

Top 10 Tips to Help You Finish a Project

Does this sound like you? You have always *intended* to start scrapbooks of your trip to Disneyland or your child's first year of life or (*insert YOUR unfinished project here*) but somehow there never seems to be enough hours in the day.

Let me help you!

Here are my Top Ten Tips designed to “get ‘er done”!

10. Pick a Story.

What story do you most want to tell? Is it that trip to Disneyland, the camping trip that went horribly wrong (or is that just me), the Halloween party you threw 10 years ago that your friends are still talking about? Pick one story and start from there.

9. Gather Your Photos and Memorabilia.

Sort through your digital photos and print off the ones that MOST support your story. You may have taken 50 shots of your children on the Tea Cups (again, was that just me?) but you don't need to print them all off. Let me repeat that. *You do not need to print every single photo you took from an event!* Memorabilia consists of park maps, business cards, train tickets, menus, anything extra that you picked up on your trip because you wanted to remember a specific place or event. Combined with your photos, memorabilia can add depth and context to your story.

8. Assess Your Needs.

The size of album you need to buy will be determined by the number of photos and amount of memorabilia you have chosen to go into it. If you've got more than 20 photos, you need to look at something bigger than 6" x 6". A 12" x 12" or 8.5" x 11" album will fit your needs better and if you've got more than 50 photos, you should just go ahead and buy two!

7. What about supplies? Time to Go Shopping!

Shop your stash first. Always! If you are new to scrapbooking buy only a few basics until you determine what you most like to work with and then add to your stash. For albums with a specific theme (Disney, Baby, Camping, Wedding, etc) odds are good that you can find papers and embellishments to suit that theme. That is a really excellent place to start. As far as specific quantities ... that will vary with every scrapper. Have at least one sheet of card stock (solid coloured paper) per page in your album of choice as well as one to two sheets of patterned paper per page. That will give you enough options to keep your album looking cohesive and well designed.

6. Gather Your Supplies.

If you have a room in your home where you can lay out your photos and supplies and leave them out until the project is done, great! If not, don't despair. Get an empty box or Rubbermaid container and keep all your supplies there. You can take this container into whichever room of your home you'd like to work in, work on a few pages and then pack everything up until your next crafting opportunity. One caveat – try to leave that box out somewhere you can see it every day. Out of sight, out of mind, right?

5. **Batch Process**

By this I mean do all of one type of task at one time. You've already done this when you printed/gathered all your photos and supplies. Now take it to the next level. Determine the order of photos and slip them into the page protectors in your album in order. Next, determine which papers you want to use with each set of photos and go ahead and slip those into the page protectors too. Repeat with your embellishments, memorabilia and letter stickers (this last one may be tougher as you will probably want to use the same letter stickers throughout your album – it's okay to leave them out if this is the case). This will set you up for faster scrapbooking!

4. **Write your stories down.**

Look at each set of photos you've put into your page protectors and jot down your thoughts about them. Start with the basics – who, what, where, when, why – and then add details. Your feelings, your family's feelings, the funny things your kids said, the way the light striking the water made you think of your Grandmother who passed away last year. Whatever feels relevant to the story! Jot it down on scrap paper and slip that into the sleeves too.

3. **Time to Cut and Paste.**

Guess what? You've done 70% of the work already! Time to tackle that other 30%. If you're the type of person who needs to start at the beginning of the story and work chronologically, then start with your first page and first set of photos, papers and extras. If you need to work with whatever is speaking to you at that time, then choose a set of photos that grabs you and pull them out of their protective sheet. Lay the photos out on your card stock, add patterned paper, embellishments, a title and – don't forget to leave room for it – your journaling. Voila! A finished page.

2. **Repeat as needed.**

Here's where the beauty of leaving it out where you can see it every day kicks in. Work on it bit by bit until all your stories are told and all your page protectors have completed pages in them. Even 15 minutes a day to move papers around or add another button or two is enough. Just commit to doing *something* every day until it's finished.

1. **Share Your Work!**

Show your family your finished album. They will enjoy reliving the experience through your pages. Share online through sites like [mine](#), or on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Flickr](#), [Pinterest](#) ... there are so many options for sharing and so many wonderful scrappers out there willing to look!

Well, there you have it. My Top Ten Tips for taking a project from “someday I really must ...” to “look at my finished album!”

Can't wait to see what you share!

Happy Scrapping!