

“April hath put a spirit of youth in everything.” ~William Shakespeare

# Create A Beautiful Album In Two Months Or Less – Start To Finish!



Hello, and welcome back! – It’s so nice to be talking with you again! Did you have a good Easter? Ours was great – the family got together for a backyard barbeque, then we had our annual Easter egg and treasure hunt. This was Milly & Molly’s first holiday with us, and they enjoyed all the festivities.

With Easter so early this year, the coming of spring means just one thing: National Scrapbook Day is almost here! We at Imagine That! Scrapbooks & Gifts are planning to celebrate in style, with a fabulous blowout event. YAY! Stay tuned for more details.

But for now, I wanted to help you get your albums done fast and fabulous. This month, I’m going to give you my secret recipe to teach you a way to complete your album in a FRACTION of the time it used to take.

The secret, oddly enough, is in Henry Ford’s assembly line. Yes, that’s right – Henry Ford, the inventor of the assembly line is responsible for this month’s helpful hint.

Well, not entirely, and not that we’re building cars, exactly, but bear with me here, while I explain. The principle of the assembly line is the same, whether you are building cars, hamburgers, or scrapbook albums.

Henry Ford realized that if he wanted to sell automobiles to the public at a reasonable price, he was going to have to re-think the way things had always been done. It simply wouldn’t work to build cars from scratch, one at a time. It just took too long. And so, he devised a system where cars could be built much faster, piece by piece, in a – well – assembly line style.

Since then, the same amazing principle has been carried forward, shaping the entire realm of manufacturing, and now, today, we are going to apply its miracles to scrapbooking!

The approach I’m about to teach you will absolutely help you complete your albums faster.

I’ve been doing it for years. It involves a shift in thinking – from completing PAGES one at a time – to completing entire ALBUMS, step by step. And yes, when you look at the process it’s like an assembly line.

But don’t worry, this approach won’t take the fun out of scrapping – to the contrary, for me, scrapping becomes so much MORE enjoyable, because I can see my progress so much more easily.

Of course, not everyone will prefer this method, but by far, the VAST majority of women I have taught it to greatly prefer it, even going so far as to say that it has helped keep them from getting burned out on scrapbooking altogether.

OK, so let’s get started:

**STEP ONE: Naturally, get all your pictures and memorabilia together.** Figure out about how many photos will fit in the album you wish to complete, and get them in chronological order.

**STEP TWO: Crop your photos.** And I don’t mean just the ones for the first page – I’m talking about the WHOLE STACK. Just sit down in front of the TV one night, or maybe at your child’s next sporting event, and crop away.

Done with that? Good!

**STEP THREE: Arranging.** This is fun. Allow yourself a little extra space at your workstation so you can actually lay several pages out at once. What you’re doing in this step, is deciding what pictures will go on what page, then loosely tacking them down to keep them temporarily in place. The reason I love this step is because it gives me the freedom to get an idea of what the final layout of the album will look like, before I actually commit to anything.

For example. I really like working with two page spreads. Let’s say I’m working on Easter pictures. As I’m going along, I realize that they will all fit on the left-hand page. Problem is, I want my next group of photos to make a two-page spread. I have a couple of options.

I can either spread my Easter photos out onto a two-page spread, or I can insert some miscellaneous photos onto the facing page. Either way, the result is that my next set of pictures will end up on facing pages as well.

Or, I may find that after I’ve laid everything out, I have one extra photo remaining. I still have the flexibility to squeeze it in somewhere, or eliminate something else.

All of these little problems would be big problems if I were completing my album page by page. I wouldn’t be able to make the little changes, because I’d already be locked into my layouts. But when you’re working assembly line, you can make corrections as you go.

So are you still with me? First, we selected and cropped all our photos. Then, we arranged and tacked them down with just a touch of adhesive, to the page.

Moving right along...

**STEP FOUR: Decorate and Embellish.** Once you have all your pages laid out, you’re finally ready to decorate and embellish. And you’ll be surprised when you see how fast this step actually goes, when you’re able to concentrate on just one thing, and are able to really get on a roll.

Another tip that will make this step move more quickly for you, is to, whenever possible, think in terms

of two-page spreads. For one thing, they look nice. Your eye flows right across the pages, and they flow better than if you go with something completely clashing from the left page to the right.

Also, and this is what I really like about them, two-page spreads are TWICE AS EASY TO COMPLETE! Think about it: the thing that takes the longest to complete as you're going along, is DECIDING HOW TO DECORATE YOUR PAGE! If you decorate each page individually, it takes you TWICE as long, as if you think of your two pages as ONE BIG LAYOUT.

Now that's a good tip, if I do say so myself. You're going to thank me for that one later, I just know it.

OK, now our pages are all decorated and we're moving into the home stretch...

*FYI: Some scrappers prefer to combine steps 2 and 3. It helps them to actually see their layouts as they are deciding how much to crop from their photos.*

**STEP FIVE: Journaling.** This may not be the case for you, but I find that I have trouble journaling when I'm cropping with my friends. I just can't concentrate the way I want to. So I usually save this step for a time when I'm by myself. I make a nice cup of coffee or tea; sometimes I even light a candle to really set the mood. Then I start journaling. I can get an entire album done in a couple of nights, when I'm just focused on the writing.

Again, if you're traveling or waiting for your kids to finish an activity, this is a great project to bring along. All you need are your album and pens!

You finish that last paragraph of writing on that last page, and guess what. You my friend are done. You have finished an album!

It's beautiful, it's satisfying, and it's done. Now you and your family actually get to enjoy looking through the photos and remembering the fun times you shared.

