

Everything About Paper

About The Author



Vera Raposo has been a scrapbooker since her oldest daughter Tori was 5 years old, now Tori is going to college (2010) and Vera is entering a new season in life.

With 2 other children, she continues to pursue the love of the hobby scrapbooking. To Vera, scrapbooking is a Responsibility to her children and to future generations.

"I've never ever believed in the word can't. I have always had big dreams for myself and my family which has caused me to strive for excellence in everything."

Vera absolutely LOVES scrapbooking and hopefully this will reflect for you as you read through this report all about paper.

Please feel free to pass this along to your friends and family!

Enjoy! ☺

Vera Raposo

<http://www.scrapperstalkradio.com>

Four Types of Paper

There are quite a few different types of paper that you can use in your scrapbook albums. The most important thing to remember before you begin, is to use lignin and acid free papers.

This will ensure that your scrapbook won't deteriorate over time. With that said, here are some of the most popular types of paper you can use in your scrapbooks:

Cardstock

Cardstock is probably one of the most popular types of scrapbook paper. It has a thicker consistency and is most commonly used to create photo mats and frames. It is also used to create die cuts. Many scrappers enjoy using cardstock on paper piecing projects, too.



Vellum

Vellum is a transparent paper. It adds an elegant touch to your scrapbook page. Vellum is often used to print titles. It can be attached to your scrapbook pages by using a photo adhesive spray or clear photo corner mounts. You can also punch holes in it and attach it to the page using ribbons, eyelets or brads.

Mulberry

Mulberry paper is a handmade paper that varies in thickness. It also has an elegant look to it and a textured feel. Mulberry paper can be used to create photo mats, for a textured look, or in a variety of many other ways. Mulberry is famous for the feathery, translucent torn edge. To achieve this effect, lightly dampen the edge of your mulberry paper and gently tear the edge.

Patterned Paper

Patterned paper comes in an assortment of ways. You will often find patterned paper that is double-sided. It can either have two different types of patterns on each side, or patterned print on one side and a solid, matching color on the opposite side.

Basics of Matching Colors

Do you have trouble matching your colored scrapbook paper? Many scrappers find this process daunting because they simply don't know which colors match best with one another.

Matching colors is not hard to do. The biggest thing to remember is that you are matching colors with your photos. There are a several ways you can eliminate the hassle of trying to figure out which colors to put together:

Stay Simple with Your Color Scheme

Until you feel more comfortable choosing a matching color scheme, try not to purchase a huge amount of scrapbook paper. Buy a minimal paper pack that contains your favorite color. Play with these colors and learn how to match them first.

Look For Monochromatic Paper Packs

These paper packs usually contain several shades of the same color. They can be alternatively used with each other, thus making it much easier to choose matching papers.

Keep the Family Warm

Try matching up colors from the "warm" family: red, orange, peach and yellow. Warm colors are based on yellows, oranges, browns, yellowish greens, orange-reds, etc. Mix and match any shades of these colors, as they generally all fit well with each other.

Keep the Family Cool

Stay cool. These colors reflect peaceful, calm, cool things. Colors from the "cool" family include blues, greens, pinks, purples, blue-greens, magentas, and blue-based reds.

Mix & Match Styles

Mix and match patterned paper with solid color paper. Create layered photo mats or other page elements by combining a patterned paper with a matching solid paper. Pick one color from the patterned paper that sticks out to you and combine it with a solid of this color.

More Color Tips:

Color Coordination

Color coordination and contrast will highlight and accent your scrapbook. A well thought out color scheme can help define the theme of a page, attract attention to specific items, or detract away from mistakes.

Poorly chosen color schemes, on the other hand, can cause your scrapbook page to look gaudy or mismatched. Background colors can either be matched, coordinated, or contrasted with the colors in your photographs, mementos, or embellishments.



Matching colors add to the continuity of the color scheme. Coordinated colors add depth to scrapbook pages. Contrasted colors focus the eye. In this way, color can be used to create the effect you desire.

