



Scrap-A-Latte!



Make Your Own A, B, C Album!!!

Scrapbooking! Make you excited? BUT! Want to know how to get started TODAY with you're A,B,C Album?? Want some fresh ideas? Well, this article is FOR YOU!

Decide On Your A B C Album Theme...

I love A,B,C Albums because they are so EASY to put together while being such a blast to work on!

A,B,C Albums are great for any holiday (Christmas, Thanksgiving, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Fourth of July...on and on!), special celebration (birthdays...anniversaries...retirement...etc!), etc. Pick your theme. Then, the rest is EASY!

Gather your BASIC SUPPLIES!

There is SO much out there that we could spend millions of dollars on supplies and still not have the right supplies to actually work and complete our family albums. I have spent SO much money through the years and found that so much of what I had was inferior to the better quality products that were easier to use anyway. I have also spent my time and money on things that made it too difficult to begin, much less complete an album! So, want to know the MUSTS? Here they are:

♥Albums...Don't scrimp here! BUY THE BEST! Or, if your

budget IS an issue, why not decide now on the SIZE of the album that you want to use and just buy the RE-FILL pages to work on at this time.

♥Sheet Protectors...Oh, yeah! Another MUST! Again, use these as you work to protect your pages. YES! They are needed to protect your pictures and memorabilia from rubbing and being susceptible to damage. Worth every penny!

♥Adhesives...Another MUST! I love my tape runner almost as much as my photos! NOT REALLY! It can be used for anything—even dried flowers. I keep one of these on hand at all times AND we also keep baskets of glue stick for all of our notebooking and other projects. These are MUSTS! You an usually find these very reasonably priced at Sam's or local stores.

♥PAPER! I keep several kinds of paper on hand for my projects. I have bright colored cardstock, white cardstock, printed cardstock, packets of pre-cut shapes and touches of color, and of course, regular paper for printing off my journaling, captions, and titles. Begin easy, but concentrate here for the most options.



You can do SO much with just PAPER!

♥Your Extras...See the next page for ideas on extras like your embellishments, etc that will not blow your budget! You will love those ideas!

Take Time To GET ORGANIZED!

Want to prepare for your album? If you don't have your scrap- ping goodies organized, I recommend that you FIRST get everything together in its own spot! Then, you will be ready to sit down for those moments when you can sneak away to work on your album.

I simplified all of my "stuff" so I could take what I REALLY use with me on the road or sit in the family room for snatches of time all along the way. It is really working! What do I carry WITH me?

Right now, I am working on my own Homeschool A,B,C Album. I began by sitting down and brainstorming through the alphabet to figure out what KEY WORDS I wanted to use as my focus for each letter of the alphabet. I thought of key words

Focus on A, B, C's in Your Albums Using CIRCLES, SQUARES, and Other Shapes!!

♥© **Titles!** One of my FAVORITE touches in my albums is to use shapes being the lettering in my titles. Yes! Easy! Fun! Very cheap! But, best of all, your lettering stands out so much better! How to do it? Simply cut a



circle (square, hexagon, triangle, or any shape you like!) for each letter in your title. Add sticker letters OR die cut lettering! Just that easy! And... sOOOO cute!

♥© **Borders!** Another favorite of mine! Use your shapes to form into objects (snowmen, flowers, pebbles...). Decorate shapes with your lettering and

any stickers, drawings, on and on! Absolutely adorable!

♥**Want to make your own shapes easily?** My FAVORITE tool is the Sizzix Die Cutting System! I have been buying extra die cuts all along the way! Now, I have my alphabet die cuts...my tags...and basic shapes! The sky is the limit now!

Quick Tips to Bring Out The Writer In YOU!

♥ **Remember that you are telling YOUR family story!** What better way to pass on your legacy inside the pages of your albums! Oh! And those details that you are probably taking for granted are SO fun and interesting to others! You don't want the "turtle story" to be forgotten! Those pictures of those EIGHTEEN turtles mean very little to just anyone! BUT! Capture the story in print about how Matthew, barely five-years-old and so broken-hearted when his neighborhood friends snuck into the backyard to let his turtle out of the cage, learned the abundant provision of the Lord as he turned to pray for his "enemies" instead of harboring unforgiveness and planning revenge. EIGHTEEN turtles later, we have a legacy and a story that can give generations we may never know a glimpse into our hearts AND into how God will provide EVEN in the little things! This story MUST be preserved! You have one! Remember that YOUR story is a

gift for future generations!

