

corresponding stickers in the plastic protectors holding the pictures to use when scrapbooking that subject. I will also use borders—like ribbon down one side of the cardstock, just to make the page prettier. But that's about all I'll do—I shun anything that takes too much time.

- Try to keep your scrapbooking supplies organized. If it's

difficult to find what you're looking for, you'll get discouraged and won't want to scrapbook! YIKES!!!



- I'm rather old fashioned in that I use standard 8 1/2 x 11 pages. Besides being easy to copy, it is easy to find inexpensive page protectors and binders! Plus, they easily fit in my hallway cabinets and bookshelves! I always label the outside so it's easy to find what I'm looking for. I'm surprised at how many times I'm looking through these books to find something—like who spoke at Jared's baptism. Or what year did Spencer play a piano concerto with the Albuquerque Symphony. Or—what year did we see Machu Picchu?

But what about all those boxes of pictures?

- Use a family home evening to have everyone sort pictures by year—as best you can. Or by family. Or category. Whatever fits your preference and the time span of the pictures.
- Further sort one year or section at a time! Sort by month or event and separate into plastic protectors to keep them from getting all mixed up again.
- Crop, frame, and mount pictures 'one plastic protector-full' at a time! This makes the mess short-term—for however long it takes to scrapbook that category of pictures. You'll find you get faster and more efficient and can whip out a few plastic protectors-full in a couple of hours! At that rate, it won't take long to see progress! Boxes will dwindle while scrapbooks stack up. You'll find joy in seeing family pull the scrapbooks off a shelf and enjoy. Old photos in scrapbooks are a big hit at family reunions, too!

Scrapbooking Tips to Stay Current!

1. Don't start with all those boxes full of pictures that have been sitting around for years! (You can get to them eventually.) Choose a reasonable starting time to scrapbook—maybe with the photos currently on your camera?? As you practice and get more efficient with current photos, you can tackle past photos.



2. Have a basket or box for parents and each child. As you accumulate things you want to include in scrapbooks, put them in the baskets. When the basket starts getting full—you know it's time to get to work scrapbooking! Each basket ought to

be emptied by scrapbooking at least once a year!

3. **Don't** print **every** picture! Digital photography allows you to choose good representative shots to print. Keep ALL the photos you want digitally, and just print your favorites—or a nice variety to portray the vacation/event to be scrapbooked.
4. Print a bunch of photos at once—I use Walgreens or Walmart, whoever has coupons or is running a special. You can pick them up at the store, or have them shipped to your house—my personal preference. Just knowing hundreds of prints are on their way motivates me to finish what I have!

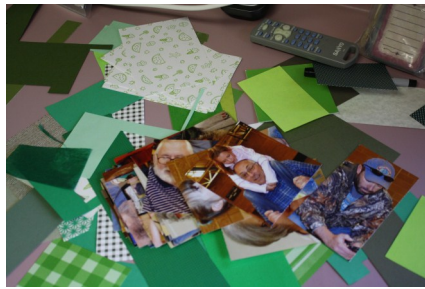


5. When photos arrive, sort them by category, like; Christmas, Birthday Party, Vacation, etc. Immediately place them in plastic protectors or labeled envelopes so you don't have to re-sort them later because someone saw them and enjoyed looking at them. (That's why we scrapbook photos, right?) Go through the your family baskets (as described in item 2) and put the items

that correspond to the pictures (tickets, programs, etc.) in the plastic protector with those pictures. Then when you're ready to scrapbook, everything is together! I HATE when I finish a page and later come upon a ticket stub that should have been included!

6. In the evenings, or any occasion when you find yourself sitting, grab a plastic protector full of pictures, a cutting board and a portable paper cutter or a pair of scissors—and start cropping! I like cutting the pictures down to be able to fit more on a page. Of course, you need to keep a couple of 'wide-shot pictures' when necessary to show the scenery/background.

7. If desired, 'frame' your cropped pictures! I choose a color theme for each category, like for our weekend in Aspen, CO, I used blue and green—green to 'frame' the pictures then mounted them on blue cardstock. When I frame, I pull out my scraps of paper of that color (I sort my scraps by color to make them easier to use). If I don't have enough scraps of that color, I'll use full sheets. My favorite adhesive is a TOMBO dispenser—fast, safe & permanent!



8. Now the fun part! Mount the pictures! Journal and embellish as desired.

9. If you scrapbook on 8 1/2x11 cardstock, it is easy to make good quality color copies for additional books (one for each kid involved on that page.) Originals tend to be bulky, so I place the originals in different scrapbooks. For instance if one page has more pictures of one child than the other, I'll put the original in his book, and

copies in the siblings and me and my husband's book. If kids are equally pictured, I'll place the original in my book and copies in my kids books—or rotate who is getting the original. Spreading the originals makes each person's set of scrapbooks less thick. Note: I wait until I have a HUGE stack of completed pages before heading somewhere (wherever there is a good sale) to make good quality color copies. I thoroughly enjoy the process of sorting out the originals and copies for the various books—placing them in plastic protectors, then inside the binders! I do not copy all pages for all kids! Last, I get that wonderful feeling of accomplishment! I often make extra copies to be given to friends or extended family members that might be pictured on certain pages. They seem to LOVE getting these.

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General Tips:

- Keep tickets, maps, brochures, flyers, programs, playbills, pamphlets, etc., even pick up extra if they have cool writing or pictures or explanations of what you saw or visited. Then cut them up and use as embellishments!
- The more pictures you can fit on the page, the less you need to embellish! And the less bulky your scrapbooks!
- There are so many things to use to embellish pages—however I find myself using stickers most—they're fast & easy. I'm always on the lookout for stickers on clearance! I love that you can buy packages of stickers for various vacation places. And, yes! I have LOTS of stickers. But if they aren't accessible, they don't get used! Right now I have them sorted in binders or big 12x12 plastic envelopes—labeled by category so I can get my hands on them quickly. I'll also put packets of