A great way to see how colors look together is to collect and compare color wheels from your local paint or hardware store. Paint wheels are usually available free for the taking in nearly any paint department.

Color Association Technique

Use color association. If you aren't sure which colors to use together, try applying the color association technique. **Connect your page theme to a color scheme.**

Here are a few examples:

- Christmas = red and green;
- Easter = pink and yellow;



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- Baby girl = pink and white.

Creating Fun Collages



Collage is defined as, "A paste-up made by sticking together pieces of paper or photographs to form an artistic image."

Creating a collage is a good way to help you loosen up and mix art with scrapbooking. A collage is created by using a combination of things like: rubber stamping, photos, clip art, and various scrapbook embellishments. A popular term, with regards to collages, is ephemera.

According to The Ephemera Society Of America, ephemera is, "a term used to embrace a wide range of minor, everyday documents, most intended for one-time or short-term use, including postcards, broadsides and posters, baseball

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cards, tickets, bookmarks, photographs—and the list goes on.”

Many scrappers use ephemera to create their collages, as it adds an extra special touch to the look and feel of the completed page.

Now that we've covered the fundamentals of collages, we're ready to begin. Your collage consists of layers that you will build from a blank scrapbook page. Here are the basic steps to creating a collage:

1. Choose a theme.
2. Choose the photos and embellishments you want to use on the page.
3. Create your first layer on the background page. You might use a rubber stamp to stamp phrases or pictures on the blank page.
4. Create your second layer by adding torn pieces of scrapbook paper, word stickers, etc.
5. Continue adding layer by layer, incorporating your photos, until you are happy with the way your page looks.

Collage Tip

Create the first layer or two as your background layer. Play with the remaining layers, arranging them until you're happy with how they look. When you are pleased with your collage, glue each layer. This way, you can keep rearranging each layer until you like it.

How to Store Paper



If you have managed to collect a large stash of scrapbook paper, you will need to store it properly while not in use. All too often, scrapbookers neglect to create a special storage area just for their paper, which causes confusion and a waste of time. It also means ending up with a lot of duplicates, because you aren't sure of what papers you already own.

Storing your scrapbook paper can literally save you hours of time. It will also prevent accidents from happening, like spills or fading from the sun. Storing your scrapbook paper properly makes easy access and quick scrapping possible. Here are some quick storage tips for you to keep in mind.

One way you can store your scrapbook paper is in **manila folders**. If you choose this method, be sure that the folders you purchase are acid-free and lignin-free. You can usually find these kinds of folders in your scrapbooking store.

Label your folders by colors: dark reds, light red, yellows, oranges, etc. Or, if you prefer, you can label your folders by color schemes: Christmas, Easter, Valentine's Day, etc. You might also create some folders for your patterned papers: gingham, stripes, floral, etc. Once you've labeled your folders, go through your stack of scrapbook paper and sort them accordingly.

Another similar way you can store your scrapbook paper is by purchasing an accordion file folder (also available at many scrapbook stores). These folders can be labeled as well, and commonly contain clear plastic dividers so that you can see the colors through the dividers. Accordion folders are great for storing papers that you want quick access to.

You could also use clear zipper bags to store your paper, if you want to be able to see the colors. Then store all the bags in a clear plastic container.

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Choose the easiest method, for you, to store your scrapbook paper. Once you store it, you will find that scrapping will be much easier and more fun because you'll be able to locate the papers you need quickly and with ease.

How to Use Pocket Pages

Pocket pages are wonderful for storing all the extra “loose” memorabilia that you can't or don't want to adhere to your scrapbook pages. They are a simple answer to the question, “What am I going to do with *this?*”

A pocket page looks just like a regular scrapbook page with one exception: **it contains a “pocket.”** These pockets are commonly made from clear plastic, so that you can view what's inside without having to remove it from the pocket.

