colors to help focus the eye on the photos and central items rather than the background paper.

*** Selecting Cardstock**

Cardstock is a staple in the world of scrapbooking. Cardstock is heavier than normal paper, though not as heavy as cardboard. Many office supply stores sell cardstock for report covers and mailers. It's heavy enough not to crease or fold easily but light enough to bend. Used in a scrapbook, cardstock is an effective foundation for embellishments, memorabilia, and photographs.

*** Picking an Adhesive**

Adhesive holds everything together - literally. There are many types of adhesive available, but experienced scrapbookers know how important it is to use the appropriate type. You should always look for acid-free adhesives that are safe for photos. Adhesives with acids can cause the

pictures to oxidize, paper colors to bleed or fade, and cause spots in embellishments like fabric, ribbons, or lace.

*** Take Care with the Paper Cutter**

Sizing your inserts is a very important part of scrapbooking. Paper cutters are good for cropping photos, creating interesting shapes, and customizing standard decorations. But be careful!

Paper cutters can also make you a bit over-enthusiastic, and you may destroy your item before it gets to the pages of your scrapbook. Avoid using the paper cutter with anything other than paper. While they keep the edges of photos and other paper items straight and clean, you should not try to use them with heavier decorations or fabric.

*** Scissors - a Necessity**

The number one tool for scrapbooking is a pair of good scissors. They help you make custom shapes and make clean cuts in fabrics, ribbons, and other decorations. They'll help you make interesting pieces to fit your pages. By using similar shapes, your scissor-cut inserts can even make their own design theme.

*** Rulers**

A beautiful scrapbook is precise and clean. Each item on the page must be neatly cut, balanced, and straight. Your ruler will save much time in marking guidelines and making sure the pieces fit properly.

There are hundreds of materials and tools available for scrapbookers today. Among those we haven't discussed are vellum, white plastic erasers, self-healing cutting mats, glue erasers, pens and pencils, photo corners, lettering stencils and fonts, and the trusty X-acto knife. You'll probably want to organize your scrapbooking materials in a toolkit of some kind. That way, you can keep everything together and avoid buying duplicates.

Getting Over With Your Weakness, Learn Scrapbooking Papers Storage Techniques

If there's anything that scrapbookers have in common beyond creating scrapbooks, it's scrapbook paper. It's our biggest weakness. Finding that unique pattern or those luscious colors is a real treat. So we buy the paper today and assume the inspiration will follow later. Then the wonderful new paper lies wasted for months waiting for that right inspirational moment.

Few of us have a perfect photographic memory, and it's easy to buy new paper, add it to the stack of papers we bought last week, and forget what we have. "Out of sight, out of mind," truly applies here. Even when you have a huge supply of beautiful papers in your work area, you forget about it and go buy more when the new scrapbook project comes along. It's a waste of money, a space-eater, and just plain bad planning.

The truth is, organization is as important for a scrapbooker as it is for anyone else. No one like to walk into a cluttered room to try to find the one item they need. No one wants to waste the time and money of shopping for things they know they already bought but can't find. Somehow, someday, the clutter must stop!

One thing to consider when planning your storage space is what kind of shopper you are. One type is fancy-free and spontaneous. They head out to the store with little more than a vision of how their scrapbook will look when they're done. They'll grab whatever catches their eye and sparks their imagination. They'll pick up interesting cardstocks, die cuts, and stickers. They'll find many items that may be of use someday. Their excitement and energy will build as they run to the register with their treasures. Once the project is started, they may find that some important pieces are missing.

The other type is organized to the tee. They bring along their pictures, mementos, and embellishments so that they can choose exactly the right shades and shapes to match. Their shopping trip will not be limited to papers. They'll find the perfect die cuts, stickers, and add-ons for their well-planned pages. Before they've left the store, they'll have visions of the layout, placement, and design to support the theme of their scrapbook.

