



What is a scrapbook?

Types of scrapbooks

- Themes
- Sizes
- Style (post, ring or strap)

Layouts

- The two things you should consider for all layouts: photos and journaling.
- What else? Titles, borders and embellishments.

Materials

- Acid-free (paper, adhesives, embellishments)
- Types of paper: card stock and patterned
- Embellishments: buttons, brads, staples, eyelets, fibers, rubber stamps, envelopes, etc.

Where to begin:

1. Choose photos that tell a story. Crop if necessary. Select coordinating papers.
2. Think about layout design. Where should the photos go? Do you have one photo that should be highlighted? How do you do that?
3. What's your title? Where should it go? How will you make it (computer, sticker letters, die-cut letters, templates)?
4. What about a border?
5. What other embellishments can work here?

Basic Rules for Scrapbook Layouts

1. Choose an odd number of elements for a page: 3 photos, 2 photos with large embellishment, 1 photo, etc. Diagonals/triangles work to draw the eye to a focal point.
2. Mat photos onto cardstock (usually but not always) when using patterned paper as your ground paper. Photos that are focal points may be double or triple matted for emphasis.
3. Generally pick up colors from your photo when choosing papers.
4. Your embellishments should do just that: embellish...not overwhelm. If your eye is first drawn to the embellishments, ask yourself what is more important: the memories or your decorations?
5. Remember to include things that made a moment/vacation/event memorable: brochures, postcards, etc. Treat with an archival spray before adding them to your layout, especially if their placement is close to or overlaps a photo.
6. Keep the use of colors to a workable number. Unless it's a kid's page and with good reason, no more than four--and probably only three--colors probably is a good rule to follow.
7. Most layouts have a header/title. These are generally a single word or simple phrase that identify the event/person in the layout. Think of them as the chapter titles. Other who look at your scrapbook can do a quick read and understand what the layouts are all about without necessarily reading the "small print." One recommendation I've read mentioned putting personal remembrances in the back of an album, numbered in sequence to go with the layouts but is there for only family or close friends to read.

Titles can go across the top of the page, the bottom, the middle or along the sides. Titles can be part of your journaling block. They can be purchased "page toppers" or letters you've cut out using a template, sticker-styled letters you buy or something you've designed on the computer. They can be mounted on strips of cardstock (rarely on patterned paper), on cardstock squares, or printed directly on the ground paper. The possibilities are endless.

8. Double-page layouts should look like they go together. Usually you will use the same ground paper and the same matting technique. Think about one-page layouts and what they will match up with in your album. It is not critical that they MATCH the opposing layout, but it is more pleasing to the eye if there is some coordination.

9. When photographing a subject or cropping a photo, the photo is often more visually appealing and/or dynamic if the object is slightly off-set from center.

10. Don't be afraid to crop photos. Enlarge photos if you want a bigger image, but crop out unwanted or distracting elements. In some cases silhouette the objects. Silhouetted photos--if you've squared the bottom edge--are usually placed at the bottom of the page. In a double-page layout, you might decide to cut a photo into two parts and place one on each page. Be careful where you cut in this case! (But this works.)

11. Journaling: Do your best to be a true journalist by including what, where, why and who in your journaling. Don't assume that everyone will know. Those who inherit your books may not.

12. Journaling can be poems, saying, and copy that you did not write yourself.

13. Sometime you may wish to journal in a single block. Other times you may prefer individual captions under or around photos. This is totally a personal choice.

14. Remember to record the everyday aspects of life--not just the special events.

15. This may be the hardest thing to do: PUT YOURSELF IN THE LAYOUT! If you're the picture-taker, you often get left out of the photo shoots. Hand the camera to someone or use the self-timer or ask for copies of photos taken by others. If you were there, you probably should be in the layout.

Finally, do what works for you...regardless of the "rules." At one time or another, you have my permission to break them all!!!!