If you've never used pocket pages in your scrapbook, you might not know what to put inside them at first. Once you get the hang of using them though, you'll love them and find all sorts of ways to use them to store your memories.

Pocket pages can be used to hold a variety of things that otherwise aren't attachable to a regular scrapbook page. These include certain heavy items and other objects that you don't want attached permanently to the page, such as:

- Ticket stubs
- Report Cards
- Certificates
- Banners
- Birthday cards
- Letters
- Medals or awards



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Pocket pages can also be decorated and embellished the same as a regular scrapbook page. Just be cautious when adding embellishments like eyelets or brads. Attaching these embellishments through both layers will prevent you from being able to use the pockets to their full advantage.

If you don't have pre-made pocket pages, you can make your own in a pinch. Choose a complementary sheet of cardstock and cut it in half. Align with the bottom corner of the page and glue the inside edges and attach. Once the glue is dry, decorate the pocket to match the page

Getting the Look of Burned Edges on Torn Paper



The look of burned edges on torn paper creates a magnificent antiqued illusion. It can be achieved in one of several different ways.

The first thing you must do is tear your scrapbook paper. Don't worry about trying to get too pretty with it. Just grab the edge of the top of your paper and rip it all the way down to the bottom edge. If you want to do more than one edge, go ahead and tear off each edge that you want to create the burned look on. If you want a neater tear, wet a q-tip or cotton ball and

lightly dab it on the edge of your paper before tearing it.

One way you can create a burned look is to use walnut ink. Many scrappers love walnut ink for this, as it creates that "rusty" brown-burned look. Mix the walnut ink crystals in water, then use a soft paintbrush or sponge and brush the brown ink-water onto the torn edges of your paper. For a darker look, be sure to add more crystals to your water, or just mix in less water.

Another way to achieve the burned edge look is to use an ink pad. If you like to stamp and use stamps in your scrapbooks, this might be the method for you to use. Instead of painting the ink

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on the page, you can simply rub the ink pad on the edge of the paper until you get the desired effect.

For a lighter burned effect, stain the edge of your paper with a tea bag. Soak the tea bag in water for a few minutes, then dab it onto the edges of your torn paper to attain the burned look. This usually results in a lighter effect than inks.

The Best Way to Use Patterned Paper

Patterned paper is good for shortcuts and building decorative page additions. There are tons of ways you can use it. I am going to show you some of the fun, best ways to use patterned paper in your scrapbook.

Make a Decorative Photo Frame

Using your decorative scissors, cut a frame from patterned paper to go with a photo. Make sure the paper matches or coordinates with your photo. For best results, try not to use more than one patterned paper frame per page.

Make Paper Confetti for Your Scrapbook Page

Use your paper punches to make confetti from patterned paper. These make great last-minute touches to completed pages that need a little something extra. Punch from a variety of paper and save them for quick grab-and-go use later.

Make a Photo Mat

Similar to a photo frame, use scissors to cut various shapes, a tad larger than your photos, from your patterned paper. Use these shapes to create photo mats that coordinate with your scrapbook page theme. A photo mat adds a special touch to your photo and gives it a more “finished” look.

Create titles and headlines for your pages

Use lettering stencils to create headlines from patterned paper to give your page a unique look. Alternatively, use them to create fun headlines like “Cool!” or simple phrases like, “Summertime Fun” to match your photos and/or theme.

Use Paper Piecing

Paper piecing is a fun way to use pieces of patterned paper to create a page element. For example, punch a large circle from black and white patterned paper and a smaller circle punched from red and white patterned paper. Cut the smaller (red and white) circle in half. Glue these two halves on top of the larger circle, spread slightly apart. Draw black dots on the red and white paper and you have a ladybug!

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Patterned paper can be used in many ways. Be creative and have fun with it.