Both types of shopper have their strengths. The go-lucky impulse scrapbooker is likely more creative in their design, and their scrapbook will be unique and special. The organized shopper will be more efficient, and their scrapbook will be precise and careful, everything matching just so. Both shoppers will have a beautiful scrapbook that reflects their unique individuality. These simple ideas may help you organize your scrapbooking supplies. Of course, they're only suggestions. What works for you is best. Hopefully, you'll get some useful information and ideas to stop your own clutter. The important point here is that good scrapbooking needs good organization. The way you store your papers and materials will determine whether they last forever or become useless quickly. Good organization saves time because you find things faster. It saves aggravation because you don't get frustrated trying to find that piece you KNOW is there somewhere!

It takes a while for us to find our own efficient organizing style. But basically, there are two approaches: horizontal and vertical. Most stores use a horizontal stacking arrangement, using either racks or shelves, to make the best use of their space. Unfortunately, most of us don't have the space of a retail store to work with. Snap top cases are a good solution because they work well for not only stacking paper but for storing other scrapbooking materials as well.

If you're limited to horizontal storage, you could try to apply vertical solutions within your horizontal space. This works well for cardstocks and other papers you use a lot. Vertical storage equipment usually comes with dividers you can adjust for separating different papers. But vertical storage like this will also require tall vertical spaces between your horizontal shelves.

Organizing your papers and materials requires attention details, and the more chaotic your storage space is now, the longer it will take to straighten things out. But remember, it's far easier and far less time-consuming to begin a project with an organized space that you don't have to organize and re-organize again as your project unfolds. The beauty of careful organization of your scrapbooking papers and materials is that your up-front planning and organization gives you much more time to spend creating a beautiful scrapbook that you and your family will treasure for years to come.

How To Choose The Perfect Quotes For Scrapbooking

Scrapbooking is a very popular hobby these days. It's a simple way to have fun and create something lasting for your memories and your family. It's simple enough for most everyone, yet it allows limitless opportunities for creativity and personal expression. It's one of those hobbies that improves your skills while you produce a valued personal treasure.

People scrapbook because they love to look back on their lives and recall important people and events. They help us remember the important moments in our lives and see how far we've come. They help us document things that we would otherwise forget.

Your scrapbook is a planned, well-designed collection of objects that remind you of things you care about. The objects - pictures, notes, ticket stubs, invitations - allow you to re-experience special moments and emotions.

It is said that a picture is worth a thousand words. But that's not always true. Memories become clouded, details are forgotten or confused, and pictures can be interpreted any number of ways. But just writing down your memories can be boring, not only to the person writing but to the people reading as well.

Scrapbooking is a wonderful compromise between writing a detailed journal and relying on a picture album. You can use a variety of memento forms to recall important times, and you can write about them on the same page.

Many people use scrapbook quotes to help describe important people, memories, and events. They give you the general impression, adding a literary touch and the magic of poetry. Using quotes in your scrapbook reaches deeper emotions and makes your memories more real.

But to get the effect you're looking for, you need to choose the right scrapbook quotes for your purposes. What do you look for? Here are some tips that may help.

*** It's Memorable**

A good scrapbook quote is easy to remember and has impact. Perhaps your quote is a famous one that is familiar to everyone. They don't even have to read the whole scrapbook quote to know what you intended. Many songs have this quality, and song lyrics are a great way to add flare to your scrapbook. Song lyrics combine the grace of poetry and music, and they are easy to remember. Whatever scrapbook quote you decide to use, make it memorable!

*** It's Relevant**

The scrapbook quotes you select must directly relate to your materials. They should communicate the important message you want to record. They should help even the unfamiliar visitor understand the photo or memento and its importance to your life. Even if the scrapbook quote seems trivial or silly, as long as it's important to you and is relevant to your material, it's the right quote. And unless you want to create an air of mystery, you should avoid overly vague or misleading scrapbook quotes. Give your reader a break!

*** It's Brief**

You don't want to take up too much room with your scrapbook quote, and you want to get your message across quickly. The focus should be on the photo or memento, not the quote. Overly long or flowery quotes can seem pretentious or in genuine. The scrapbook quote is used to bridge the gap between the object and the memory. It adds information without becoming the memory itself. Look for a scrapbook quote that expresses your meaning as simply as possible.

*** It's Meaningful**

The best scrapbook quotes touch both your brain and your heart. Scrapbooks are created to capture important memories that made a difference to your life. The quotes you use should reflect their importance and enrich your spirit. Whether joyous or sorrowful, your memories represent the things that formed your personality and character. Your scrapbook quotes should be serious without being overly intellectual or brooding, and they should be important to you at a very personal level.

