

***Everything You Ever  
Wanted To Know  
About...  
SCRAPBOOKING  
But Never Dared To Ask!***

**Introduction:**

Scrapbooking is the number one fastest growing hobby in households today. Young and old are creating beautiful albums to preserve their memories forever.

There are many different techniques and styles to use with your photos.

Although this hobby can be quite expensive there are many resources to help you save time and money. Scrapbooking is for everyone, even if you have a full time job and a family to look after. Scrapbooking can be a great way to ease your stress while giving you the pride of creating a masterpiece.

**What you will find here:**

In this ebook you learn about several ideas and tips to start your first scrapbook. This doesn't have to be an overwhelming experience. There are many ways to save time and money while enjoying your new found hobby.

You will learn the different types of albums to choose from, and decide which would best suit your needs.

Also learn the quickest and easiest way to sort through your photos and keep them in an organized fashion.

This ebook will also give you many scrapbooking ideas while saving your budget.

Feel free to add your own creative touches to any of your scrapbooking pages. This is what gives each scrapbook an individual look.

A scrapbook definition is available for those first time scrapbookers.

### **Scrapbook Defintions:**

**Acid-free:** Means the product has a pH of 7 or higher. Acid is a chemical used to make paper. This makes the paper break down easily. The higher the pH in the paper, the more durable the paper is. If the paper you are using contains acid, it can discolor, damage, and deteriorate your photos.

**Adhesive:** Glues or tapes that hold items together. Adhesives come in different forms, including, tabs, glue sticks, double stick tape, and glue dots. Some adhesives are removable to allow you to reposition them.

**Archival quality:** This term is used to describe the quality of the paper or material. This insures the product you are using will not discolor or disintegrate over time.

**Buffering:** This process is used in adding calcium carbonate to neutralize acids. Paper that has been buffered contains alkaline filler. This will protect the paper from absorbing acids in the future.

**Cropping:** To crop a photo, means to cut out the elements you do not wish to display. This will take away any distractions from your subject. There are several ways to crop your photos. The most common way is to use a straight edge. This can be achieved with a paper cutter or scissors.

**Die Cuts:** Die cuts are paper cut outs used to enhance your scrapbook pages. They come in a variety of shapes, colors, and sizes. You can purchase die cuts in a craft store or other retail stores. You can customize your own die cuts using a die cut machine.

**Emboss:** A technique used to create a raised image on paper. Heat and powder embossing are the two most popular ways to emboss.

**Journaling:** This can be used to document your feelings, memories, or tell a story about the photo you are displaying. It can be as simple as writing the names and dates of the event in your scrapbook.

**Inking:** This is a technique to use to create a different type of image on your scrapbook pages. Inking can also give an antique or weathered look to your page.

**Lignin-free:** Paper that is lignin-free will not disintegrate or become brittle over time. You should use paper that is acid-free and lignin-free in your scrapbook.

**Mat:** To frame a photo with paper so there is a layer between the photo and the background. Cardstock is used in this process. You can use printed or plain background paper. Use a color that stands out in your photo.

**Mylar:** Mylar is a protective covering to use for your scrapbook photos.

**Page Protector:** A page protector is a plastic cover to insert your pages into. This can be removed to design your scrapbook page and replaced once it is done.

**pH:** pH is the amount of acid your paper contains. The pH in scrapbook paper should be at least 7. The higher the number is the lower the acid amount.

**Photo safe:** This label is used on products that are safe for scrapbooks. This term is used to indicate acid-free and lignin-free products.

**PVC free:** PVC stands for Polyvinyl chloride, a plastic used in sheet protectors. Scrapbooking products should be PVC free.

**Templates:** Templates come in acrylic or plastic sheets with cut out shapes. They can be used to crop photos or too cut your cardstock into the shape you desire.

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**Chapter 1: 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 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.

- The easiest and most popular is the three-ring album. This style is easy to add refill pages and allows you to add or take away pages you do not need. Since the pages are removable you won't feel pressured to fill the whole scrapbook.
- Post bound albums accommodate top loading refill pages. This is convenient for rearranging pages without having to take the album apart.
- Another popular scrapbook is the strap-hinged album. This is a very durable high quality scrapbook that comes in many sizes and colors. This album is perfect if you plan on using a lot of bulky embellishments. These albums tend to be a little more expensive than the other ones. They are very durable and worth the money if your budget allows for this. If your heart is set on purchasing one I would wait for a sale or look for coupons in your local newspaper. If you have a birthday or special holiday in the near future consider asking for an album.
- If you are undecided on which album is right for you don't be afraid to ask for someone's opinion. You can

always take a look in a craft magazine to look at different album types.

You can also choose from a variety of different album covers. You may want an album with a picture frame on the front cover. This is a great choice for a wedding album. You can decide if you want vinyl, linen, or leather covers. Make sure the album you decide on is durable and in good quality. If you are creating this scrapbook as a gift, such as a wedding gift or baby shower there are albums with interchangeable title covers. You can spell the babies name on the front cover to personalize the album.

Once you have purchased your album you will need to select page protectors. Hobby stores carry many sizes of page protectors. You will want to make sure the page protectors do not contain PVC (Poly Vinyl Chloride). PVC may contain acid that could damage your photos over time. Always have plenty of extra page protectors on hand. You don't want to make an unnecessary trip to the store. To save extra money, buy page protectors in bulk. If you design a different size scrapbook in the future you can cut the page protectors to the size you need.

There are basic items you will need to start on your scrapbook. In this section I will give you a list of the items you need in the beginning and items you can purchase as time goes on.

- The most important item is adhesive glue. There are many different adhesives to choose from. You will want to use an acid-free adhesive such as photo splits or photo squares. I would recommend these for beginners because you can remove the photos or any memorabilia without ruining your page. Many companies make this type, such as, 3M. Another popular adhesive is glue sticks. However, it is not recommended to use this product in areas with high

humidity. It could cause your photos to peel away over time.

- Always avoid using any water based adhesives. These types of adhesives are not photo safe. This includes Elmer's glue and Rubber cement; both are not acid-free and could damage your photos.
- Another very important item you will need is paper. This paper is the background on your pages or designs with your paper punches. Deciding on the correct paper could possibly determine the quality of your scrapbook. First rule of thumb is to never purchase paper with a high acid content. Make sure the paper has a ph of at least 7. This number determines the amount of acid found in it. The higher the number, the lower the acid content. Paper should also be lignin-free. This will ensure the quality of the paper and keep it from turning brown.
- You will also need to think of the color of paper you will be using in your scrapbook. You will want to choose your photos for your scrapbook before purchasing paper. Choosing a color of paper to coordinate with your photo will bring out the subject you are displaying.
- Next is to purchase pens for your scrapbook. A basic black pen can do the trick. If your budget allows, a white pen would be great for any journaling you would like to add to your photos. You can also use this pen to write any information on the back of the photos. The pens need to be acid-free, waterproof, and permanent. Remember, you can always purchase a variety of pens in the future.
- Cardstock is an option you can use as a way to accent your photos. You can purchase cardstock separately

or as a bundle. You will learn more about cardstock and tips on using this product in another chapter.

