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## Easy Way to Get Started Scrapbooking

By Lena Fields

Do you remember those days as a kid pasting newspaper clippings onto paper and bundling dozens of papers together with some fancy ribbon or a string? Do you also remember all of your hard work falling apart two months later?

Now there's a grown up way to save and preserve your treasures: Scrapbooking.

The concept behind scrapbooking hasn't changed since grade school. You can still place photographs, newspaper clippings, poems, and tickets into your scrapbook to display and preserve your memories.

However, scrapbooking techniques and tools have matured substantially since you were a kid. Scrapbooking albums have replaced the messy bundles of paper. These albums are generally bound or placed in a three-ring binder. In this way, your hard work won't fall apart. Furthermore, new specialized covers allow protection from the outside elements.

Paste is also a thing of the past. Specialized glue dots and two-sided tape makes mounting your treasures simple and mess free. Many of these products are so strong that you can now decorate your scrapbook pages with ribbons, feathers, flowers, or even metal charms.

Due to these new techniques and tools, the uses of scrapbooking have expanded drastically. Scrapbooking is still used to hold personal keepsakes and for gift giving.

However, now scrapbooking techniques can be used to make baby announcements, grandparent books, gift cards, artwork for kid's rooms, recipe books, and even educational tools.

### What Do I Need to Start Scrapbooking?

The best thing about scrapbooking is that although there are a plethora of scrapbooking supplies available on the market, you really don't need a lot to make your very first scrapbook. Basically, all you need to scrapbook is an album, some glue, a pair of scissors, and some photographs or newspaper clippings. Any fabric, ribbon, or bits of leftovers from other projects can be used to embellish your

scrapbook.

As you get more acquainted with scrapbooking, you will find products that save you time and frustration. Many of these products are well worth the extra cost. At the top of this list is an exacto knife. This strong and versatile blade allows you to cut almost anything into any shape. When the blade is dull, the end is simply broken off to reveal another sharp tip. Just be sure to place the object you plan to cut onto a mat or wad or newspaper before using the exacto knife. Otherwise, the knife will cut right through your picture and into your scrapbook page or dining room table.

The next best tool is a pair of tweezers. Trying to pick up and place small gluey pieces is a hassle. Tweezers, though not very high tech, allow you to move pieces without touching them.

Speaking of gluey pieces, various glues and affixing options are available. These quick and less messy options include glue dots, two-sided tape, Xyron, acid free photo tabs, and polypropylene corners.

To increase the preservation of your scrapbook and your treasures, look for albums with acid free, lignin free pages. Both acid and lignin accelerate photo fading and general deterioration. Lignin is a chemical found naturally in the cell walls of plants. If the lignin is not removed in the paper manufacturing process, the chemical will cause the paper product to gradually yellow and crumble. Lignin and acid free products come in virtually any color and texture.

Lena Fields loves helping others to save special memories using the fun and exciting art of scrapbooking. For more scrapbooking resources, please visit

Scrapbooking Success

### **Tips For Wedding Scrapbooking**

**By Dana Goldberg**

Your wedding is meant to be one of the most memorable days of your life and wedding scrapbooking is a unique way of capturing those memories. The beauty of wedding scrapbooking is that there is such a wide choice of embellishments and other items that you can use to enhance your scrapbooking project. However, it is also worth considering all of the other bits and pieces that can be used from the big day itself. A wedding invitation, preserved flower from the bride's bouquet and groom's buttonhole are just some of the ideas that you can include in your wedding scrapbooking album. Instead of having a keepsake box with these items all mixed up and probably getting damaged they make a wonderful addition to the scrapbooking album and will be preserved for years to come.

Digital cameras are so popular now and this makes a wedding scrapbooking project easier, and harder! If you send out a request for all wedding guests to send you their photographs you may well be inundated with pictures to sift through for your wedding scrapbooking album but at least you will have

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plenty of choice. The solution for most wedding scrapbooking pages is to keep them as clutter-free as possible. The idea is to have only the key elements in the journaling to enable viewers to simply enjoy the atmosphere of the wedding scrapbooking pictures. A picture of the newlyweds need only have a few words with their names, date, and location of wedding stated on the main wedding scrapbooking page. It is easy to be overenthusiastic and purchase every wedding scrapbooking related embellishment that is available but this will only create a confusion of unnecessary items and detract from the beauty of the moment and possibly ruin your wedding scrapbooking album.

The reception is going to be the major source of pictures for the wedding scrapbooking pages and you need to be careful exactly how people are portrayed. It is worth having a lot of pictures from early on to choose from. Other aspects that can be included in the wedding scrapbooking project are a copy of the father of the bride's speech, the cover design from the couple's first dance song or anything else that you fancy.

The beauty of modern wedding scrapbooking is that you can alter pictures if necessary using computer software. Obviously you can crop pictures to suit but you can also change the background if it was a particularly grey day outside or remove red-eye from indoor shots to ensure that your wedding scrapbooking photographs are enhanced to their best possible extent.

Dana Goldberg is the owner of Scrapbooking Tips. Learn scrapbook making online and get many free scrapbooking ideas and scrapbooking tips with. A free informational site which presents tips layout examples, and topic articles. Visit

<http://www.scrapbookingtips.co.uk>



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