

# Scrapbooking for Beginners

The Internet is a great resource for anyone taking up a new hobby. If you're new to scrapbooking, you'll find many pages with tips for getting started, plus forums to ask questions and get advice.

Wherever you search for tips, you'll find that the scrapbooking for beginners' tips are fairly basic. Here are a few step-by-step tricks and tips to help you through your initial project:

1. The first step to beginning a scrapbook is to organize your photographs. Sort them by theme or topic, and decide which set you'd like to work on first.
2. Once your photos have been sorted, it's time to choose the paper for your background. Select two or three colours of specialized acid-free paper or cardstock that will complement the main colours of your photographs.
3. Choose one photo to be the main focus of your page.
4. Position your photographs where they will lie on the page to give you an idea of which ones will need to be cropped. Crop your pictures very carefully, because it's easy to get carried away and you don't want to trim too much off or slip with the scissors. Here are some extra cropping hints from the experts:
  - \* Do not crop Polaroid snapshots. There are chemicals inside the photos that will leak and ruin your picture or page
  - \* Be careful not to trim away any historical or place references that are a significant part of the story
  - \* Limit the number of shapes that you crop your photos into. In this case, less is definitely more
5. The next step in scrapbooking for beginners is to select any photos that will need to be matted. This can be a great way to highlight the focal point of a photo.
6. Journaling is an important element of modern scrapbooking. Adding your personal, handwritten thoughts and messages will incorporate important pieces of information, drama or humour to your project.
7. Choose your finishing touches wisely. Stickers and embellishments can add interest to the page, just be careful not to overdo it.
8. Now it's time to assemble your page. Arrange the items you've chosen, and secure them using recommended scrapbooking products. You might be tempted to use inexpensive glues or tape, but these can deteriorate or damage your work.
9. Finally, it's time to give yourself a hand as you look forward to creating your next scrapbook!

Scrapbooking for beginners is the same as any hobby. Take your time, use the proper tools and supplies, and keep your layout and designs simple. Your creativity will grow along with your scrapbooking skills.