- Scissors or shears will also be needed. If you are creating your scrapbook on a budget a simple pair of scissors will do. Make sure the scissors are clean and sharpened. You can also find scissors at your hobby store that have replacement blades. This can save you money in the future. Decorative shears may be an item to use. They can add a nice subtle touch to your scrapbook pages.
- Embellishments can be purchased at a store or add your own touch with your personal memorabilia. If you wish to add stickers to your scrapbooking pages they will need to be acid-free. Stencils are also a nice touch to add to your pages and are relatively low-priced.
- A tote or bin will provide you with storage for your scrapbooking items and keep the clutter out of your living space.
- To protect the area you will be working at, lay down an old sheet or tablecloth before you start. This will catch any glue that could drip onto your furniture.

Some of the items you will need can be found in your home. A ruler is a good tool to have. This will provide straight lines and edges. Tweezers will assist you in picking up small items you need to glue on your page. Cotton swabs are also good to use to dab up glue that may have dripped on your page. Cookie cutters can be used for templates. Purchasing templates from a store can be a very expensive accessory to have. You do not want to purchase more items than you need all at once. This can become overwhelming and time consuming.

If you eventually would like to add some scrapbooking tools to your collection, purchase one by one when your finances allow. Here are a few tools you may to purchase in the future.

- A paper punch can be used for many designs and embellishments. This item is relatively inexpensive and worth every penny. Paper punches come in different designs and sizes.
- Die cuts are another way to create unique designs. They are a nice enhancement to any scrapbook page. Die cuts tend to be a bit more expensive, so wait for sales at the craft store.
- Mulberry paper is cardstock that is textured. This type of paper gives a wonderful background to a vintage theme.
- Templates are the most popular item used to create several scrapbooking designs. There are three main types of templates:

Die Cut Templates are an image or picture of a specific design. They are used to add character and definition to your scrapbook pages. Some popular templates used are; hearts, flowers, balloons, and silhouettes of houses, people, and animals.

Lettering Templates can help you in creating fonts and lettering designs. You simply trace the letter onto your scrapbook page or cut out the letter and glue them directly to your pages.

Envelope Templates can assist in designing different sizes of envelopes. You can custom create a size of envelope to fit different size cards or design a small size envelope to decorate your page.

- Acid-free chalk is a subtle enhancement to add to the letters on your title or around the edges of the cardstock.
- Rubber stamps can add a little touch where it is needed. This is a simple and clean embellishment to add to any scrapbook page. Before purchasing your stamps check to see if it is photo safe.

Just remember, if you don't have a hobby store in your area many retailers carry the same supplies. Target and Wal-Mart both carry a wide variety of scrapbooking supplies. Both offer low prices on many of their items and will accept coupons.

You will need to decide on a theme for your pages in your scrapbook. Many scrapbookers start with the basic holidays, such as, birthdays, Christmas, Halloween, Thanksgiving, etc. Some other ideas can be your children's first day of school, weddings, or just a special memory you want to preserve forever. Make your scrapbook an all occasion's theme if you have several topics you want to display.

- Think of the color of cardstock to use with each theme. Try to use the colors with other themes on your pages to save money. An example would be to use green and red for a Christmas page and use the red for a Valentine's Day page.
- If you need to use a white piece of background paper, simply turn over the colored paper. This will save you time and money.

Now that you have the basics to start your scrapbook you will need to decide on how time to spend on it.

- Clean and simple pages are ideal for scrapbookers who can not spend a great deal of time on their hobby. Using simple embellishments will also help with the savings.
- Setting aside a certain amount of time each day will eliminate the stress of completing your scrapbook.
- Store your scrapbooking items in an organized fashion. Keep items on a page stored together. This will allow you more time designing your pages instead of scouring through all of your bits and pieces.
- Only concentrate on creating one scrapbook at a time. If you have ideas for other projects while working on your current album, you can write down the ideas for a later scrapbook.

Now that you have your basic tools to prepare you for your new hobby you can move on to the next step.

## **Chapter 2: 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.
- You will need to decide what photos you are using in your scrapbook. Make sure you choose enough photos to fill your scrapbook pages. Remember, most pages will hold between 3-5 photos. You can choose more photos if they are small. Make sure you have enough space for any journaling you will need to add. You will also need space for embellishments or personal memorabilia.
- Once you have selected the photos you will be using, you will need to choose a photo that will be your focal point on each page. This photo should be in focus and full of vibrant color. You can get creative by selecting a larger photo, for instance, a 5x10. This will give your page a personal touch while saving on background and embellishments.
- If you choose a smaller photo for your focal point you can have it enlarged for a small fee. You can also have a photo copied black and white to make your subject stand out from the background. There are some photo stores that can add a splash of color to your black and white photos. This process is also used to create a vintage look.
- After you are finished choosing your photos you are going to display, put them into an archival quality box. This will protect them from harmful elements until you are ready to place them in your scrapbook. If you do

not have an archival box you can put the photos in Ziploc bags and store them in a air tight container until you are ready to use them.

- To store the photos you are not using in your album you will need to keep them in proper containers. These containers should be of good quality photo cases. If your budget does not allow for this, then any container will due. If the container is not acid-free you can use Ziploc bags to place your photos in before you put them in the container. Label the outside of your photo containers for easy finding. Use an acid-free pen to prevent any chance of destroying your photos. Storing your photos away from heat and humidity will ensure their safety.

Remember, Taking care of your photos now will ensure their quality in the future. The older your photos are the more fragile they become.

You have finally finished this daunting task. Now you can get in touch with your crafty side and start cropping your photos.

### **Chapter 3: 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 overlap 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.
- 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.
- There are exceptions for cropping shapes, such as, a Valentine's Day page. You can use a heart shaped cookie cutter as a template and place your photo on heart shaped cardstock. Other cookie cutters you could use are a Christmas tree, jack o lantern, and a flag. These are less expensive than purchasing die cuts for each holiday event you are displaying.
- For the most precise photo cropping you could use templates. These come in a variety of shapes and sizes. Although templates are the durable and safe way to crop they can be quite expensive. If you insist on purchasing templates only get two basic shapes. I would recommend an oval shape and a square or rectangle shape. Avoid purchasing any other shape, no matter how cute you may think it is now. There are not too many photos you can use heart shaped templates on.
- For bold and beautiful colored backgrounds, less cropping means more eye catching colors to use for cardstock. Save that breath taking photo of blooming flowers and work it into your page.