Tips to Choosing the Right Color Paper to Coordinate With Your Photos



You've chosen your photos, now it's time to select papers to use on your scrapbook pages. Finding the right paper to go with your pictures can make all the difference in the world once your page layout is complete.

The most important thing to remember is to not get too carried away with using lots of different colors on one page. This can be distracting and take away from your overall layout. You want the papers you choose to complement every photo on the page.

One way to pick the right colored paper is to pull a color from your photos. Take a quick look at the photos you've chosen for your current page. What colors immediately jump out at you? Maybe it's an orange t-shirt or a purple teddy bear. Choose one of these colors and use matching colored scrapbook paper.

Another thing you can do is decide on a color theme. This method works very well for holiday-themed scrapbook pages. Simply choose a color that represents the holiday or occasion. For example, you can use red and green paper for Christmas, blue paper for the birth of a boy, or brown and orange for Thanksgiving.

Finally, if you still aren't sure which color to use with your photos, try this: Spread a variety of colored papers across your table. Place your photos against the various colors and see which one looks best. This method usually works best when you're stuck and can't choose a color to go with your pictures.

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Tips and Tricks With Paper

Do you have piles of scrapbook paper, but you don't know what to do with it? You can create lots of interesting appendages to your scrapbook pages. Here are just a few:

Sewn Edges

Do you like to sew? Why not incorporate your sewing hobby with scrapbooking? Create a layered collage of papers, then sew around the edges before applying it to your page.

Rick Rack

Rick-rack is another fun accessory to use on your scrapbook pages. You can either sew it onto the paper, tape it or glue it.

Decorative Staples

You can purchase colored and decorative staples from your scrapbook supply store. Decorative staples usually come with phrases engraved on them and can add a neat touch to your pages. You can also buy staples in a rainbow of colors. Note: some of the decorative staples require a special staple machine.

Windows

Use coordinating paper to create windows on your page. Cut a piece of paper about ¼" bigger than your photo, or whatever you want to cover. Fold one side under and glue it on the page so that it covers the element you want to hide. When the glue dries, you have a window!

Paper Piecing

If you have a nice stock of colored and patterned paper, use them for paper piecing. You can create all sorts of animals, people, flowers, etc. Paper piecing is especially good for using up scraps of paper that you can't bear to throw in the garbage.

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Tearing

Instead of using your scissors to cut a photo mat or page border, tear your paper. Start at the top and rip the edge all the way to the bottom of the paper. If you rip the paper towards you, the result will be a white torn edge. If you rip from the wrong side of the paper, the edge will have a torn look without the white.

Paper Layering

Are your scrapbook pages all beginning to look the same? Maybe you're ready to try something different, but don't know what to do. Paper layering is an easy way to add zing to your scrapbook pages.



Paper layering is the process of coordinating and layering solid color scrapbook paper with patterned paper. You can use these layers as the foundation for your scrapbook page layout, or for a multiplicity of page elements.

Many scrappers use paper layering to create unique photo frames, page embellishments and page borders. However, lots of scrapbookers also use paper layering to create the entire page theme for photos.

The first thing to remember when paper layering is to choose colors and patterns that will complement the photos you will use on your page. If you choose colors or designs that don't correlate with your photographs, your page could get too "busy" and distract from the main focus—your photos.

Scrapbookers most commonly layer three or more papers to create the desired layered effect. Start with a stripe or gingham patterned paper. Add a matching floral. Attach a third layer of geometrical shapes, then a fourth layer of another complementary paper. You can add as many or as little layers as you choose. Just remember to be sure that each layer ties in as a whole.

One last thing to bear in mind is that you should keep your layers away from the edge of the page. By layering your paper flush with the edge of your background page, you disrupt the "flow" of the layers. Allow at least an inch or so from the edge as you begin layering your paper.

Don't Over Do It

Patterned scrapbook paper can quickly become an addiction. From bright, colorful stripes to the soft floral hues, patterned paper is appealing to most scrapbookers. The trick is to buy just enough, but not too much.