Scrapbooking Made Easy!

These basic qualities are important to find the most appropriate quotes for your scrapbook. But don't lose your perspective. The most important part of your scrapbook is your memory. Scrapbook quotes should reflect your individual experience and the quality of the person or event the mementos represent. So, whether you select a quote from the work of a famous person or author or write your own, be sure your scrapbook quotes capture the essence of your personal memories.

Scrapbooking Sites: Haven For Your Priceless Memories

Our personal memories are precious treasures. They recall laughter and tears. They allow us to relive the most important events in our lives. Be they good or bad, they belong to us and are part of who we are.

You can't put a value on memories. You can't buy back good times, and you can't pay someone to make bad times disappear. Childhood memories, happy celebrations, and past wild times and the stuff that formed our personalities. Many people want to document those memories and share them with loved ones and friends.

There are many ways to collect, store, and recall our memories. Modern technology has made it possible to preserve those times in electronic formats that don't have to be packed, can't be lost, and never age or deteriorate. Memories last a lifetime, but they fade when stored in the human mind.

Today, people use a variety of things to capture these future memories while they are happening: photographs, video recordings, audio tapes, and correspondence are just a few examples. Photo albums have been popular since the first camera was invented, and they're still a favorite choice for keeping memories close to the heart. But now, there are many additional choices that a photo album can't contain.

Scrapbooks are a popular way to gather memories in different formats into one spot and preserve them. They have the advantage over photo albums of being a great way to create an artistic theme and add a very personal touch to your memory bank. Scrapbooks are more interesting and more entertaining than the traditional photo album. But even scrapbooks get lost or damaged.

When you create a scrapbook, you combine your treasured photos with other reminders like tickets, letters, and other reminders and frame them with color, design, and style. You can include memorabilia, stories, quotes, and testimonials in your scrapbook. And embellishments like buttons, beads, locks of hair, lace, ribbons, and yarn add variety and interest as well as memories to your scrapbook.

Scrapbooking Made Easy!

From the 1990s on, scrapbookers have applied scientific techniques to help preserve photos and memorabilia. Not only have photographs become more durable, but preservation techniques are more effective. You don't have to settle for faded photos with that old-fashioned yellow tint. Modern science and technology has made it possible to greatly increase the life of photographs and other materials.

Now, modern scrapbooking is a million-dollar industry, and new products and tools are constantly being released to help make the job easier and the scrapbook more appealing. And the Internet is not missing a beat. Hundreds of scrapbooking sites have sprung up across the web, offering tips and techniques, advice, and supplies and materials to web users. Many of these sites offer free help and information, so you don't have to trek to the bookstore for reference materials.

The advent of digital media has made Internet scrapbooking easier than ever! Software that allows you edit digital materials and transfer photos allows even greater creativity. The combined technologies of digital media, software, and the Internet have created a whole new type of scrapbooking. And because the materials can be stored on the web indefinitely, we now have the ability to create "permanent" scrapbooks that can't get lost and can't get damaged.

The Internet makes it easy and convenient to gather, share, and preserve photographs and video recordings. It also ensured that the scrapbook is easily accessible to anyone on the Internet. No matter what time of day or night, and no matter where a person is, they can get to their electronic scrapbook and cruise memory lane as fast as electricity and broadband will allow.

Now, you can replay that video of Uncle Bob's birthday, your grandparents' golden wedding anniversary, or little Suzy's entrance into this world as many times as you want. And you can do it at the same time as others. You can collect, store, and preserve these memories as long as you are willing to pay the often-nominal web hosting fee. You can even use a free service to house your scrapbook.

You can choose to scrapbook in the old-fashioned way and have great fun letting your creative juices flow to create an interesting, artistic permanent paper record of the important times in

Scrapbooking Made Easy!

your life. You can also choose to apply your computer skills and electronic media and let technology help you create a permanent electronic record of those same times.

Whatever approach you want to use is available, affordable, and easy to do. You can create a paper version of your scrapbook as an heirloom for your home and family, and you can add an electronic version to the Internet so that other family members and friends can enjoy your creativity at any time. And if your paper version ever gets lost or destroyed, you'll have the electronic version as a great insurance policy!