- Use photo corners to display heritage photos. Putting adhesives on the back of these photos can damage them permanently. Use caution when working with these photos. Remember, the older the photo is the more fragile they have become.
- Unfortunately you can not crop Polaroid's, they contain a chemical that could leak onto your other photos and destroy them. You can display them in other ways, such as, attaching a pocket sleeve to the page and placing the photo in the sleeve. Placing photo corners on the four edges is another way to display them without endangering your other photos.
- Remember, you should always have copies made in case you make a mistake and need to replace a photo.

Not all photos have to be cropped, they may look just fine the way they are. Simple cropping designs work the best and provide you with a clean line design.

## **Chapter 4: Getting Started on Your Scrapbook.**

In this chapter you will learn tips that will help you easily start the layout process of your scrapbook pages.

- This is where your focal point is very important. This will create the flow of your scrapbook. As I stated before, choose 3-5 pictures for one page. You can use more or less depending on your personal taste. There are many attractive scrapbooks with different size photos used.
- Lay out the photos want to display on one page at a time. Look at the photos for different colors that pop out at you and elements that add definition to the photo. Next, match the photo with the color of cardstock you will be gluing them onto.
- If you are not certain about the color you should use you can always come back to it later.
- Next, choose background paper that will coordinate with certain themes you are using. If you are creating a baby album using a baby themed background paper will keep the cost down.
- Think of a title page to go with the photos you choose and write it down on a post-it note. Write down other ideas that come to mind so you have them ready when you start to journal.
- Once you have decided on the photos, color of cardstock, and background paper, place the items in a Ziploc bag. Using an acid-free pen, label the outside of the bag with the page number and title you are using.
- Continue to use this process for every page in your scrapbook. When you are finished put the bags in order and place them in a shoebox until they are

needed. This will help keep you organized and allow for a quick page set up.

- You can add your embellishments after you created your pages or place them now to see if they help accent your page. Keep embellishments simple if you are purchasing them. Your scrapbook can still have a beautiful layout without time consuming accents.
- Remember, to keep your format simple. In doing so this will keep the focus on the pictures. If this is your first scrapbook you can always get into more detail with another scrapbook.
- Finally, you should have all the materials you need set out. This will eliminate you trying to find something as you go along. These items should include; adhesives, scissors, background paper, cardstock, page protectors, pens, and any embellishments you will be using.

You are ready to create your pages in your scrapbook. Remember, these are the basics you will need to start the process. You can always add to your tools as you go along or borrow scrapbooking tools from friends.

## **Chapter 5: 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.
- If you are creating a scrapbook for your mother or grandmother a quilt page layout would work great. This will enable you to display several photos of the children or grandchildren while using different colors of cardstock in the background. You can also use this design for a single picture and use the other squares for journaling and embellishments. To achieve this look you will need to cut 4x4 squares and arrange them on the page before you glue items to them. If the squares do not line up evenly cut the excess or overlap them. You do not have to use background paper for the project. To add a finishing touch to the quilt, simply make stitching around the edges with a brown acid free pen.
- A wonderful idea for a children’s layout is to use the hand print technique. First, trace your child’s hand on a piece of cardstock or directly to the page. Now, you can place photos on each tip of the fingers. You can add information about the child in the palm or fingers. You make a copy of their hand or footprint and use the paper for a background.
- Have your children dip their hands in acrylic paint and place it onto acid-free paper. Once the print is dry you can use this for background paper. You can design a different background using their handprints on cardstock and make several copies on different colored paper. Next, you will align and glue the pieces on the page. Finally, add photos, journaling and other embellishments.

- For a background theme in a Wedding scrapbook you can design your own bubble paper. First, you will need white acid-free paper, food coloring of your choice, and bubbles. Place the items on an old sheet or newspaper. Pour the amount of food coloring into the bubbles to achieve the color you desire. Blow the bubbles onto the paper and let dry.
- You may want to display pictures of one event or timeframe. You can do a repetitive theme one page or coordinate both pages. This way you will be able to display more pictures of the event.
- If you choose the repetitive theme, pick out photos that are similar in setting, such as, a continuous snapshot of the subject. In doing this you can use simple background paper or use very little embellishments.
- For special occasion pages use different cookie cutter designs for cropping photos. For an Easter theme, an oval cookie cutter works great for egg shapes. You can glue the photos to the eggs or decorate them with stickers and paper punch designs. Get creative with this idea and incorporate it into different scrapbook pages.
- An easy Halloween page can be constructed using black or orange background paper. Add journaling with a white acid-free pen or a bleach pen. Use a Halloween cookie cutter to cut out shapes or crop photos. Glue any embellishments or stickers to enhance your page.
- Using postage stamps is a wonderful way to enhance a heritage theme or other pages you want to display with stamps. You can purchase these at your local post office and look through their collection of stamps. For unusual or hard to find stamps you may want to visit a stamp collector.

- If you use patterned paper for the background there is one rule to remember. Never use paper that has a pattern larger than the smallest persons head.

Now you can place the photos in different ways on the cardstock to give each photo definition. One way to do this is to place the cardstock in a triangle behind the photo. You can offset the photo on different corners of the cardstock.

- Allow extra space between the layouts of the photos for embellishments you might want to add. Allow space for journaling around the photos on the cardstock. If space does not allow for extra journaling you can glue a smaller piece of cardstock next to the photo.
- Once you decide on the layout of your photos you can glue the photos to the cardstock. You can get creative cutting the cardstock in different angles. Using decorative scissors on your cardstock will also help enhance your photo. If you want to create a different look and only have one pair of decorative shears, here's a tip you may want to try. You can simply turn the shears over for a different cut. Try this tip on a practice piece of paper first.
- A torn look is a great accent to add with your cardstock. To achieve this look you will need a durable piece of cardstock. You will slowly tear the cardstock by directing it with your hand. This technique will give it a fuzzy jagged look around the edges. Use this tip for borders and background paper.
- Get creative and sponge your white background page. This will soften your empty spaces between your photos. First, you will need to cut a sponge into quarters and dab one of the sponges in your ink. Lightly press the sponge on the paper to disperse the ink, working from the left side to the right side. Try to

blend the ink as much as possible to avoid darker lines on your page. The harder you press on the sponge the darker the color will turn out. You can create a marble effect by using more than one color. Always test this technique on scrap paper before designing the final project. Purchase ink pads that are photo safe and acid-free.

- To create a border with ink, use a small paint brush and swipe the ink around the edges and corners of the paper. This will also enhance a vintage or weathered look.
- Another trick is to create a 3-d effect by placing the photo in the upper left hand corner of the cardstock. This will give you extra room at the bottom of the cardstock for journaling.
- To add extra detail to your photo you can overlap different colors of cardstock on top of one another. This will also bring out different colors in your photo you are displaying.

Once you have decided on the layout of your pages you can begin to glue the photos in place. Allow your photos to dry for several minutes before adhering embellishments and adding journaling to the page. You can start the layout process for other pages while the current page is drying, this will set a good pace for creating your scrapbook.

