

Improvisation – By Amy Lynch-Time 2 Scrapbook © 2006

A word mostly used when talking about music or acting, right? What about regarding scrapbooking? The 3rd line definition under “improvising” in the Merriam-Webster Dictionary states, “to make or fabricate out of what is conveniently on hand”. Sounds perfect!! Let’s do some IMPROVISING!!

Paper



I like to primarily start with 12x12 size papers. Even if I am doing a different size project, the 12x12 gives me the ability to “improvise” by having extra paper to make tags or embellishments with the same background or mat color. In this example, the dark green paper (Ivy by Bazzill © Papers) was cut to use on my Xyron Wishblade Media Cutter. The unused portion of paper was used then for matting. I was also able to use it on another project for a tag.

What about Scraps?

I have a very hard time throwing away even the smallest piece of scrap paper. I always think I could find some place to use it. What that means is I have a VERY BIG scrap bin of various patterns and colors but useful when it comes to needing that special small mat for a metal tag or word or for creating a unique border. For more detail and ideas on how to use scraps, see our “How to with Scraps” article.

Not the Right Color?

No problem! IMPROVISE! If it is a darker color you need especially if it is for a mat, try using FiberScraps™ E-Z Walnut Ink TintZ. I have really grown to like these products. As always, it is never as easy as they demo them at the shows. I was discouraged at first, but warmed up pretty quick. There are about 12 different great warm colors to choose from. They work well on many different surfaces and do a great job on inking the edges, rubbing across your distressed papers and more. I recently have been using them as a base on my Memories Boxes before doing another sponge or decoupage technique. And because they do not harden like an acrylic, they are even great on altering your fiber colors.

How about paint, pens, beads or glitter? Ever reach for that perfect color of brad or eyelet and can’t find what you need? (Yes it is possible to have ALL those scrapbooking supplies and still not have what you need – I daily have to convince my husband of this as he smiles, shakes his head and walks



away) Anyway, yes I have to type it.... IMPROVISE! Grab your acrylics or favorite Marvy© pen and color away. My friend and business partner, Kelly just showed me something she is working on where she took a large brad; covered it in glue; dipped it in small beads and then used it as the center of a flower. It looked great! It added such a more realistic look to the flower. I'm sure it will be in one of kits soon – don't forget to check it out.

See Scrapbooking in Everything

I don't advise this completely, it can drive you crazy. I'm so bad, I sometimes want to grab someone's shirt and take a picture or scan it because it has such a great pattern or color. I know- I need help!



But on a healthier note, you can do some unique things on your page or card by using things that you can't just buy off the shelf. Example: I found this great gift bag made of handmade paper. It had a very rich purple color with a nice Christmas design in the middle. I immediately thought of using the middle of the bag as an embellishment so I bought it (on clearance of course). When cutting out the design it occurred to me that there was more about this bag I could use. Yes, I IMPROVISED! By being really

careful and creative in my cutting I was able to get a unique tag from the top of the bag with the strap and a "surprise" journal box out of the bottom (see pictures above and to the right). I'm sure I am not the first to think of this – but I felt pretty creative thinking of it on my own. My son looked at it and said, "Only you Mom", as he smiled and hugged me. I'm going to take that as a compliment. I really like them and know you will as well. Make sure and contact me with your photos of how this worked for you (amy@time2scrapbook.com).



Conclusion

Remember, your imagination is only limited by your willingness to step out of the box. Have fun – make it yours! The memories can last forever when you take the time to record them.

I hope your life is full of opportunities," to make or fabricate out of what is conveniently on hand". In life that means being able to turn lemons into lemonade; in scrapbooking, it means endless creations, so IMPROVISE and Drink up!