Starting Out With Scrapbooking

Scrapbooking is an ideal way for you to preserve memories and share thoughts. It is a great way to spend some time too. Every one of us has memories that mean so much to us and the thought of losing them is something that no one really wants to think about. Yet, when we get them together and get them on paper, they can be with us for a long while and they will be there even when we are not.

But, getting started in scrapbooking may seem overwhelming. If you walk into the local craft store, you are likely to see a wide range of products to purchase. You'll find a lot of kits that you can use, stickers, papers and fun colored markers and paint. You'll find a wide range of choices and this may have you thinking that you need to purchase all of this to create a great looking scrapbook. The fact is, though, that you really do not need to do all of that at all.

When getting started in scrapbooking, you should carefully consider the options that you have and the things that you really would like to use. You don't have to use pricy products to have a great looking scrapbook either. Here are some tips that can help anyone to get started with their scrapbooking project.

- ***What will you put your thoughts in?*** The first thing that you should consider is the book or album that you will use for your scrapbook. You can do these on the computer if you like. You can use a photo album or you can purchase a specific scrapbooking album. But, whatever you use, make sure it is what will give you the most freedom in design. This way, you can make it personal.
- ***What will you use to personalize it?*** Adding pictures to the scrapbook is easy. But, from here, you'll need to personalize it. Now, you can do this in many ways. If you enjoy stickers, you can use them. Or, you can take some colored paper, cut fun shapes and sizes out and use these. There are plenty of ways to add sayings and messages that are easy to do.
- ***How will you preserve the images?*** It is essential that you use paper that is acid free and preserve your images. This will help you to get the best results and it will help you to get a scrapbook that is going to last for many years.

Scrapbooking With Home Materials

Scrapbooking can be done with virtually any products that you would like to use for them. There are many various things that you can do. You can even make some of the most amazing quality scrapbooks out of products that you will find throughout your home. Just imagine making a scrapbook that is filled with not only your child's photos but some of the things that he has grown out of over the course of his years. We all want to hold on to our child as they age, but there is no way to keep them young. Yet, with scrapbooking, especially when you use scrapbooking materials from home, you will be able to hold those memories for a long time to come.

What To Use

When you are creating a scrapbook, you may want to head to the local craft store, buy some scrapbooking kits and call the project just about done. The problem with this is, though, that you will not be providing for the most personal and essentially the most beneficial scrapbook that you can. Definitely use these products, but you should try to use home materials in your scrapbook as well. The realm of what you can use is huge and nothing is really out of the limits. If you feel that it will help to represent your child or whoever you are doing the book with, then by all means, it can happen.

You can use products such as those that the child has outgrown. For example, you may want to include his favorite outfit, a piece from his first shoelace, perhaps even use a page from his favorite storybook that you read to him five out of seven times a week. For those that are older, you too can find some amazing at home products to use for your scrapbook. You can use a photo of their favorite band, perhaps some ticket stubs to their favorite concert or even just a card that they sent to you during that time period. Look at the person that you are doing the scrapbook about and determine just what makes them so special. Use items to help you to represent this and you will be well on your way.

Look around your home for pieces of personal history that you may have laying around. Use these in your scrapbook to create a beautiful story about the person that you love. You can use anything that you would like that works well. You can even purchase those store bought scrapbooking kits, if you would like to, as long as you find a way to personalize them for your loved one.

Memorable Scrapbooking

Making a scrapbook can be very helpful in preserving your memories. You can fill the pages with virtually anything that you would like to. One thing is for sure, though, the more memorable that you make it, the longer it will provide you with happiness. Now, there are plenty of things that you can do to make a scrapbook more meaningful to you and to your family. By personalizing it in just the right way, for example, you can create a book that you will love showing off to your friends and family.

Memories Come Through

One thing to insure when you are creating a scrapbook is that you should insure that the scrapbook is made in such a way as to provide you with a clear picture of your memories. If you have many photos of the day that you are depicting, this is easy. If not, there are other things that you can do to create this look. What you will want to do, no matter what, is to create pages that will bring back those memories to you.