After your photos are glued onto the page, you will want to add journaling. This will add any special thoughts you have about your page you created.

- Before you add journaling to your scrapbook it is a good idea to practice on a scratch piece of paper. Be sure to use proper spelling on names and correct dates

for birthdays. This will give you practice and let you make any changes before you write it permanently.

- Take time to review the photo to remember important details of the event. Ask yourself questions like: Where did we go that day? Who was with us that day? What special memories took place? Answering these few questions will make journaling quite trouble-free.
- Add funny details to the photo by writing a short story about the incident. This will capture the memory of the photo and relive the event.
- To draw attention to your caption you can use a larger sized letter at the beginning of the first word.
- Another way to bring the focus to your journaling is to use a small alphabet stencil and ink. Lightly press the ink through your stencils, using alternating colors through the journaling.
- Incorporate different words from newspapers with your own writing or place words throughout the page that make statements about the photos. Cut out words such as, love, smile or whatever word describes the photo.
- You can add the special sayings on your cardstock if it allows room. You will use a white pen with dark colored paper and a black pen with light colored paper.
- Outline your journaling to keep it from blending in with the page. For easy reading, keep the journaling in big bold letters.
- Think of funny quotes or use captions from the cartoon section in the newspaper. If you use the newspaper captions, you will want to make a copy and glue it to

the page. Newspaper is not acid-free and will deteriorate after time.

- Have your children write something on a separate piece of paper and copy it or glue it to the page. It would be of great sentimental value as the years go by.
- A great idea for creating a page for grandmothers is having your children write their favorite memories on pieces of cardstock and glue them around her picture.
- For background paper, copy your mother's recipes that she has written. Over lap them to fit on the page and cut out little aprons from old fabric. Use the aprons for embellishments on the page.

You should have some great ideas in creating your first page after reading this chapter. Involving your family to help with the design will promise to make this a very rewarding experience.

## **Chapter 6: 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.

- Setting an eyelet is not as difficult as it may appear. You will need to purchase a hole punch and setter tool to attach the eyelet to your page. If your budget does not allow for this, you can borrow one from your fellow scrapbookers. Hold the hole punch in a upright position on the paper and tap the end with a hammer. Insert the eyelet and turn to the backside of the paper. Hold the setter tool upright on the back of the eyelet and tap it with a hammer. The eyelet will begin to roll along the top. They also make hammerless eyelets called Quicklets. You would not have to purchase a setter tool or hole punch to attach the Quicklets.
- Brads are another common and easy enhancement to fasten to your page. They are mostly used for attaching items to your scrapbook.
- Adding metal charms to certain themes can also add a personal touch. The charms can come in any type of theme you wish to display. Common charms are birthstones, initials, favorite activities or sports, and special holidays.
- There are a wide variety of embellishments you can purchase. They have decorations to fit any theme you are using. Use coupons from the newspaper to save money on your purchase.
- Fabric embellishments are an also inexpensive and easy to construct. You can cut out pieces of outfits and place them by your photos. Design an outfit in your child's favorite color and place this next to her photo. You can cut out a baby blanket and use this to accent your page. You can also use the fabric to create a title for your child's scrapbook page. Use scissors or shears



that are sharp and cleaned. You don't want the fabric to snag; you want a nice clean cut.

- Using left over scraps of fabric or paper could be used to create a border around your page or throughout the whole scrapbook. If you have more than one fabric you want to use as a border you can alternate every other fabric for each edge. Use decorative shears to cut the fabric for your border. This will add dimension to your page.
- Glitter is a fun and inexpensive way to enhance your pages. Prisma glitter is made specifically for scrapbooking. I would recommend using the glue pen to adhere the glitter because it is easy to control. First, rub the glue on the image or paper, then sprinkle the glitter and tap off the loose onto the table.

Adding personal items is a way to preserve special memories without over extending your budget. Listed below are some items you may want to use.

- Items to use for a baby scrapbook can be belongings from the hospital. A baby bracelet with the baby's name on it can be applied to the page with a ribbon or safety pin. The crib card with the birth information can be displayed next to the baby's first photo. You can also glue the baby's foot prints or birth announcement to the page. Photo copy the footprints for a wonderful background.
- Add religious phrases or inspirational poems to your scrapbook pages. Photo copy them out of a book or magazine. If you come across a phrase or poem you like but have no use for it in your current scrapbook, copy it anyway and store it in your scrapbooking container for later use. You never know when you may

want to use it, and will regret it later if you don't take the time now to copy it.

- Glue old pieces of jewelry to your vintage page. This will enhance your theme and add a piece of your heritage without spending extra money on your budget. You may need to attach the piece of jewelry with a brad if it is heavy.
- For your child's scrapbook page there are many examples you can use. A report card or class schedule can be placed next to a school picture. Awards your child received during school can be a nice touch. You can make a copy of your child's diploma on acid-free paper and use this as the background. Old birthday party invitations can be placed on the age appropriate pages in your scrapbook.
- Using fabric from old clothing your child wore will give a lasting memory of their childhood. Incorporate the fabric into the page by creating a border. Another great idea for your daughter's page is to cut a round picture of her head. Next, glue the picture onto the page and draw a stick figure for the photo. Now you will want to cut a dress from the old fabric and glue it over the stick body. Make sure the dress is proportionate to the head photo.
- You can also add buttons to your page for your theme. This can be done two ways. To save time you can glue the button directly to the page. For a little more creativeness you can sew the thread through the button and then glue it to the page. You can also sew the button on directly to the page. If you use this technique, be sure to use a heavy duty type background paper to prevent tearing.

- Maps from family vacations can be copied and used as background paper. On top of the map you can glue your vacation photos along with any souvenirs. Postcards and travel brochures. Write down all the details of your vacation such as, the date you went on your vacation, what the weather was like, what landmarks you visited there, and other memories you want to capture.
- Apply postcards to the page, and arrange them in creative ways.
- For wedding albums the invitation is ideal for background paper. You could also get information about the year you were married. The price of a home, how much groceries cost, and other important facts will compliment the theme.
- This could also be done for scrapbook pages on purchasing your first automobile or home. Display several photos of your first home or automobile with the facts presented around them.
- For an outdoor theme, flower or leaf imprints will accent the page nicely. This is an easy project to achieve with little effort. Simply place a flower or leaf between two sheets of wax paper and place inside a book for several days. You will need to trim around the flower or leaf before you glue it to your page. If time does not allow for this, you can purchase a laminate kit at your local hobby store.
- Use magazine clippings with bright flowers on the page and incorporate them into your theme. Look through home furnishing and gardening magazines to capture this look. Photo copy a picture of blooming flowers and use this as your background paper.