One of the reasons why you should be cautious about buying too much patterned paper is that you might not use it all. What good is a stack of paper that sits unused? Take inventory of your scrapbook paper. Just by looking around and thinking about your scrapbook habits, you can become more aware of what types of paper you use most. Ask yourself questions like:

- What kind of scrapbook paper is my favorite?
- Do I use more solid scrapbook paper, than patterned?
- What types of patterned paper do I use most?

Patterned scrapbook paper is like eye candy for many scrapbookers. This is one reason why we buy tons of it. We purchase a new pack, promising ourselves that we will use it in future scrapbook projects. However, what happens often is we drool over the patterned paper for a few days, then put it away with the rest of the paper that we've bought and left unused.

If you already have a pretty large stash of patterned paper and you don't know what to do with it, try some of these ideas:

- Paper piecing
- Frames and mats for your photos
- Page borders
- Lettering for page titles
- Page elements for layouts (water, raindrops, bows, etc.)
- Punches to use with page layouts

Color Blocking Techniques

The color blocking technique was named for the “blocks” of color that you use to create page layouts. Color blocking is a favorite and often-used technique among scrappers because of its ease and simplicity of use.

The most common color blocking technique is used quite frequently by scrappers. Most probably don't even realize that it is color blocking, though. It is simply the process of taking a piece of scrapbook paper and mounting a photo in the center of it, then attaching it to your page.

This common color blocking technique can be modified in a number of ways to add spice and flair to page layouts. For instance, instead of using a perfectly cut square, try mixing in other shapes, like an oval or triangle.

Try this easy color blocking technique:

- Separate a page into quadrants (four parts) by drawing dividing lines horizontally and vertically on your page
- Measure the four sections
- Using your measurements, cut two squares each from complementary colors of scrapbook paper
- Attach the squares to your page, light then dark on the top; dark then light on the bottom

Now you can attach your photos to the squares or complete the page by adding more page elements to it. This is the simplest method of the color block technique. You can also play around with different sizes and shapes, as stated before.

If you still aren't sure exactly what to do, or if you're ready to try something new and different, use color blocking templates to create your page layouts. Color blocking templates can give you new ideas, as well as save time if you want to put together a quick layout. These are available for purchase in most scrapbook stores.

How to Print On Vellum

Scrapppers who want to use vellum often experience difficulty when printing. Vellum isn't like regular scrapbook paper, and doesn't absorb ink as quickly as regular paper does. Thus, many scrapppers often end up with smudged ink and give up in frustration.

The first thing you can do to prevent the "wet ink syndrome" is to change your printer settings before you try to print on vellum. Change your setting to print in draft mode. This prevents your printer from using as much ink as it normally would, which means drying time will lessen. Some printers even have a transparent setting.

Even if you change your printer's settings, that doesn't mean you can touch the ink immediately. You must allow drying time, or you will still end up with smudged ink. Do your printing first, then leave your pages to dry while you create the rest of your page layouts.

Another important point to remember is that you should purchase vellum paper that is compatible with your printer. Some vellum paper is made specifically to be used with inkjet printers only. If you try printing on vellum that isn't compatible with your printer, you could end up with a big mess on your hands.

Here's another neat trick for you to use, if you are going to layer your vellum on top of a sheet of scrapbook paper, or if you want to protect the ink from water (for invitations, name cards, etc.). Set your printer to print a mirrored image on the vellum. Flip the vellum over then attach to your cardstock. Your vellum will appear as though it would if you had printed it normally, but the ink will be underneath, instead of on top.

Paper Piecing

Paper piecing is a cool technique that lots of scrappers enjoy. If you have never tried paper piecing, you are missing out on the fun!

Paper piecing is simply piecing together different cut-outs. Think of it like a scrap booker's puzzle. Individual pieces are pieced and glued together to form the whole image.

