

# How in the world do I organize my stacks of photos?

by Andrea Walford

*Whether you've just gotten started scrapbooking, you're thinking of getting started, or you just need a few tips or inspiration - then this monthly column is for you!*



Before you sit down to start planning your first scrapbook layout, it's really helpful to organize your photos in a way that makes sense to you.

***Find a spot you can spread out in for a few days.*** Find yourself a quiet corner of the house that doesn't get used on a daily basis - such as a dining room table. Make sure that the place you find has room to spread out. Once you've got your place, grab all the envelopes of photos and negatives that you have lying around in bins and boxes.

***Come up with categories that make sense to you.*** Grab a pad of sticky notes and a pen. Then, before you start, think about how you want to scrapbook. If your goal is to scrapbook by date, then sort

your photos chronologically. If you'd prefer to scrapbook by event - such as Christmas, family trips, etc - then categorize your photos by these events.

***Line up some empty boxes.*** Label the boxes with your sticky notes then go to it and sort your photos into the appropriate boxes.

***Keep negatives in chronological order in their envelopes or sleeves.*** My personal preference is to store my negatives in the binders and sleeves that are specifically designed for storing negatives (which you can get at most photo shops). Store them chronologically, being sure to label them with the date. It's much better to store the negatives in a safe place, separate from the photos themselves.

***Store your photos.*** Once you have sorted your photos and organized your negatives, it's time to figure out how you are actually going to store your photos. There are a few different options available. You could store them in three-ring binders using archival photo sleeves (available at photo shops, online and some scrapbook shops). Archival photo boxes are also widely available - set up tabs per category and be sure to leave some room for future photos. My personal favorite option is a photo box that Cropper Hopper puts out. It holds at least 1000 photos in a hard plastic carrying case.

Next month, we'll take a look a look at.....( *insert your next month's topic here*).

*Need a little help getting started? (call to action here)*