- Fabric flowers make great embellishments on your scrapbook pages as well. The supplies you need to design this flower can be found in your home. First, you will make a petal out of any wire that bends easily. Next, apply glue onto the petal, and place the fabric you wish to use on top. Finally, stretch a piece of nylon over the petal and secure it with tape. You will continue this process until you design your flower petals. Twist the wires together with a twist tie and glue it to your scrapbook page.
- Simple stickers will accessorize your pages without having to spend a lot of money and time. Be sure your stickers are acid and lignin-free.
- To make stickers stand out from the page use a pop dot. Cut the pop dot to fit the size of your sticker and glue directly to the page. Apply pop dots to the back of cardstock to lift the photo from the page.
- If you make a mistake and don't know how to fix the problem, simply add a sticker to cover up the area.
- Rubber stamps make a nice subtle enhancement to your scrapbook pages. These come in several different ink colors, as well as, several stamp designs. You can purchase these at any retail store or attend a stamp party and receive samples and coupons. The ink can also be used to ink stencils on the scrapbook page. Select stamps and inks that are photo safe and acid-free.
- Using an acid-free chalk is a great way to add color while be creating with different techniques. Chalk can be applied with a cotton swab or eye shadow applicator. This is perfect for using chalk with stencil lettering or adding subtle colors to your background. You will need

to seal the chalk by blowing of the extra dust and gently rub the area with a cloth.

- Use old Christmas tree lights for embellishments on your holiday theme page. Small lights work the best and can be easily attached to the page. Arrange them around the page and between photos. Using a white or green acid-free marker make wires to string the lights together. Another clever idea to make the effect look real is to draw the wires looping behind the photos and curve the wires through the page.
- Use a paper punch to design holiday embellishments. Punch out designs from old holiday cards. Saving old birthday cards or invitations will work for punching designs as well.
- Transparencies are a different way to create a scrapbook layout. Although they are relatively inexpensive and are quite easy to use, many people shy away from using them because they aren't sure on how to attach them. They can be attached by using your eyelets or brads. First, you will need a punch to make a hole through the transparency and paper, then weave interlace the product through. Another great idea is to sew the transparency directly to the page. If you use this technique make sure you are using a durable piece of cardstock or background paper.
- Remember to use your tweezers for small embellishments. This will keep the glue from smearing onto your pages.
- Embossing is a creative and unique way to add a beautiful touch to any scrapbook. There are several ways to emboss images on to paper. The two most commonly used techniques are dry embossing and heat embossing. Embossing is basically a way to paint on

images using heat and powder. This adds a shine and luster to ordinary items. Embossing is a wonderful way to a metallic feel to certain items such as a train on your son's scrapbook page or a toy on your daughter's page.

- Dry embossing is a very simple technique that doesn't require a lot of effort to achieve a beautiful design. You will need a few items to get started.

Tape

Template

Stylus or embossing tool

A sunny window

Cardstock or other accent paper

First, you will need to find a sunny window in your home. Tape your desired template to the sunny window and then tape the cardstock face down over the template. Next, run the embossing tool along the outline of your template. This will transfer the design from the template to your cardstock. Finally, cut out the transfer and place it in your scrapbook. Adding acid-free chalk to the design will add extra definition.

- Heat embossing provides endless possibilities for your scrapbook pages. This technique does require a little extra time and tools, but is worth it once you see the results. You can create elegant backgrounds and embellishments using this method of embossing. Here are some items you will need for heat embossing.

Embossing ink pad

Embossing powder

Paper

Rubber stamp

Heating tool

First, you will stamp on an image onto the paper using a slow-drying embossing ink. This type of ink can be purchased at craft stores and comes in a variety of colors. Sprinkle a generous amount of embossing

powder to the stamped image. This powder also is found at craft stores in several colors. You will need to apply the powder to the image while the ink is still wet. Shake of excess powder onto a paper towel or paper plate. Pour the excess powder into it's original container. This will save on purchasing extra powder. Finally, melt the powder using the heating tool. Hold the tool at least 5" from the paper. Continue this process until the stamped image is raised. To quicken the heating process you can place aluminum foil over the image. To reduce static cling use a piece of fabric softener. Place the fabric softener on top of the image before your begin working on it. Heat embossing can also be used on fabrics such as, denim, cotton, and polyester. This will add a unique style to any wardrobe.

- Use liquid glue or glue dots to adhere heavy embellishments or other objects to your scrapbook page. These types of adhesives have a stronger hold than others. You may want to use glue dots to attach hemp cord to your page. Hemp cord is very popular for outlining photos and making borders. Use liquid glue sparingly on the paper or it could bubble and make a line where you placed it. Dab the glue onto a cotton swab for the glue to be dispersed evenly.

Using your personal embellishments in your scrapbook is the best way to add your own touch. There may be certain themes you do not have the embellishments for; in that case purchasing embellishments from a store would be the easiest way to highlight the page. If you do have some spare time, making embellishments from scratch can add some personal touches as well.

## **Chapter 7: Scrapbooking and Timesaving Tips.**

In this chapter you will learn several tips and helpful hints with your scrapbook. Whether you are a first time scrapbooker or an old pro, these tips should help with your scrapbook budget and ideas.

- First, to prepare for your future scrapbooks always carry a camera with you. This way you will never miss that once in a lifetime moment. If you have a digital camera it may be a good idea to also carry a disposable camera too. In case your program is full you will have a backup.
- When taking photos of your children it is good idea to get down to their level. This will give them a natural position instead of having the children look up at you. Catching them doing their daily activities and not posing is also a great photograph to capture.
- The type of paper your photos are processed on can determine how long your pictures will last. Fuji film will last about 75 years, while Kodak film will only last an average of 20 years. Wal-mart uses Fuji film and offers a great deal for processing pictures.
- When you are capturing those special moments take more than one picture and use different angles. This will ensure you to have at least one quality picture. If you want to include the background of a vacation spot or landmark you can use a wide angle lens.
- An easy way to remove pictures from an old photo album is to use dental floss. Simply place the dental floss under the top of the picture and slowly slide it down like a saw. The picture should peel away once this is done.



- If the photo is glued to an album page you can use a hairdryer to help remove the photo. First, you would place a small towel or light piece of fabric over your photo to protect it from the heat. Next, you would turn the hairdryer on medium heat. After a few minutes the glue should begin to soften and the photo should start to peel away.
- Remember to get extra copies made of the pictures you are getting developed. This way you will have them ready for your next scrapbook project. Many photo labs will offer free doubles or at least a discounted price. Another way to save your pictures is on a cd. Check your local newspaper for coupons or special savings.
- Before you toss those pictures in a storage container label the back of the pictures with the names, dates, and any important information you want to remember about the occasion. This will come in handy for journaling on the scrapbook pages. Take the time to write the information down while it is fresh in your mind. It will guarantee accuracy of the events and subjects in the picture. Always write the information with an acid-free pen. An ordinary pen can rub and ruin your photos.
- Keep your photos organized and stored in proper containers. Being organized now will provide you with a stress free start on your upcoming scrapbook projects. Only use containers that are labeled archival quality. They can be found in photo shops or hobby stores. If your finances does not allow you to purchase photo containers at least purchase an air tight container. Your photos are the only thing you have to remember the past, so take the time and effort to ensure the quality of your pictures.

