

# The Scrapbook Sentinel

A Free Newsletter For The Friends of:  
**Imagine That! Scrapbooks & Gifts**

*Good Idea:* Finding Easter eggs on Easter.

*Bad Idea:* Finding Easter eggs on Christmas.

## Simple = Beautiful, In Closets AND In Scrapbooks!

If there is something about spring-cleaning that appeals to every American's psyche, it's the notion of clearing out, opening up and simplifying. There's nothing quite like the feeling of gazing into that newly renovated closet, drawer or scrapbook room, and feeling the buoyant lightness of heart that only order can give.

I remember when my daughter was at that transitional age where Barbies and Polly Pockets had lost their magic, and she was ready to send it all to greener pastures. As a result, we gave her room a TREMENDOUS overhaul, which resulted in a garage-full of give-aways for lucky family, friends and neighbors. (Of course I can't get rid of everything so a few were saved in the garage.)

The results were breathtaking. When you opened her closet, you would be greeted by...

Space.

A tidy rod of clothing suspended over an un-stressed 3-drawer organizer with art supplies.

I caught her many times, in the playroom, just staring at the neatly stacked board games and bins of building toys and tea sets that she still loved, and could now get to... heck, sometimes, we would stand there and gaze at it together! My son on the other hand never could depart with anything on his own. It had to be done when he was not looking.

I KNOW you know what I'm talking about...

So how is it, that our love for simplicity and order doesn't necessarily translate into the hobby that we love as well?

We know that scrap-booking is fun! It's our creative outlet; our source of satisfaction; our legacy.

So why do we clutter up our pages with every color under the sun, spray stickers across the page as Andrea Grossman says, "Like a sneeze," and in

general create all manner of stress-headache for ourselves, in the "going-on-4-hour-attempt" to create the perfect page?!

Breathe.

Today, I'm going to remind you of an approach that, once you try it, you KNOW IN YOUR SPIRIT will bring you that kind of take-your-breath-away, lightness of heart that only simplicity can bring.

First of all, think about the feeling that space and order gives... in your closet, your medicine cabinet, your junk drawer. Now, translate that feeling onto your scrapbook page.

Weird, huh?

Bear with me.

Who was it that decided that a scrapbook layout had to be entirely covered... with photos, journaling, stickers, printed paper, embellishments... in order to be "finished?"

What's so terrible about open space? We LOVE it in our living rooms, our counter-tops and drawers, but we somehow labor under the misguided



belief that space in our layouts = incompleteness, or boring blankness.

I can just HEAR you... "Simple pages are for beginners; they're boring. I have 400 pounds of papers, stickers, and metal hinges, and I'm going to use them, I don't care what you say!"

Relax.

A simple layout is clean, sophisticated, and elegant; it allows you to put your focus on your family's memories, IN ADDITION TO using your metal hinges. What's boring about that?

Try this:

1. Select the photos you will use for your next two-page-spread.
2. Choose a color from your photos that you want to highlight, and grab one coordinating solid, one or two printed papers and ONE (not ten!) embellishment to match.
3. Take a look at the sample layouts here in the newsletter. See how the papers and the photos are positioned. Duplicate these "formulas" (or any other layout you like,) by copying the arrangement, using your own colors, patterns and supplies.



Can you see how easy and pleasing the simple layout can be? The elements pull the layout together beautifully, while allowing you to BREATHE. It's relaxed – satisfying – and a pleasure to gaze at... just like the

organized shelves.

Now check out the page in the top right corner. While this layout still follows the elements of simplicity, look and see how you can "create" complexity just by the paper you choose. You still have the same "clean" simplicity, but the bright colors serve not only to highlight and draw your attention to a

darker photo, they also create a lot of "activity" in what is really a very simple layout.

### Some Helpful Hints:

When working with prints, especially busy ones, be sure to

mat your photos with a solid. Use the color you most want to focus on. Matting will save your photos from getting "lost" in the print, by setting it apart from the background.

When adding elements, think in terms of balance. In my examples, the stickers and ribbons crossed the page diagonally, drawing your eye across the entire page.

Also, when choosing your supplies, think in terms of kits. Most of us are not Scrapbook Designers... that's why they HAVE Scrapbook Designers! So that the rest of us DON'T have to figure out what works best with what. Or choose from lines that have coordinating papers, stickers, embellishments, etc. . The colors all match. The stickers, rub-ons, brads and ribbons work with every sheet of paper.

When you're shopping for supplies, you don't necessarily know EXACTLY what you're going to want to do when you sit down to scrapbook. Kits give you OPTIONS. You can CHANGE YOUR MIND and go in another direction at THE DROP OF A HAT!

Pick out SEVERAL sheets from the same display. Get the ribbons, buttons and tags that go together – do it all at once, right while you're standing in the aisle, so you'll have them when you need them.



**Thank You Everyone for the constant prayers on behalf of myself and Ronnie. This has been a most difficult time for us and we could not do it without the prayer, love and support. This is a horrible disease and we are true believers he is healed- Even when told otherwise. You can always keep updated by visiting his website at [www.caringbridge.org/visit/ronnievanwinkle](http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/ronnievanwinkle) THE POWER OF PRAYER!**

# Easter Egg Decorating Tips



Tired of the Same-Old-Same-Old glasses of vinegar water and colored pellets for decorating Easter eggs? Try these ideas to liven up this year's basket...