♥ **Record WHO YOU ARE and WHAT YOUR STORY IS!** What is it that we most treasure about relationships? What can be the greatest source of pain? Well, looking at most families, I believe that one of the greatest privileges we have as a family is to get to KNOW one another! There is a pang in each of our hearts for those that we love, but feel we really never KNOW! Insure that this does not happen to those that you love! Record those Bible verses that God gives you along the way! Jot down your struggles. Be sure to keep a story of God's provision during those times that you did not see hope! Journal those funny stories OR cute sayings that the children say through the years. Write out your dreams...and how they come true! You can even LIST those details like a timeline of your courtship,,,neat things to remember from your childhood (favorite colors, fads, toys, books you loved to read, movies

you love etc!) Record who YOU ARE and ALL of YOUR STORY!

♥ **Write down family stories that YOU know!** I know, I know! Every time that your parents would cross the Mississippi River on those long trips to Texas, they would tell those SAME OLD STORIES! Well, don't take them for granted! Those are TREASURES that MUST be passed down! Those are the ties that bind families together in bonds that cannot be broken! Those are the true heirlooms that mean more than anything during the grieving process or during those times you want to pass your legacy to your children! True treasures! Worth more than pure gold!

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Need Ideas For Your Summer Page Toppers??



Ready to try your hand with your NEW A,B,C's?? Try out these awesome topper ideas!

Beach
Vacation
A Day at the Beach
All Wet
Automobile adventure/s
Back to the beach
Bathing Beauties
Beach Babies
Beach Ball Babes
Beach Bonaza
Beach Bum(s)
Beauty on the Beach
By the Sea
Captain(s) At the Helm
Catchin' some waves
Down by the Sea
Going Bye-bye
Life's a Beach!
Living and Laughing on the Beach
Motel Moments

Mr. Sandman
Ocean Adventures
Ocean Fun
On the Road
Peek-a-boo! I sea you!
Reach the Beach
Ready, set, go
Rugged Route
Sandcastles
Shore Things
Snorkeling Fun
Splish Splash
Sun Splashing
Surf, Sand, Fun
Surf's Up
The surf, the sand...Ain't life grand?
Traveling Together
Under the Sea
Unofficial beach bum
We Love the Beach
We're off
Wet n' Wild
Building Special memories

Down By The Bay
Every Which Way But Loose
Foot Loose and Fancy Free
Fun in the sun
High Plains Drifter
Homeward Bound
I'm Leaving on a Jet Plane
Just Plane Cute
Just Plane Fun
LA Story
The Long and Winding Road
Off we go, into the wild blue yonder
On The Road Again
Planes, Trains and Automobiles
Row, Row, Row Your Boat
Sail away

Add A Touch of Texture While Sticking To Your Budget!!

- ♥ Go to your local heirloom shop or fabric store! Try out **DMC PEARL COTTON**. Pearl Cotton comes in several different sizes (Thickness—I know of at least 4 completely different sizes!) and hundreds of colors. Not just offering you variety, you will find Pearl Cotton to be a cheap source of fibers to adorn your pages!
- ♥ While you are at the fabric/craft section, take a peek at the cute **BUTTONS** that are always abundant! You need not pay "three prices" for your

embellishments just because they are a few aisles over!

- ♥ Check out good old fashion **HEMP**. Hemp is now available in most craft stores for VERY reasonable. Check out the aisles with any jewelry making supplies! Thread a piece through your tag—tie a knot. VOILA! You have a touch of "old timey" texture! String along your page, tying a knot every so often...thread through your eyelets...let your imagination go! Easy...and best of all, CHEAP!!