- Storing your pictures in their proper place will guarantee their longevity. Keep them stored in areas away from humidity and sunlight. Preferably a closet on the main level in your home. If you must store them in the basement keep them away from the furnace or laundry area. On a top shelf in a far corner would be ideal for storing. You may want to invest in a dehumidifier to keep the moisture away from your photos.
- Saving your scraps of any size from your previous scrapbooks will cut down on the cost for purchasing extra items for your next album. Keep old scraps from background paper, cardstock, and old fabric in a Ziploc bag or air tight container. Remember to label the outside of the container or bag so it is easy to locate when you need it.
- Keep your scrapbooking tools organized in a clear container. This will allow you to view what is inside without having to sort through all your materials. Use a low-cost tackle box to store your small embellishments and other enhancements like brads, eyelets, and safety pins. An inexpensive silverware organizer works great for holding your pens and glue sticks.
- For a different background idea using photo copied newspaper and laying out your pictures as if they were displayed in the newspaper. You can place your children's sports photos in the sports section and add your own captioning. Another great idea is to place a picture of your newborn in the birth announcement section. Remember not to use original newspaper because it is extremely acidic. Copy the newspaper onto acid-free and lignin-free paper.

- Using words from a magazine or newspaper article will add some flair to the title on your scrapbook page. There is a spray you can purchase from the hobby store that will make the paper from the magazine or newspaper less acidic.
- To achieve perfectly straight borders with even sides use a clear ruler and an exacto knife.
- There are several ways to create some different cardstock textures. You can lightly mist the cardstock with water and let it dry for a wrinkled look. To create a distressed look on your cardstock you would use a course piece of sandpaper and rub back and fourth until you have achieved the look you want. This is less expensive than purchasing textured cardstock known as Mulberry paper.
- Mulberry has a deep textured look to it. This can be a wonderful accent to a vintage theme. You can purchase Mulberry paper in single pieces. This will not cause a huge dent in your finances.
- To make your wrinkled cardstock stick to the page easier you can iron the edges flat. Use an iron on low heat and place a light cloth between the cardstock and iron.
- Run your paper through a crimping machine to add texture for backgrounds and titles.
- Choosing the color of cardstock to use is very important. You want the cardstock to bring out the bold colors in your photos. Solid cardstock is the most useful. Craft stores often sell cardstock as a package or in individual sheets.

- Patterned paper can also be used as a background or to mount pictures on. This can add accents to your photos with similar themes. Using a Christmas patterned cardstock with your Christmas photos can be an easy way to coordinate the photos on that page. If you use patterned cardstock keep the background paper a solid color. This will avoid your page becoming too busy with different colors and patterns.
- You may want to purchase extra sheets of black and white cardstock, since these colors are the most commonly used. Neutral colors in tans are also nice to have on hand.
- Whatever type of cardstock you select, it should be sturdy and acid-free.
- If your cardstock has a large print, it may look better if you create the border a little wider than normal. This will give you a better look at the large design. Do the same for small print cardstock and make a thin border.
- Purchasing cardstock in bulk will cut the costs for future scrapbooking projects. Also buying extra cardstock of the colors you use the most will eliminate those last minute trips to the store. You wouldn't want to stop in the middle of designing your page and leave.
- Using pieces of scrap paper for die cuts and paper punches is a great way to save on buying embellishments.
- Sharpen your paper punch by punching it through a piece of fine grade sandpaper. Do this on both sides of the punch.
- Save old birthday cards and invitations and color copy them onto photo safe paper for fun background ideas.

Using all of those holiday cards you receive will work great also.

- Test your new rubber stamps several times on scrap paper. This will ensure an even stamp print on your page.
- Get creative by using alphabet stamps. These come in a variety of sizes and styles. Using different colors of ink for each letter will help brighten the scrapbook page.
- Always ask your friends and family to borrow scrapbooking supplies you currently don't have. You can also swap scrapbooking items you are not using.
- Use your alphabet stencils and save money on purchasing stickers. Combining your stickers while using your stencil will give a nice effect to your journaling or title.
- Use stickers or paper punches for some of the letters you are using in your journaling. For a sports theme you can place a baseball where the letter "O" would belong. For a baby theme, you could place a safety pin if the name of the baby had the letter "I" in it. You can use this technique for several themes.
- Cut out a center piece of the sticker and place a photo in it. Using the center of a flower sticker is an ideal design for a spring theme. Add your children's faces to different types of flowers.
- To remove an unwanted sticker from a scrapbook page, simply slide the waxy part of the sticker page under the sticker until it peels away.

- Matting your journal on another piece of colorful cardstock will make it stand out from the rest of the page. I recommend using a coordinating color from your photo.
- Using a post it note will keep your stencil from slipping while creating your design.
- There are a variety of ways to create a distressed look to your paper and embellishments without spending extra income on the tools. All you will need is some steel wool or course sandpaper. You can use then sandpaper to distress the corners of the cardstock. Simply rub back and fourth until you achieve the desired look you want. You can move in different ways for different effects. You can move in a diagonal motion, a criss-cross pattern or in a circular movement. Decide on which pattern works best for you. Steel wool works best for distressing your embellishments. This adds a nice touch for a vintage or heritage look.
- Embossed foil adds wonderful highlights to pictures. This is a great accent to a vintage or a heritage look. Place a piece of carbon paper on top of the foil and place the picture on of the foil. Trace around the picture with an embossing tool. You can also purchase ready made embossing foil at your local hobby store.
- Use a Clorox bleach pen to create different effects on titles or journaling. Dark colored paper works best for the bleaching process.
- Using coffee grounds or different juices will add a subtle effect to your paper. Use plan white paper with either of these items. Cranberry or grape juice will offer the best staining to your paper.

- Make a color copy of your child's favorite piece of clothing or special blanket. This is a great way to personalize your background paper for their page. Use this as cardstock and place it behind a photo of your child with their favorite outfit on, or holding their special blanket.
- Try to use at least two colors from your photos for your scrapbook pages. You can overlap the two colors of cardstock or use one color for the background and the other for mounting paper. If you choose this design use the lighter color for background and the darker color for mounting your pictures.
- Carry a small size journal with you at all times to write down any new ideas you have for your scrapbook. Add any journaling you may think of at any time.
- Use your computer for scrapbooking ideas and free coupons.
- Check your local newspaper for coupons to Michael's craft stores. They are most often in the Sunday store ads.
- Ask for a gift card to a craft store for an upcoming birthday or holiday.
- If you have been eyeing a quite expensive album for your next scrapbook, let someone else purchase it for you. This would be a great present.
- Don't be afraid to ask your local church to use their die-cut machine. Many schools may also have these for your services. There may be a small fee to pay, but is worth the few dollars it might cost. Remember to bring your own acid-free paper.

