

Time 2 Scrapbook for Beginners, by Kelly Rose © 2006

Of all the hobbies you could choose, why choose scrapbooking?

It's about the memories. It's about your heritage. It's about sharing yourself and telling your story. It's about giving. It's about getting those photos OUT OF THE BOXES and into beautiful albums so they can be shared and cherished by your friends and family now and for generations to come.

Where do I begin?

We understand that the task seems insurmountable. And remember, you don't have to scrapbook EVERY photo you own. What we suggest is starting with current photos and work your way back. Don't worry about the "right way" to make an album or even a page, just jump in and get started (just in case, use duplicate photos). In the beginning follow a few simple design rules (described below) until you're comfortable with your style and then start taking more risks. We have a few suggestions that will make the experience of beginning more manageable and your end result more rewarding. **Let's start with organizing your photos.**

This may seem like the most difficult part, but if you take some time here to really organize, your scrapbooking efforts will be easier. The piles, boxes and drawers of photos should be organized and labeled so you can find the photos you want to scrapbook. We suggest the photo box and dividers. You can sort your photos any way you want, but here are some suggestions:

- 1) Sort by person
- 2) Sort by events: vacations, holidays, birthdays, etc.
- 3) Sort chronologically

You do not have to sort your photos in order to start scrapbooking, but once you really decide that this is what you're going to do with your photos, you should make it a priority. Set aside one hour a week to dedicate to organizing and 1 hour to scrapbooking. Make notes of the ideas that you get as you look at all your photos.

What do I need?

Your basic scrapbooking supplies should include:

- 1) Paper. Colored and patterned, acid free and lignin free.
- 2) Glue. Acid free. There are many varieties and different glue for different jobs. A good tape runner like Tombow permanent adhesive is great for adhering paper and photos. A liquid glue with a very small tip is great for smaller embellishments, letters and paper. Again, my favorite is a Tombow product called Mono adhesive. (And it smells great, go figure!) Lastly, if you're going to be using charms and buttons and heavier items on your pages, you'll need an aggressive adhesive like Zots glue dots. They come in a variety of sized and thicknesses.
- 3) A good pair of scissors. My preference is Fiskars fine tip.
- 4) A see through ruler with grid markings.
- 5) A cutting mat
- 6) A craft knife

- 7) A paper cutter. My favorite is the Fiskars 12" paper trimmer. It's thin, travels well and you can replace the blades when they become dull.
- 8) Acid free pens

These are what I consider to be the essentials. You can add to your scrapbooking supplies items that will enhance the themes or colors of your page, like stickers, stamps, ribbons, fibers, buttons, charms, stencils, brads, and eyelets (just to name a few).

There are a few supplies that I consider indispensable and they almost always find their way on to my scrapbooking pages. They are:

- 1) Ink
- 2) Tag templates
- 3) Ribbon
- 4) Brads

There are some great scrapbooking techniques that don't require any additional supplies, like paper tearing, and crumpling. You can add dimension, texture and personality with these easy and inexpensive techniques.

So how do I put together a page once I have the supplies I need?

- 1) Choose your photos. Think of each page as having a story to tell. Choose your photos according to a theme or event. Decide what kind of mood or feeling you want the layout to project and keep that in mind when you go to step number 2.
- 2) Choose your paper. You can coordinate according to color, emotion or event. Choose a coordinating color as well. Use patterned papers and solids. Be imaginative.
- 3) Crop and mat your photos.
- 4) Arrange your photos and seek balance. One photo should be placed as the focal point. Lay it out, then step back and look at it from a distance.
- 5) Add a title and embellishments. A good rule of thumb is the rule of 3's. If you restrict your use of embellishments to only 3 types, you probably won't "over do it". Or if you want to add multiples of a similar embellishment, 3 is a good balanced place to start (and end).
- 6) Journal. This is where you tell the story behind the pictures. You can give names dates and locations only, or you can add anecdotes, quotes, reflections and memories. Use your own handwriting; it's special to those who read it. If you have a lot to say in a small space then use the computer.
- 7) Every rule can be broken. Experiment and come up with your own style. Use what turns you on. DON'T save your favorite stuff for use later. Use it NOW. Trust me, you'll ALWAYS find another favorite down the line.

On the next page are some sketches to help you get started with your layouts (inspired by a Heidi Swapp catalog). And I'd love to see your results. Please e-mail me photos of your layouts or if you have any questions about this article kelly@time2scrapbook.com. © 2006 <http://www.time2scrapbook.com>

Sample Layouts

