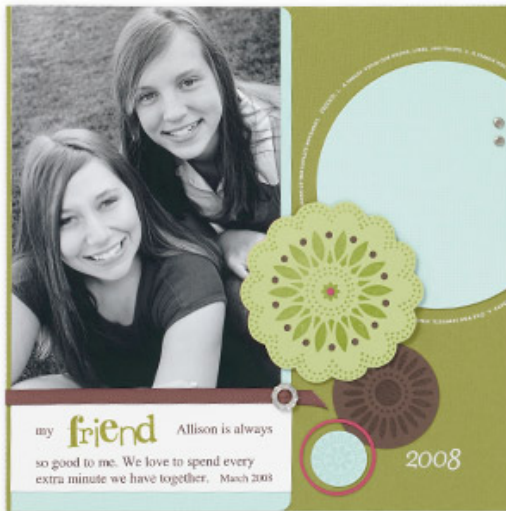


Overcoming your scrapbooking obstacles

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!



Last month we took a quick look at some of the most common reasons people don't scrapbook, or don't scrapbook more often:

1. You need a lot of supplies to get started.
2. I don't have the space to scrapbook.
3. I don't have enough time.
4. I'm not creative enough.
5. Every time I get started scrapbooking, I get interrupted by my kids, my husband, my dog, my...(fill in the blank)...

Whether you picked one, or all of them, I just may have the solution for you.....but first, let's de-bunk some of those myths.

You need a lot of supplies

Actually you really don't. The problem is that there are so many wonderful products on the market today that we talk ourselves into thinking that we NEED to have them in order to start scrapbooking. We drop \$200-\$300 to buy it all, then either give up because we don't know how to use what we bought, or we quit because we figure that scrapbooking is just too expensive of a hobby.

The truth? All you really need is an album, a paper trimmer, some adhesive and a scrapbook kit. Why a scrapbook kit? I find that the biggest challenge scrapbooking "virgins", new & still inexperienced scrapbookers, or infrequent scrapbookers tend to face, is that they get bogged down by the accumulated photographs of years and years, and then freeze when it comes time to scrapbook, because they just don't know where to start. A scrapbook kit helps you stay focused, and it is manageable. Also, you don't have to worry about mixing and matching products to put together a beautifully finished, coordinated page, as the kit has done it for you.

So how do you go about picking a scrapbook kit? There are two ways to start - event-based, or kit-based. When you start event-based scrapbooking, pick a recent event you celebrated and then choose a kit with that theme. When you start kit-based scrapbooking, you pick a kit you love, then assemble your pictures related to the theme of the kit (birthday, Christmas, etc.). We'll talk more about this next month, in the meantime, why not take a look at the gorgeous new Simply Scrappin' Kits in Stampin' Up!'s new Fall-Winter 2008 Idea Book & Catalogue? They are 10 different kits to choose from (see pages 172-175)!

You need lots of space

If you've invested in a lot of tools and supplies, then you know what? Yes, you probably do need a lot of space. If you followed my guidelines above, then no, you really don't. When I started scrapbooking I had a little table in the corner of my bedroom. All you really need is a SAFE place where you can leave your stuff out while you are working on it (i.e. somewhere your kids, dog, husband...won't get at it).

You need to be creative

Again, a common misconception. There are literally TONS of places you can go for inspiration. Blogs, websites, magazines, catalogues... If you're not familiar with the term CASEing then I suggest you **get familiar with the term *lol*** - it means "copy and share everything"! When I started scrapbooking 10 years ago, I used to easily spend 6 hours on a 2 page layout because I thought it had to be original. You know what? **There are no prizes for being original.** Once I absorbed that lesson, and started tapping into all the inspiration out there, and started copying layouts (sometimes changing colors & accents, sometimes keeping them the same) my pages took me only a fraction of the time (less than 1 hour in many cases).

You need a lot of time

How much time it really takes depends on how elaborate your pages are. Keep your pages simple. That's why, when I'm short on time (and with 5 kids, that's pretty much always) I love to use scrapbook kits - everything coordinates so I don't waste time hunting around for coordinating products, and it even comes with a few layout ideas; or, I CASE (see above).

I can hear some of you now...you may be thinking "That's easy for you, but it just won't work for me...I get overwhelmed when I even *think* about getting started."

I may just have the solution for you (insert call to action for your scrapbooking classes or clubs)