If your child is celebrating his first birthday, you can use things that are from his party to help make the scrapbook meaningful. This can be any sort of thing from the napkins that were used to the candle that was on his cake. Keep a few of the paper plates that you used, with his favorite theme. Place his picture inside it. There are many such things that you can use from his party or even just from this time period to help you remember this day. Adding them to your scrapbook can be a great way for you to remember the things that he enjoyed during this time period as well as the way in which you celebrated it.

When you create a memorable scrapbook, you will be able to look back on the pages and think to yourself that this was a great day or that you remember that your son grabbed right into the cake. It is fun to make your scrapbook in this way too. Just be creative and think of things that are easy for you to do to hold those memories dear to your heart for a long time. Memorable scrapbooks like this can keep for many years and will become things that you pass on through the generations too. It does not really take any more time to do either. Just find the things that really mean something to you about this day or this event and get them into your scrapbook.

Scrapbooking Themes

Scrapbook themes are often used in many scrapbooks. These themes allow for individuals to portray various aspects of the scrapbooking process. They may be creating a scrapbook about their child growing up. These themes can help to tell about the child about the things that he or she has enjoyed or even provide a way to show how special events have been had. There are many ways that you can use themes. In any way that you do, you will see the benefits to using them quite quickly.

What Are Themes?

When you use themes in a scrapbook, you will be using one of several things or a combination of them. For example, one of the most common ways to incorporate themes into your scrapbook is to purchase pre made pages for your scrapbook in that theme. This could mean that you will purchase just pages or pages that come with related pieces like stickers and sayings. For example, you may want to do this for your child's birthday. You can choose a theme of birthday and this would include pages that are designed in that look. Or, for a more personal look, choose a theme that fits with the things that the child enjoys. Instead of using birthday pages, for example, you could instead use dinosaur themed elements if the child loved dinosaurs at this age. This way, you will know that the page represents his birthday as well as the things that he was into this year.

Incorporating themes into your scrapbook can happen in several ways. You can purchase products right from your craft supply website that will offer a wide range of theme choices. This is the most common thing to do. Or, if you are creative (or just a little handy) you can use things that you design or pull together to help you with the theme. If you choose to do it your way, you will see that there are plenty of things that you can use from just decorating the pages yourself to using things from the child's collections. You do not have to add themes to your pages of your scrapbook if you do not want to. If you would like to, you can even create an entire theme for the entire book. This works well for a child that just loves something amazing or for many adults who are set in their ways. In any case, by adding these pages to your scrapbook, you will create a beautiful way for you to remember through your scrapbook.

Scrapbooking Gifts

There can be no better gift to give a person than to give them your memories through a scrapbook. A scrapbook is not something that has to be overwhelming or a long term project. By taking the time with it, though, you will create a lot of memories for those that you love and you will help them to remember all of those things that are so important to them. Knowing that you spent time thinking about them is something that they will love for many years to come. Giving scrapbooks as gifts is a good idea.

Making Your Gifts

If you would like to create a scrapbook for your loved ones but think that it is just too difficult to do, you will find yourself worried for nothing. There is no reason to think that you have to go all the way back to when they were a baby to create a scrapbook for them. In fact, the book can be about the last year or even just a special day that they had. There are many ways that you can create a scrapbook that is meaningful without it being too much work.

If this will be a gift that you give to your loved one, consider taking some time to choose the right theme for it. You may want to go with a theme of their life or for a coworker, their life with the company. Now, determine what you would like the scrapbook to showcase in it. You may want it to show that you are celebrating their anniversary or you may just want to show them some memories of the two of you together.

Once you know what you would like your scrapbook to be about, create a few pages for it that will show just this. What you need to know here is that you do not have to create a 20 page scrapbook. You can easily create one that is just a few meaningful pages. You can even make it from scratch with the materials that you already have at your home. There is only one rule when it comes to creating a scrapbook for you and your family to give as a gift. That is that you should do your best at it. You should make sure that your message comes through in the scrapbook whether that is just happy birthday or if it is something more sentimental. You can easily do this, though. Just take your time. You can purchase many of the themed pages that you need right from the web too. Scrapbook gifts are gifts that provide a lifetime of memories.

What Is Scrapbooking?