- Go to a scrapbooking workshop. You would be surprised at how many are available to you in your area. This is a great way to get new ideas for layout designs and different techniques. You will be able to use their tools and supplies while attending the workshop. Bring a friend along to enjoy this wonderful class.
- Visit your local library and utilize their wide assortment of books. Some public libraries also offer a free video rental. Check to see if they carry scrapbooking videos.
- Subscribe to scrapbooking magazines. Many magazines offer a free renewal or a significant discount. This is a better deal for your money rather than purchasing a magazine off the rack every month.
- Scrapbooking with a relative or friend will spare the both of you unnecessary expenses. You can swap scrapbooking items you are not using. Having someone close to you share this experience can be rewarding and a great time to bond.
- Consider making your hobby into a profession. There are opportunities for scrapbooking consultants in many areas. This would be great for stay at home mothers, part time work or just to get out of the house. You receive awesome discounts and some free start up merchandise.
- Copy stencils by tracing them onto a folder and cutting it out.
- Save an extra page in your baby's scrapbook album to write any memories you want to remember about the day they were born. Include any visitors you had, the weather on that day, and other important facts.



- Emboss the corners of your pictures to make them stand out. Wear gloves while performing this technique to your photos. They can get quite hot. You can use a clothes pin and hang the pictures while doing this also.
- Vellum is a fun way to create an interesting look to your scrapbook. Vellum is most often used to layer on top of other papers. You can create several designs with vellum including, greeting cards, invitations, and embellishments like a pond or moon and stars. Your limits are endless, use your imagination.

I hope these many tips and hints will provide you with some ideas to help you in any way possible. Feel free to add your own interpretation to any of these tips.

## **Chapter 8: Layout Ideas.**

In this chapter you will read about a few layouts for your scrapbook. Adding your own touch and flair to each idea will provide you with a wonderful masterpiece.

First of all, Thanksgiving is the most difficult page to create in your scrapbook. Here are a few ideas for you.

- Cut up strips of small acid-free paper and place them in a basket or container. Use colors that reflect the Thanksgiving holiday. Oranges, browns, tans, yellows, and reds, are good colors to use. Place the container close to your entryway so your guests can take one as they pass by. As everyone is seated for dinner explain to them the rules of the paper. Have each of them write down at least one thing they are grateful for. Have them sign their names to them also. Take plenty of pictures at the dinner table and of the guests. Take a picture of the person carving the turkey. Save the pieces of paper in a clear bag until you are ready to create your scrapbook page. Select coordinating colors of cardstock for the photos. Purchase come Thanksgiving embellishments such as, stickers, stamps, or fall images. Arrange the pieces of paper throughout the scrapbook page. Add any journaling you have about the holiday.
- Create a scrapbook album for your children's graduation present. Purchase a smaller album that is convenient to take to college with them. Write journaling on pieces of cardstock. Add details to each of their high school years. Make a copy of their diploma for a great background. Display any photos that contain special memories such as, their first day of high school, their first report card, best friends, high school dances, or their first boyfriend. Next, display

any embellishments you might have of their achievements. Driving permit, first pay check stub, school play or program, or any awards they may have earned. Leave a blank page for their friends to sign and write special messages.

- Help your children create their own scrapbook. Many children have begun taking this hobby very seriously. They enjoy seeing the outcome of their hard work and imagination. Give your child a disposable camera. Don't allow them to use your expensive camera, in case they drop it or lose it. The quality of pictures in disposable cameras has come a long way. Use a Fuji film camera to ensure good quality pictures and longevity. Let them take their own pictures and photograph whatever they want. If they decide to take pictures of all of their toys or stuffed animals that's fine. Whatever interests them will keep them focused and want to create a scrapbook for their favorite possessions. After the photos are developed you can help your child pick out the pictures they will use. Take your child to the craft store to decide on an album to best suit them. Smaller albums work best due to the fact the pages are smaller and there is not as many pages to fill. Assist them in finding the colors of cardstock and background paper. Look for easy embellishments or have them create their own. They may want to add some personal items to the pages. Their first page can be of who created the scrapbook. Take a picture of them holding the scrapbook album. Once they have this picture let them glue the cardstock to the photo. They can choose where to place the photos and how many will go on a page. Let your child be the creator of his or her design. You are only there to help them when they ask for it. Another cute idea for a page is to have one dedicated for their toys. Photograph them playing with the toys and let them

write any journaling to the page. Have them put their thoughts and feelings on pieces of cardstock.

- Many layout ideas come from image transfers. There are a couple different ways to achieve this design. Some of these methods would require you to purchase supplies at a store. You may need to purchase Inkjet Transfer Paper. You can find these in most stores and can purchase them separately or in a pack. You must have a computer with a printer to capture your image. You may also use transfer solvent or liquid.
- There are techniques that are easy and don't require you to purchase extra items from the store. Most of the items can be found in your home. All you need is some cardstock, clear cellophane tape, and your photocopied image. First, photocopy your image you are transferring and trim the image out of the paper. Place it face up. Then, cut a piece of cellophane tape about the same size of your image. Cover the image with the tape and use your finger to run it over the tape. Soak the tape in water for a few minutes, and then remove the paper from the tape by rubbing on it. The paper should come off easily leaving an image on the tape. Now, dry the tape and glue it to your cardstock. Add any extra touches you desire.
- Don't forget to create a page for the special pet in your life. You can purchase templates or die cut designs in bones, dog houses, paw prints, and fire hydrants. If you have a cat as a pet, they also many designs for them as well. Use background paper of grass or a doghouse to compliment your theme. Purchase embellishments of paw prints and place them throughout the page. Use tweezers to grasp the small accessories and place them on the page. Display photos of your dog with its favorite toy or cuddling with its favorite person. Capture any moments your pet has

gotten into mischief. Write information about your animal on cardstock. You may want to cut the cardstock into bone shapes before you do any journaling. Include special moments you have had together and special tricks or tricks your dog likes.