And it won't take long at all. I am not exaggerating when I say that with this approach, working only one night a week, if you are willing to do simple layouts, you can complete an entire album in two months or less.

How's that for motivation!

Working in this style is satisfying to me, because I can really see myself "getting somewhere!" It makes sense in my orderly little head. I also find that I actually work a lot faster, because I'm not constantly switching gears from choosing photos, laying them out, to being creative and decorating my pages, to being verbal and journaling. It's just too hard to keep that many parts of my brain going, all at once!

With the assembly line, I only have to use one part of my brain at a time, and the arranging, decorating and journaling steps go SO MUCH more quickly, because I can get on a roll.

Another side benefit is that when you come to crops you won't have to carry so much stuff! If you're just cropping and arranging one night, you won't need to bring your papers and embellishments, and if all you're doing is decorating your pages, you won't need your cropping tools. OH, IT'S SO LIBERATING!

When you come to our National Scrapbook Day Celebration (call early to reserve your spot - they fill up FAST!☺) National Scrapbook Day is always the first Saturday of May- meaning this year's event is on May 03<sup>rd</sup>. We have some special things planned.

**Can you believe that we will be three (3) years old this month! April 09<sup>th</sup> is our birthday- and we want to thank all our old friends and welcome all our new ones.**

## Welcome New Scrappers!

*Here are the new scrappers that became members of our scrapbooking family this last month!  
We'd like to welcome you publicly, and wish you all the best! Come see us again real soon.*

**Tavia D, Corina R, Jennifer W, Sharree W, Amanda D, Michele P**

# Perfect Family Quotes:

## What To Say When You Don't Know What To Say

20 Perfect Quotes That Say Just The Right Thing, In Just The Right Way

Among God's best gifts to us are the people who love us.

Like branches on a tree, we may grow in different directions, yet our roots remain as one.

Our family tree is blessed with thee.

I don't care how poor a man is; if he has family, he's rich. ~Colonial Potter, *M\*A\*S\*H*

Families are like fudge - mostly sweet with a few nuts.

When you look at your life, the greatest happinesses are family happinesses. ~Joyce Brothers

Any man can be a father, but it takes someone special to be a daddy.

It is admirable for a man to take his son fishing, but there is a special place in heaven for the father who takes his daughter shopping. –  
John Sinor

To her, the name of father was another name for love. – Fanny

Flowers have the sun, children have their mothers.

Being a full-time mother is one of the highest salaried jobs in my field, since the payment is pure love. ~Mildred B. Vermont

It's not easy being a mother. If it were easy, fathers would do it.  
~ *The Golden Girls*

No matter how old a mother is, her children will always be her babies.

It's such a fun thing to be the mother of a mother – that's why the world calls her grandmother.

Who needs a pony when you've got Grandpa!

The world shines bright with endless possibilities each time a child is born.

A child fills a place in your heart you never knew was empty.

When you're close to the ground, there's more dirt to be found.

I'll have fun-fun-fun 'til my daddy takes my bicycle away...

The laughter of a child is the light of a home.

***We love helping our customers and their friends and relatives with all of their photo and scrapbooking projects! We are here to help you keep scrapbooking fun and stress FREE! Don't be a stranger. Stop in or Call us, and we will assist you with all of your scrapping needs.***



# Perfect Chicken

*"The most remarkable thing about my mother is that for thirty years she served the family nothing but leftovers. The original meal has never been found."*

*~Calvin Trillin*

I have recently been made privy to what could very well be considered THE PERFECT CHICKEN SALAD recipe. And considering the fact that it is not *every* day that one is given the perfect chicken salad recipe, I thought that I might share my good fortune with you, my trusted and deserving customers... so here you go, and without any further ado...

## **The PERFECT CHICKEN SALAD**

*(As with all perfect recipes, the instructions are simple, and the quantities are negotiable.)*

### **INGREDIENTS**

- 2 lbs. cooked boneless, skinless chicken breast, cut into teeny pieces
- 1 and 1/4 tsp. dill, divided
- 1/2 cup Mayonnaise
- 4-5 tbsp. vinegar and oil salad dressing (I like Newman's Best Brand)
- 3/4 cup chopped celery
- 3/4 cup slivered almonds
- 1 cup red grapes, cut in half and/or
- 1 can mandarin oranges
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1/8 tsp. pepper

Cut chicken into very small pieces, and cook on the stove in a pan with 2 tbsp. olive oil.

Add dill, and cook until chicken is white all the way through.

Meanwhile, combine all the other ingredients, except the mandarin oranges in a large bowl.

Let your cooked chicken cool a few minutes before adding it to the bowl, and refrigerate.

Sprinkle on another 1/4 tsp of dill, and gently toss in mandarin oranges just before serving.

Serve on croissants – YUM! A real crowd-pleaser.

## **Featured Product Of The Month:**

**Our Entire Inventory of Loose Printed Papers by My Mind's Eye Are On Sale!**

Sunshine reflecting off the trees, the laughter of a child, and the dazzling allure of new 12x12 papers. It's the little things in life that make us happy, isn't it? This month we talked about a streamlined approach to completing albums. Well what is more streamlined than pre-printed 12" pages? You stick them down, add your photos, and you're done! Come on in this month and bask in the array of new colors and prints we have in stock, just for your happiness! And, to make you even happier, for every 5 you buy, we'll give you another sheet for free (My Mind's Eye line only)! How about that for Pure Scrapping Joy?!

**Imagine That! Scrapbooks & Gifts FEATURED APRIL OFFER**

**Buy 5, Get 1 Free**

**On our ENTIRE selection of My Mind's Eye printed papers!**

Offer good through 4-20-08. May not be used in combination with any other coupons or special offers.