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Essential Supplies to Begin Scrapbooking

By Marcus Harbert

Everyone is doing it - scrapbooking that is - and you think you'd like to give it a try, too. However, you're really not sure what the difference is between a scrapbook and a traditional photo album. You're also not sure what supplies you'll need. A quick lesson on the essentials of scrapbooking will bring you right up to speed.

Modern scrapbooks are different from traditional photo albums in a few respects. They hold both photographs and memorabilia. For that reason they are sometimes referred to as memory books. There is also an emphasis on writing, or journaling, in scrapbooking. Each scrapbook should tell a story.

Scrapbooks are also more aesthetically pleasing than traditional photo albums. Attention is paid to the layout of the pages. Often, pages are decorated with colorful paper and stickers, although this is not necessary.

The biggest distinction between a modern scrapbook and a traditional photo album is the emphasis on the preservation of the photos and memories. The albums, papers, pens, and adhesives should all be photo safe. Photo safe is a term that means that the materials used in creating a scrapbook are designed to do the least amount of long term damage on your photos and memorabilia. Damage includes fading, yellowing, and a degradation of the paper the photos or memorabilia are printed on.

Because of this emphasis on preservation, specific, specialized supplies are required when scrapbooking. These supplies can be purchased at many art supply stores, specialty scrapbooking stores or from many online retailers.

The supplies you will need to create your first scrapbook are:

Photos and memorabilia - Before beginning any album you should have its contents organized. You may want to do a themed album (baby, wedding, vacation, etc.) or a chronological family album. Either way, having the album's contents collected before you begin will help you complete your album more efficiently.

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A photo safe album - The album you purchase should be free from acid and lignin (a substance in wood that will turn paper unstable and cause it to yellow). It should also be the correct size for the project you are tackling. This is where having your photos and memorabilia organized beforehand comes in handy. If you're creating a brag book for grandma of her new grandchild, a small album that has only one or two photos per page may be appropriate. If you're chronicling your child's athletic career and have large newspaper clippings, a larger album would be the appropriate choice.

A photo trimmer - Photo trimmers come in handy to crop out any unwanted parts of a photograph or to trim decorative paper. They do the job quickly and neatly.

A good pair of scissors - There are some jobs the photo trimmer just can't do. A good, sharp pair of scissors will come in handy.

Photo safe pens - Special pens are sold that are created to be photo safe. Look for pens that say "acid free", "photo safe" or "archival quality" on them.

A photo safe adhesive - Special tape and other adhesives that are photo safe should be purchased.

Page protectors - Page protectors are photo safe plastic covers that slip over completed pages. Some albums come with them. If yours does not, buy them.

Decorative papers and stickers - These are not essential to creating an album, but many people involved in scrapbooking like to embellish their pages with them.

Once you've gathered all your supplies, you are ready to get to work. If you need a little inspiration, you can find ideas for your scrapbook on internet sites, in scrapbooking magazines, and from other scrap-bookers.

This article was produced for

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, a site which is dedicated to preserving the

crafts and trades of yesterday.

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

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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 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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