There are plenty of people talking about a scrapbook but what is it and is this something that you are not doing but should be? If you remember when you were growing up, your parents probably had a few photo albums, carefully securing their prized pictures of you growing up as well as of their parents and other loved ones. Yet, in today's world, there are fewer photo albums and many more scrapbooks. Technically, a scrapbook is a book that helps you to collect scraps of memories and keeps them safe until you want to go back to them.

But, the term is very loosely used. For that reason, there are plenty of choices out there for you to consider. A scrapbook today is more of a book that tells a story about those that you love and those memories that you have safely tucked away. They provide for a look into the past not just through pictures, but through a sense of being there.

One common thing that is used in a scrapbook is personality. The job is not just to store pictures but to tell about this day, that picture or this person. They do this in their own personality. For many this will be done with the use of themed pages, stickers, messages from the person making the scrapbook and decorations. There is no limit to the types of products that you can purchase and use in a scrapbook.

If you do not feel that you are creative enough to do scrapbooking or that you do not have time to do so, there are solutions for you. For example, many individuals will use pre packaged scrapbook kits that come with a wide range of themes and pages. There are many varieties that are out there that can be purchased and most are quite inexpensive. If this still seems like too much work for you to do, then consider hiring someone to professional design and create your scrapbook. There are companies that will give them a personal touch quite easily.

One thing is for sure. If you have a beautiful scrapbook to give to your child when they have their own child, you will both appreciate the time that it took you to make it and the memories that it holds for you. Take the time to consider holding your memories in a scrapbook. Get started with just a few pages, inexpensive products and a little creativity. You are sure to find choices that you will love to incorporate into your scrapbook.

Finding Materials For Scrapbooking

There are plenty of different things that you can use as materials for scrapbooking. With so many wonderful choices out there, you can make a scrapbook that is ideal for your needs no matter what they may be. With that said, there is no limit to the choices that you have but you still need to find them. Materials for scrapbooking can be purchased, created or found. They can be in your home right now or you can purchase them from a craft store or website. Remember that the rule to scrapbooking is that you make these products anything that you would like to and that means using whatever it is that you would like to use.

Whatever Works

When it comes to designing the pages of your scrapbook, you have free rein on what you do. You can visit your local craft store to purchase some page themes and materials, but this will be limited. If you do want to purchase scrapbooking materials to use, the best place to find the most option is right here on the web. You will find all sorts of themes and beautiful pieces to use. You are like to find the most unique of items as well. But, remember you do not have to purchase your materials.

You can also find them throughout your home and your memories. Let's say that you are creating a scrapbook for a child. Perhaps you are creating a book about the last year of their life. There are plenty of things around your home that have your child all over them. Did he have a favorite tee shirt this year, perhaps one that he wore so many times that it is thin now? This can be used as the theme or the paper of the page. Did your child play soccer this year? You can create elements of design for your soccer page from the products that she used. For example, you could use the wristbands that she wore as a décor element in the book. Finding materials that will help you to showcase your scrapbook is really easy to do. Just think about what you would like the finished product to look like and then find pieces that will make it all come together. You can even purchase themed pages or materials to help you to get the point across. With so many choices to choose from, your scrapbook can really be anything that you would like it to be. You can actually use the scrapbook to help you to store and preserve things that belongs to your children as they grew. This will make the memories come alive for you and for them when they are older.

Go Digital In Scrapbooking

Scrapbooking does not have to be something that you have creative powers to design. One of the problems that many individuals have when it comes to scrapbooking today is that their pictures are on their digital cameras. Not everyone downloads them to the websites of their local photo developing place. If you do not, you may not really have photos in your hand, but stored away on your computer. Yet, even though this is the case, you can still design some amazing scrapbooks with digital technologies.

Software

One way that you can do this is to tap into the world of software. Believe it or not, there are scrapbooking software programs that can help you to create some of the most amazing finished products. Now, you have a choice here. You can, if you would like, design and keep the finished scrapbook right on your computer. Whenever you would like to look at it, you can insert your CD that it is stored on and browse through it. Or, if you would like to actually have something in your hand to browse, you can use the software programs to help you to design the page layouts, put the book together and then print it off so that you actually have a scrapbook.

