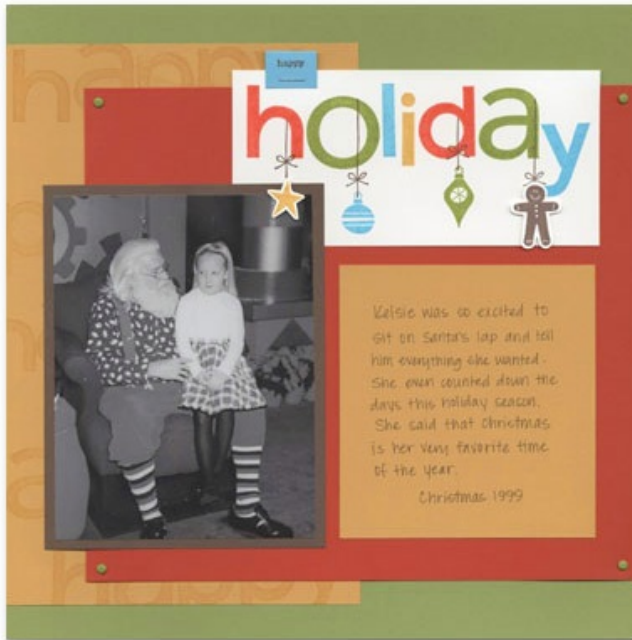


What type of album should I buy?

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!



When choosing the album you want to use to store your photos and scrapbook pages, you want to make sure that it is archival and acid- and lignin- free to preserve your memories. To decide what type of album you should buy, you need to begin by looking at what best fits your project. You may choose one type of album for a holiday scrapbook, and another type of album for a baby book. Here are some of the most popular types:

Three Ring Binder: With rings that snap apart, three-ring binders make inserting and shuffling your pages an easy thing. The pitfall? The rings tend to keep your 2-page spreads a little farther apart than with other albums.

Spiral Bound: These can be either wire-bound or plastic-bound with permanently attached pages. This type of album is best used for a one-topic or theme scrapbook that you won't want to add to later.

Strap-Hinge: These books contain a nylon strap that threads through staples on the reinforced edges of cardstock pages. The pros are that these albums are expandable, lie flat when open, and keep 2-page spreads close together. On the down side, you have to take the album apart to add or re-arrange pages.

Post-bound: These albums contain pages that are bound by a set of threaded bolts that stay hidden under a flap. To re-arrange or add pages you need to unscrew the posts and remove the exterior pages first. To expand the album all you need to do is add extensions - so expanding the album is a cinch. This type of album tends to be the most popular.

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)