- ♥ Try out **BRADS!** Remember those BIG Brads from school days? Well, add a special touch to your A,B,C Album with Scrapbooking Brads! Brads are great for wrapping fibers around, hanging alphabet squares, anchoring journaling, creating great corner and picture frame embellishments. Brads come in all sizes and shapes. My current favorite embellishment is the mini-brad. They are so versatile (and adorable!) that I find a great spot on most of my pages just for them!

that reminded me of Homeschooling my children through the years. After that, I pulled photos out that "represent" those key words.

Well, I always organize my photos first by going through them and pulling out the photos to consider for the album that I am working on now. I put them in my little photo organizer along with my brainstorming ideas. The others I left in my big photo bin. They are organized in chronological order waiting for me until I am ready for the next album!

I also took a bit of time to organize all of my paper. I have all of my paper in a paper file ordered by color. It is SO helpful to find those pages that I need when I need them! I also have my smaller card-stock shapes (circles, triangles, ovals, rick-rack, waves, etc.), and "die-cuts" divided in another paper file by color so I can easily find pieces that are perfect for the pages and photos as I work. Another thing that I have found to be a BIG HELP is having another paper file just for dividing up my letters by colors. I try to punch a whole bunch of my alphabet letters when I have my Sizzix out. Then, they are ready for adding to my pages!

I keep my enhancers like stickers and die cuts in a special notebook just for embellishments.

My supplies like my scissors, paper punches, paper trimmers, corner rounders, adhesives, and pens I keep in a little portable case that simply zips up and fits nicely in my great big Scrapbooking bag. When I add all of these goodies inside my Scrapbooking bag I still have room to carry my album and my idea notebooks. Everything is together! Ready to work at any time! This is KEY to really making it EASY to scrapbook at any time I can snag a moment.

Work All Along The Way!

One thing that I heard a while back was that one of the BEST things about Scrapbooking is that it is unlike almost everything else we do. If we clean our house, it will need to be cleaned again (OF COURSE!). If we plant and grow a garden, it will need our constant care. Even as we create our own clothes, we STILL have to WASH THEM and MEND THEM!

Scrapbooking is different from all of those things that we do! Once we DO IT, it is finished! It becomes an heirloom! What accomplishment!

So, take your time! ENJOY each moment! Work along the way—bit-by-bit!

Remember that I mentioned my my photo file organizer? I have found that one way to build FAST pages for our notebooks, books, and scrapbooks is to carry it with me all along the way. I carry my corner rounder and my photo file that holds my pictures with me to trim along the way. For a long time I made my page and tried to fit my pictures into the page. I made MORE mistakes that way! Now, I trim each picture to compliment IT and THEN I later set up the pages around the pictures! Faster AND there is more of a focus on the pictures. Plus, I can carry my pictures with me to trim as we travel or along the way during those spare minutes! All I do then, is choose mats, borders, and embellishments that bring out my picture in the layout. Easy AND I am able to remember that this is a legacy that I am recording, rather than another project to work on!

Use Those EASY
Techniques To Make A

Great Album!

Got it all together, but NEVER finish ANY of your Scrapbooking dreams? For a VERY long time, this was me! I finally decided that instead of staying PARALYZED that I needed to either get busy scrapping all of our precious memories...or, not allow myself to keep on collecting more and more of my beloved Scrapbooking goodies.

What did I do? I decided to get back to the basics, use the EASY techniques, and most importantly, DIG IN!

Don't get so encumbered and distracted with the "craft" part of Scrapbooking that the memories go unrecorded! This was a hindrance for me for a long time. There will be more and more ideas FOREVER! But, if we want to really finish albums, we need to remember that if we keep it all EASY, we will be more inclined to DO IT!

Also, if we are careful to spend our money on what we WILL use and only what WILL MAKE IT EASY for us to complete albums, then we will find that we will also be more likely to get busy AND complete albums! Instead of spending time and money on the "stuff" that is too complicated to use regularly, invest time and money into learning techniques and investing in tools to make finishing heirlooms EASIER, DO-ABLE and FUN!!

Jump In!

Don't wait for everything to be PERFECT! You probably know what I mean by that! To KNOW everything! To have all of the equipment! To be organized completely! To have those perfect touches to your albums! Select a place to begin. Begin easy. Jump in TODAY! You WILL LOVE IT!

Happy Scrapbooking!