Send It Out

Another option that you have is to use digital media to help you to send your pictures and needs out to those that are ready and waiting to design a scrapbook for you. Not everyone has the time to create their own scrapbook. Yes, this is anything but easy. It can be time consuming in a real life world. Yet, really, you can tell someone else what you would like, provide them with your digital images and off they will go to create for you memories that will last you a lifetime. They will complete the project and send it to you so that you can hold on to your scrapbook for a lifetime or longer. When it comes to digital pictures, there are scrapbooking solutions. Of course, you can still get a really great printer and maybe even some photo enhancing software and really recreate your photos to make them an excellent part of your scrapbook if you would like to. You can print them off and use them within a standard type of scrapbook too. There are plenty of choices for you. Just because all of your pictures are stored on a CD or on your computer does not mean that you can not have an amazing scrapbook.

Having Someone Else Do Your Scrapbooking

You love the idea of scrapbooking but you just do not have time to do it yourself. For many individuals, this is what happens. They just can not find the time to get to the laundry let alone doing some scrapbooking. Yet, there are solutions for you including the fact that you can have someone else do the scrapbooking for you. That means that you can take your time to do what you have to do and have someone creative do the work of putting together your scrapbook for you.

Now, the largest problem with having someone do your scrapbook project for you is that they do not know your family well enough to provide you with a personal touch to the finished scrapbook. To help them with this aspect, they will likely want you to provide them with the most information that you can about your family. This does not need to be some deep dark family secret, but rather things such as your son's favorite toys and your husband's hobbies. By providing this type of information to the scrap booker, you will be allowing them to add personality to your scrapbook.

Often, you will be asked to help in the creation of your scrapbook. They will ask for information yet they may want you to provide them with more information too. They will need to know what you would like to be included in the scrapbook. Perhaps you will want to include family events that you did during this time. They will want to know things such as milestones such as when the baby took his first steps or when your son started school. Of course, many of these things should be accompanied with pictures, but this does not have to be. They can create elements that are design choices for the scrapbook that will depict what you would like them to, even without pictures.

There are many benefits to using someone else to do your scrapbooking projects for you. You will have a scrapbook to call your own that is not going to cost you all of your time to put together. You will also get the ability to have it professionally done by someone that has spent countless time creating scrapbooks. You will also have the ability to pick and choose the layout, the pictures as well as the themes as needed. You get out of the messy stuff and get a beautiful, professional scrapbook to call your own.

Making Scrapbooking Your Business

Scrapbooking can be more than just a hobby for many. If you are one of the many that enjoys scrapbooking, you will find that you have the opportunity to make some money at it. If you are good at it (you'll know you are good when others love your books) you can actually take these skills and make it your own business. There are so many people looking to start their own at home business. There are even more individuals that get trapped into schemes. Yet, when you have a talent, you can easily make an income at it. If you love scrapbooking, you will love having it as your business.

Can I Make It Work?

The first thing that you will need to do, though, is to insure that you have the skill to provide others with beautiful works of art in scrapbooks. Like mentioned above, people will tell you that they love your scrapbooks. Some will ask you for advice and ideas for their own. Some may even ask you to do their scrapbook for them. Believe it or not, there are many moms, grandparents and others that would love to spend the time to do these books but they do not have the time, they do not have the creative abilities or they may not be able to commit to finishing it. These are all opportunities for someone that has the skill.

When it comes to finding clients to work with to help them in creating a scrapbook, you may be surprised to learn that there are many people out there looking for you. You can first start out locally. Scrapbooking for your family and your friends is a great way to learn new tricks of the trade and to help you to get some great books to show (or show pictures of) to your future clients. One of the most powerful forms of advertising in a scrapbook business is that of word of mouth. Just imagine. You do a scrapbook for your friend and she takes it to show off to her friends. They, of course, have to know who did it and call on you. They will then do the same thing and your business grows. Of course, you can also advertise for your scrapbook right here on the web too. Making scrapbooking a business is a serious thing though. If you will be holding others personal and prized photos in your hand, they will want to insure that you are going to provide them with an excellent finished product in a timely manner. If you do take on this type of scrapbooking business, you may find it to be very profitable as long as you take the time to do it right.

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