For example, let's discuss how a picture of a birthday cake might be pieced together. The first "layer" of the birthday cake might be cut out of a pink-and-white polka dotted patterned paper. Then you might cut out the icing, using vellum, layered on top of ivory patterned paper. Next, you cut birthday candles out of different shades of matching paper. Then the flames for the candles are made from dark yellow paper. Last, sprinkles are added, cut from complementary patterned paper. All these pieces are glued together, creating a paper pieced birthday cake to use on your birthday-themed scrapbook page.

If you are a beginner to paper piecing, you might start out by using paper piecing patterns. These are black-and-white line art images that can be traced onto cardstock or scrapbook paper. Then you can cut them out and piece them together.

You can also find some pretty decent free paper piecing patterns online. If you are unsure of what to do, print out some of these free patterns and try them before purchasing any paper piecing packs. Practicing your paper piecing skills will give you good practice and help you feel more comfortable with piecing together more complicated patterns.

Another option for those new to paper piecing is to buy the pre-cut pieces. You can usually find packages of pre-cut shapes at most scrapbooking shops and online. These come in a wide array of patterns. They are great for learning how to paper piece, as well as for those quick projects that you want to complete in a short amount of time.

Paper Tearing

Are you ready to try something new and different in your next scrapbook layout? Paper tearing is quite popular and is an easy technique to master. It adds a distinctive touch to your page and creates a certain depth to the finished look.

Because there are all types of paper, made from all sorts of fibers and materials, you will achieve different looks, depending on the type of paper you use. After a bit of practice, you will start to learn which papers tear easier than others. You might want to practice several times before you attempt tearing the paper you want to use on your page.



There are two terms for you to remember about paper tearing: rough tear and smooth tear. A rough tear is achieved when you tear the edge of the paper by pulling it towards you. It's called "rough" because the tear creates a white, or unfinished, edge where you tore the paper. A smooth tear is achieved when you tear the edge of the paper by pulling it away from you. This creates the torn look, but with "smooth" edges (without the white showing).

When you first learn how to tear paper, you can draw a guideline on your paper first. This will guarantee that you tear exactly where you want to. It will also help you create a straight tear, if that is the effect you want from the tear.

Paper tearing can be used to create shapes and objects, too. Instead of using scissors to cut out a traced shape, like an Easter egg, tear it instead. Similarly, you can tear photo mats and layer torn papers to create an awesome frame for your pictures.

Paper tearing is fun and creative. Give it a try on your next scrapbook layout!

Tips & Ideas for Working with vellum

Vellum is a popular scrapbooking paper that is translucent and comes in varying styles, colors and weights. Many scrapbookers like vellum because it gives an elegant touch to scrapbook pages.

Tips and Ideas for Using Vellum:

- Vellum is delicate, and not as sturdy as regular scrapbook paper. Therefore, you need to treat it with extra care and be careful not to get too rough when handling it or it could accidentally tear or crease.
- Because vellum can be difficult to cut with regular scissors, try using a box cutter or X-ACTO knife instead.
- Create a pocket page with vellum and insert your memorable keepsakes in the pocket for safe keeping and easy viewing.
- Use vellum to create a “secret window” effect by covering an element on your scrapbook page. This will give the element a “smoky” effect, but not so much that you won’t be able to see it.
- Vellum is translucent so adhesives can be seen through the paper. Instead of using tape or glue, attach vellum to your scrapbook page with eyelets or brads.
- Another alternative to attaching vellum: Punch holes in the vellum. Thread ribbon through the holes, tie into a bow, and then attach to your scrapbook page.
- Using a pretty font, print your journaling for the scrapbook page on vellum.
- Use vellum to add accent to your page elements (icing on a cake, snowman for a winter scene, flower petals, etc.).

The sky is the limit when you scrapbook with vellum. Be creative and think outside the box to create fabulous, intricate pages with vellum.