- Many times husbands may feel left out of the scrapbook. Dedicate a page or two for your special someone. Craft stores carry several embellishments to compliment any man's hobby. You can purchase pre-made embellishments for fishing, golfing, or sports. Feel free to make your own and save money. Use photos of him enjoying his hobbies and activities. Include golf score cards, car race tickets, or a fishing lure without a hook. Use a small piece of fishing line and make a small pole. You can attach a fish embellishment to the end of the line. Add your own ideas for his hobbies. He will appreciate the time and effort you took to incorporate him into the scrapbook.
- Have your child create a small scrapbook for their teacher. Ask their classmates to help design the album. Use a black piece of background paper and write math problems on the page with a Clorox bleach pen. This will give the illusion of a chalk effect on a black board. Use embellishments of school buses, lunch boxes, or school houses. Use an apple designed template or cookie cutter to crop the pictures of the students. Leave a page blank in the beginning of the scrapbook for your child's classmates to autograph it. Think about using an alphabet border throughout the album. You can create this easily with a stencil of the alphabet and acid-free paint. Use primary colors to make them stand out from the page.
- Using the four seasons for scrapbook pages can be very interesting. To make them stand out you can enhance

them with glitter. Listed below are some ideas for creating your seasons.

- For a glistening winter theme adding iridescent glitter to white snowflakes will really make them pop out. Using a light blue background with a shade darker for the cardstock will blend very well. Paper punch some holiday designs and place them around the page. Use a round cookie cutter or template for cropping your pictures. Add some gold acid-free paint to the top of the photos to make them resemble ornaments. Add embellishments of the winter season and create scenes around them. Perhaps a party hat and champagne glasses for New Year's Eve. Add touches of blue chalk to your border or around the edges of your photos. You may also want to include an ice skating pond on your page. You can make this out of vellum. Incorporate your own ideas into this theme.
- For a bright and bold spring layout use pastel colored background paper. Use several small squares of pastels in purples, pinks, yellows, and greens to design a spring quilt. Use an oval template to crop pictures and design a basket to set them in. You can also place your pictures in the center of flowers. Add some glitter to the flowers around the petals. Create a border with stamps on white paper. Decorative shears will add a subtle touch to the border.
- Summertime is always associated with the Fourth of July. Decorate your page in red, white, and blue. Use an added touch with the same colored glitter. Create a flag for your background. Display pictures of your family members enjoying their favorite summertime activities. Swimming, picnics, camping, fishing, and vacations are just some ideas to display. Use embellishments like stars, apples for apple pie, and create your own fireworks on the page. Cookie cutters

shaped as stars to crop your photos would accent the page. Make a red and white checkered blanket for your background. Craft stores carry the cutest little embellishments for picnic items. Hot dogs, picnic baskets, fruits, and beverages are some examples. Create trees out of green and brown paper. Place your pictures in the trees.

- A fall theme can bring several ideas together. Design a background with brown paper. Add small leaf cut outs in brown, orange and red, for falling leaves. Combine some Halloween cutouts in the page. Cut out a ghost costume out of white fabric or felt. Draw some black shoes for the feet and emboss a pumpkin for a trick or treat bag. Design yellow cornstalks and tie them with small pieces of raffia.

In the end the ideas for layout designs are endless. Take your time and really give it your all. You would be surprised at how crafty you can get.

## **Chapter 9: Host a Scrapbooking Party.**

Hosting a scrapbooking party isn't as bad as it sounds. It is a fun option for women to get together with the same hobby and share ideas and techniques. Hosting a party gives you extra perks like, discounts and prizes.

Before you start handing out those invitations there are a few things you need to know.

First, are the benefits of having a scrapbook party in your home. Women are more eager to attend these parties because they have a chance not only to catch up with one another, but to swap different designs and scrapbooking tools.

You will need to think of a spacious location to have your party. Each person will need plenty of room for their supplies and other items.

Each person should bring their photos and memorabilia they want to display. There are also some basic items they will need to bring along. Be sure to list them on the invitations.

Sharp scissors or shears

Small paper trimmer

Acid-free and lignin-free paper for mounting and background

Acid-free pens for journaling

Adhesives for mounting photos and embellishments

Stickers for decorating



Now would be a good time for you to start thinking about the arrangement of your page. Gather your pictures and cardstock and place them in clear baggies. Purchase embellishments you wish to add.

The average scrapbook party usually lasts two to three hours depending on how many first timers there are. Plan to serve some light snacks and refreshments. Place these away from the scrapbooking area to avoid any unwanted mishaps. Choose snacks that are easy to eat without a lot of mess.

Don't try to push yourself to complete a lot of pages during this time. Many scrapbookers only complete one to two pages at the party. This is why so many continue to have parties at different locations. You can establish a group that is willing to host parties at each others homes. A good time frame to get together again would be about once a month. This will enable everyone to establish more photos and scrapbooking items.

During your scrapbooking party is a great time to swap or borrow scrapbooking tools you do not use any more.

## **Chapter 10: Scrapbooking and Beyond.**

Once you have mastered your first scrapbook, you can begin to demonstrate your talent elsewhere. There are several ways to express your creative side while adding your personal touch to a gift for a friend or family member. Whether you are attending a party or planning a shower the items you can decorate are endless.

The first tip is to stock up on items when they go on sale. You can never have enough paint, glue, or ribbon in your collection. These are just some of the simple items to help jazz up ordinary gifts.

It's also a good idea to purchase plain brown paper gift bags. You can find these at retail store or even dollar stores. Purchase them in a bundle to save on your budget. Homemade gift bags work perfect for party bags or goodie bags. You may want to add a hot glue gun if you are planning to add embellishments to your bags. Gems come in a colorful variety and are easy to attach. Using smaller gems to spell a name on a gift bag will personalize each bag. If you are doing this for your child's party, they would love to help decorate their goodie bags. Gems come in several styles as well; stars, hearts, bows, and letters are just a few. You may want to paint or draw their friends names on the goodie bags. You don't have to use special paint or ink unless you are placing a photo on the bag. After you let the paint dry for about an hour start decorating the rest of the bag. Use sport embellishments for the boys and gems for the girls. To close the bag shut, simply tie the handles together using raffia or ribbon.

Designing a picture frame can bring meaning to an ordinary frame. You can stencil a name at the top of the frame. Create a name for your grandmother on her birthday. Use stencils or letter blocks to decorate around the frame. Glue on enhancements that represent your grandmother's

lifestyle. Use stickers, stamps, and bows, to accent the frame. Have your children add their own touches and write their names.

Design a travel mug with your children's pictures around the mug. You can purchase these mugs at photo shops for a small price. They have travel coffee mugs for those on the go or regular coffee mugs for the home. This is a great gift for the hard to buy Father's Day gift.

Designing names out of letter blocks is a great accent to bedroom wall. The letters can be purchased unfinished, so you can paint them the colors of your choice. To add detail to each of the letters, paint on stripes, polka dots, or squares on them.

Don't be afraid to try new ideas while crating that perfect gift. This will be something they will treasure forever. Spending some quality time with your family while creating these wonderful projects is what makes them special.

## **Conclusion:**

With a little time and effort you will be able to create a elegant way to preserve your pictures. The reward of presenting this scrapbook to that special person is priceless.

This hobby can take your creative side farther than you can image. Simple steps can make a huge difference in your scrapbook. You now realize you don't have to spend hundreds of dollars to create a work of art. With some heart and soul anything is possible.