The first thing you need is either hard-boiled or blown eggs. If you use hard-boiled eggs and you plan to eat them, they must be kept refrigerated. Do not eat if they have been left out or painted with acrylic paints. Once decorated and fully-dried, you can give hard-boiled eggs a nice polishing with cooking oil and a soft cloth.

## ● Blown Eggs

If you want to keep your decorated eggs it is best to use blown eggs. However, blown eggs are much more fragile and harder for young kids to handle. To make a blown egg, poke a small hole in each end of the egg with a large needle. Push needle into egg and twist around to break the yoke. Hold the egg over a bowl and blow hard through the hole until the shell is empty. Rinse eggshells well and allow to dry. (Save the raw eggs and scramble for breakfast.) Blown eggs can also be sprayed with acrylic spray for a permanent finish.

## ● Naturally Died Eggs

Pour 1/2 cup water in each sauce pan. Add cut-up fruit, vegetables or plants (carrots, blueberries, grass, coffee all work well). Bring to a boil and simmer until water turns color you like. Remove from heat and strain, reserving water. When water is cool add boiled or blown eggs. Let sit until they turn the desired color. Remove with slotted spoon and allow to dry.

## ● Waxed Eggs

Draw a heavy crayon pattern on hard-boiled egg. Dip egg in egg dye – preferably a dark color. Leave in dye until desired color is reached. Remove with slotted spoon and place in 200 degree F oven for a few minutes until wax is melted. Wipe with paper towel and dip again in lighter dye to fill in pattern where wax was.

*Or...* Grate peeled crayons over waxed paper. Fill jar with very hot water. Drop bits of grated crayon into water. Add hard-boiled or blown egg as soon as crayon begins to melt. Swirl egg in water with spoon. The wax should make a design on the egg. Carefully remove egg and set upside-down in egg carton to dry.

## ● Masked Eggs

Stick a pattern of masking tape on plain, hard-boiled egg. Dip egg in egg dye and leave until desired color is reached. Remove with slotted spoon and air dry. Remove masking tape when dry. Leave masked areas white or dip again in another lighter dye.

## ● Sponged Eggs












Place hard-boiled or blown eggs in egg cups. Partially fill paper cups with different colors of paint. Clip a piece of sponge to a clothes pin and dip into paper cups, use the clothes pin as a handle. Lightly dab the sponge over the top half of the egg. Let dry. Turn egg over and repeat procedure, then let the egg dry completely.

## ● Scrapped Eggs

Pull out bits and pieces from your scrapbooking stash! Stickers, gems, rub-ons and ribbons can transform an ordinary egg into a masterpiece with fabulous flair.



## The Rules of Chocolate

-  If you get melted chocolate all over your hands, you're eating it too slowly.
-  **The problem:** How to get two pounds of chocolate home from the store in a hot car.  
**The solution:** Eat it in the parking lot.
-  **Diet tip:** Eat a chocolate bar before each meal. It'll take the edge off your appetite and you'll eat less.
-  A nice box of chocolates can provide your total daily intake of calories in one place. Isn't that handy?
-  If you can't eat all your chocolate, it will keep in the freezer. But if you can't eat all your chocolate, what's wrong with you?
-  If calories are an issue, store your chocolate on top of the fridge. Calories are afraid of heights, and they will jump out of the chocolate to protect themselves.
-  Money talks. Chocolate sings.
-  Chocolate has many preservatives. Preservatives make you look younger.
-  Why is there no such organization as Chocoholics Anonymous?  
Because no one wants to quit.
-  Put "eat chocolate" at the top of your list of things to do today. That way, at least you'll get one thing done.
-  Chocolate is a health food. Chocolate is derived from cacao beans. Bean = vegetable. Sugar is derived either from sugar beets or cane, both vegetables. And, of course, the milk/cream is dairy. So eat more chocolate to meet the dietary requirements for daily vegetable and dairy intake.

### Featured Product Of The Month

#### All Our Pre-Assembled Scrapbook Kits Are On Sale!

Got the "Too Much To Do And Not Enough Time To Figure It All Out" blues? Come in and find a kit that makes you happy. One that says "You" all over it. Then see what you can do when the coordinating supplies are sitting in front of you, and the only decision you have to make is how many pages you want to complete!



**Imagine That Scrapbooks & Gifts**  
**APRIL GIFT TO YOU!**

**Buy one get second one**  
**(from select group FREE)**

**All Our Pre-Made Scrapbook Kits!**

Offer good **3-1-09 through 3-14-09.**

Free Item must be of equal or lesser value. May not be used in combination with any other coupons or special offers.

**Imagine That Scrapbooks & Gifts**  
**APRIL GIFT TO YOU!**

**Buy one get second one**  
**(from select group FREE)**

**All Our Pre-Made Scrapbook Kits!**

Offer good **3-15-09 through 3-31-09.**

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