The Benefits of Using Pre Cut Paper

Pre-cut paper is an excellent resource for scrapbookers to have on hand. The varying shapes and sizes that pre-cut paper comes in make it an even more attractive supply to keep on hand. Let's take a look at some of the benefits of using pre-cut scrapbook paper.

Pre-cut paper provides ready-made photo mats. How many times have you needed a square piece of paper to use as a mat for your photo? Probably more times than you can count. If you keep a pack of pre-cut paper on hand, the next time you need a photo mat you won't have to stop in the middle of your layout to cut one to use.

Pre-cut paper can be used to create border art. When you want to create a simple bordered page, pre-cut paper comes in handy. You can use the paper as-is, or trim the edge with a pair of decorative scissors for an extra touch. As a final touch, you can add a few stickers across the border to accentuate the page.

Pre-cut paper saves you time. Pre-cut paper, especially shapes (squares, triangles, circles, etc.), can save huge chunks of wasted time. You can quickly sift and sort through the shapes and colors, locate the perfect piece of paper you need for your layout, and move on to finish the layout. Otherwise, you'd spend even more time finding just the right papers, setting up your cutting station and trimming the paper to fit your need.

There are many hidden benefits of using pre-cut paper. All too often, scrap bookers won't purchase pre-cut paper packs. They think pre-cut paper is useless and they'll never find a need for it. Why not give it a try and see how pre-cut paper can make your scrapping easier?



What to Do With Your Paper Scraps

Paper scraps—a scrapper’s worst nightmare. Or are they?

Do you save your paper scraps? If you do, do you know what to do with them, or do you just stash them away, in hopes that you’ll figure out what to do with them one day? Try some of these ideas for using up those scrap pieces of scrapbook paper.

1. Paper piecing projects – Try your hand at paper piecing. Using paper scraps for paper piecing projects saves your full sheets of paper.
2. Punches – If you love paper punches, save your regular sheets of paper and use those scraps! Paper scraps are wonderful for when you only want one or two punches. TIP: Using all your punches, make lots of punch-outs from all sorts of your paper scraps, then store them all together in a clear zipper bag. The next time you need an extra page element or two, grab your bag of pre-punched shapes!
3. Page layouts – Use your paper scraps to create unique page layouts. Start by sketching your page layout with a pencil, and then determine how you will use the scraps on the page. This is a really fun way to use up scraps and to craft creative page layouts.
4. Make cards or bookmarks – If you frequently end up with lots of little scraps of paper, use them to create handmade cards. Have fun and be creative with your theme. Similarly, bookmarks are quick and fun to make and give to children or adults.

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5. Create page layouts in a mini album – Start a special mini album for your child. Use your paper scraps to create these smaller-scale layouts. You'll use your paper scraps and have an extraordinary gift that will make your child's day.



About Using Paper Trimmers

Are you still stuck using regular scissors to trim your scrapbook paper? While scissors are a necessary scrapbooking tool, paper trimmers are even more essential.

Paper trimmers look very much like an office paper trimmer, only in a smaller size. The greatest advantage to using paper trimmers are that they allow you to trim your scrapbook paper in a single motion, as opposed to the “chopping” method you use with scissors.

Paper trimmers come in handy for quick trims, too. If you’ve mounted your photo onto a piece of cardstock only to discover that one side has an extra bit of paper showing, slide it under the arm of the paper trimmer and trim the excess paper in a snap.

Another terrific way paper trimmers come in useful is for trimming photos. How often have you trimmed your photos for mounting, then realize one side is crooked? Using a paper trimmer to cut off that excess will give you a clean, straight cut.

Several scrapbook supply companies have decorative paper trimmers available now. These are used for creating decorative borders for your scrapbook page layouts. You can also use them to design unique pages, like ocean waves.

Paper trimmers are also showing up in varying shapes and sizes, like hearts, ovals and circles. These paper trimmers are also referred to as croppers or cutters. Like the traditional paper trimmer, these special cutters are extremely handy for cutting out shapes without having to trace with a pencil then cut on a line with scissors.

