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# The Inside Scoop on Scrapbooking

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# The Inside Scoop on Scrapbooking

## **What Is Scrapbooking?**

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

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

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

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

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

## **Starting Out with Scrapbooking**

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

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

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

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

## **Memorable Scrapbooking**

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

## **Memories Come Through**

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

If your child is celebrating his first birthday, you can use things that are from his party to help make the scrapbook meaningful. This can be any sort of thing from the napkins that were used to the candle that was on his cake. Keep a few of the paper plates that you used, with his

favorite theme. Place his picture inside it. There are many such things that you can use from his party or even just from this time period to help you remember this day. Adding them to your scrapbook can be a great way for you to remember the things that he enjoyed during this time period as well as the way in which you celebrated it.

When you create a memorable scrapbook, you will be able to look back on the pages and think to yourself that this was a great day or that you remember that your son grabbed right into the cake. It is fun to make your scrapbook in this way too. Just be creative and think of things that are easy for you to do to hold those memories dear to your heart for a long time.

Memorable scrapbooks like this can keep for many years and will become things that you pass on through the generations too. It does not really take any more time to do either. Just find the things that really mean something to you about this day or this event and get them into your scrapbook.

## **Finding Materials for Scrapbooking**

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

### **Whatever Works**

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

You can also find them throughout your home and your memories. Let's say that you are creating a scrapbook for a child. Perhaps you are creating a book about the last year of their life. There are plenty of things around your home that have your child all over them. Did he have a favorite tee shirt this year, perhaps one that he wore so many times that it is thin now? This can be used as the theme or the paper of the page. Did your child play soccer this year? You can create elements of design for your soccer page from the products that she used. For example, you could use the wristbands that she wore as a décor element in the book.

Finding materials that will help you to showcase your scrapbook is really easy to do. Just think about what you would like the finished product to look like and then find pieces that will make it all come together. You can even purchase themed pages or materials to help you to get the point across. With so many choices to choose from, your scrapbook can really be anything that

you would like it to be. You can actually use the scrapbook to help you to store and preserve things that belongs to your children as they grew. This will make the memories come alive for you and for them when they are older.

## **Scrapbooking With Home Materials**

Scrapbooking can be done with virtually any products that you would like to use for them. There are many various things that you can do. You can even make some of the most amazing quality scrapbooks out of products that you will find throughout your home. Just imagine making a scrapbook that is filled with not only your child's photos but some of the things that he has grown out of over the course of his years.

We all want to hold on to our children as they age, but there is no way to keep them young. Yet, with scrapbooking, especially when you use scrapbooking materials from home, you will be able to hold those memories for a long time to come.

### **What To Use**

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

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

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

## **Scrapbooking Themes**

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

### **What Are Themes?**

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

Incorporating themes into your scrapbook can happen in several ways. You can purchase products right from your craft supply website that will offer a wide range of theme choices. This is the most common thing to do. Or, if you are creative (or just a little handy) you can use things that you design or pull together to help you with the theme. If you choose to do it your way, you will see that there are plenty of things that you can use from just decorating the pages yourself to using things from the child's collections.

You do not have to add themes to your pages of your scrapbook if you do not want to. If you would like to, you can even create an entire theme for the entire book. This works well for a child that just loves something amazing or for many adults who are set in their ways. In any case, by adding these pages to your scrapbook, you will create a beautiful way for you to remember through your scrapbook.

## **Go Digital in Scrapbooking**

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

## **Software**

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

## **Send It Out**

Another option that you have is to use digital media to help you to send your pictures and needs out to those that are ready and waiting to design a scrapbook for you. Not everyone has the time to create their own scrapbook. Yes, this is anything but easy. It can be time consuming in a real life world. Yet, really, you can tell someone else what you would like, provide them with your digital images and off they will go to create for you memories that will last you a lifetime. They will complete the project and send it to you so that you can hold on to your scrapbook for a lifetime or longer.

When it comes to digital pictures, there are scrapbooking solutions. Of course, you can still get a really great printer and maybe even some photo enhancing software and really recreate your photos to make them an excellent part of your scrapbook if you would like to. You can print them off and use them within a standard type of scrapbook too. There are plenty of choices for you. Just because all of your pictures are stored on a CD or on your computer does not mean that you can not have an amazing scrapbook.

## **Scrapbooking Gifts**

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

## **Making Your Gifts**

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

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

Once you know what you would like your scrapbook to be about, create a few pages for it that will show just this. What you need to know here is that you do not have to create a 20 page scrapbook. You can easily create one that is just a few meaningful pages. You can even make it from scratch with the materials that you already have at your home.

There is only one rule when it comes to creating a scrapbook for you and your family to give as a gift. That is that you should do your best at it. You should make sure that your message comes through in the scrapbook whether that is just happy birthday or if it is something more sentimental. You can easily do this, though. Just take your time. You can purchase many of the themed pages that you need right from the web too. Scrapbook gifts are gifts that provide a lifetime of memories.

### **Having Someone Else Do Your Scrapbooking**

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

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

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

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

## **Making Scrapbooking Your Business**

Scrapbooking can be more than just a hobby for many. If you are one of the many that enjoys scrapbooking, you will find that you have the opportunity to make some money at it. If you are good at it (you'll know you are good when others love your books) you can actually take these skills and make it your own business.

There are so many people looking to start their own at home business. There are even more individuals that get trapped into schemes. Yet, when you have a talent, you can easily make an income at it. If you love scrapbooking, you will love having it as your business.

### **Can I Make It Work?**

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

When it comes to finding clients to work with to help them in creating a scrapbook, you may be surprised to learn that there are many people out there looking for you. You can first start out locally. Scrapbooking for your family and your friends is a great way to learn new tricks of the trade and to help you to get some great books to show (or show pictures of) to your future clients.

One of the most powerful forms of advertising in a scrapbook business is that of word of mouth. Just imagine. You do a scrapbook for your friend and she takes it to show off to her friends. They, of course, have to know who did it and call on you. They will then do the same thing and your business grows. Of course, you can also advertise for your scrapbook right here on the web too.

Making scrapbooking a business is a serious thing though. If you will be holding others personal and prized photos in your hand, they will want to insure that you are going to provide them with an excellent finished product in a timely manner. If you do take on this type of scrapbooking business, you may find it to be very profitable as long as you take the time to do it right.

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