Spotting the Deals for Paper

Are you big on bargains? Do you search and seek out the best deals on all your scrapbook paper? How do you know if you're really getting the best deals? Make a list of every kind of scrapbook paper you need for your layouts. This will help you stay focused when you get ready to make your purchases.

Here are some ideas for spotting the deals on paper:

1. Watch for newspaper ads. Some scrapbook stores who run special discounts or sales place an advertisement in local newspapers. This is a good way to keep on top of the special local sales.
2. Sign up for free newsletters. If you are a big online shopper, see if your favorite shops offer a free newsletter. Many scrapbook businesses announce their sales early in their free newsletters.
3. Check online. Does your scrapbook store have a website? Check to see if they offer a printable sales paper or printable coupons.
4. Keep an eye out for holiday sales. Everybody has blowout sales after the holidays to get rid of the leftover holiday stock. What better time to stock up on scrapbook paper?!
5. Look for Buy One, Get One...sales. Watch for sales where you get a pack of scrapbook paper free or half off when you purchase the first at the full price. This is a good time to buy those large packs of paper that would normally be out of your price range.

Compare prices. Be a smart shopper. Shop around and compare prices at several scrapbooking stores (both online and offline) to find the best deals. When shopping online, remember to account for sales tax, shipping and handling charges.

The Best Paper to Print Your Digital Pictures On

So you want to print your own digital pictures at home? Do you know which paper is the best to use? Let's take a look at the different types of photo papers and which ones might be best to print your pictures on.

In case you aren't aware, "regular" printer paper is not the best kind to use for printing your photos. While you can print pictures on regular paper, the quality will not be good and the photo's life span will most likely not be very long.

You will most commonly find photo printer paper in a stationery department. However, more scrapbook stores are beginning to carry photo printer paper with their scrapbook supplies, as printing digital photos at home is very popular.

The two basic types of printer paper are glossy and matte. Glossy photo paper gives your photo a shiny finished look, while matte provides a more toned-down finish. Glossy paper is used mostly for photographs that are bright and colorful. Matte paper is often used for printing black-and-white or sepia images. There are other variances to take into consideration as well, like brightness and weight.

Lastly, you have to take into consideration what type of printer you have. Ink jet is by far the most popular household printer because it is inexpensive. Laser printers are higher-end printers, but are found in homes that do lots of printing. The type of printer you are using plays a large role in the kind of photo paper you will use because some papers are only suitable for certain printers.

There really is no "best" paper to print your digital photos on. The best advice is to study the different types of photo printer paper available to you, test them, then decide which one produces the best quality for you.

The Difference Between Cardstock and Mat Paper

With all the different types of scrapbook papers available today, it can get a little confusing trying to figure out what they all are and how to use them. Scrap bookers are sometimes puzzled about the difference between cardstock and mat paper.

Cardstock and mat paper are actually concurrent terms. In other words, they really are one in the same. Mat paper can be anything from cardstock to regular scrapbooking paper. “Mat” refers to the process of layering a photo on paper before attaching it to your scrapbook page. “Cardstock” is a term for a certain type of scrapbook paper.

Cardstock is a type of scrapbook paper that is thicker than regular paper. It is available in several “grades,” which is just a fancy term for the thickness of the paper. The higher the grade, the thicker the cardstock will be.

Because of its thickness, cardstock is used for projects that require a sturdy paper that can hold up. The most common example of how scrappers use cardstock is to make greeting cards.

Cardstock is used in scrapbooks because its thickness allows you to do more to your page. It can be used as the foundation to pages where lots of heavy embellishments are added. This gives the page a firmness which helps it hold up to the weightiness.

The two most popular types of cardstock are linen cardstock and smooth cardstock. Smooth cardstock is most commonly used for matting photos. Linen cardstock provides a textured surface. Experienced scrappers love using linen cardstock for those projects which require torn edges.