

How do you scrap? Do you tend to scrap just one page here or there, or plan them around a theme? There is not one good and one bad way to work in a scrapbook project, as there are advantages and inconvenient for each, and like many other choices that you will make in this hobby, it will be a matter of personal preferences.

## Scraping randomly

Many scrappers will start this way. Maybe you are one of them? You found some interest in digital scrapping, then found some interesting photos you wanted to showcase and will do a page with them, one at the time. Why only one? Maybe you don't have a group of photos on a single theme, or maybe you just want to scrap photos as inspiration hits. One page at the time, you create new layouts. Once some layouts are done, you can print them, and slide them into protective sleeves in an album, or store them so you can group them by year, event, or people. The main disadvantage of this type of scrapping is that you might not necessarily know when it is time to group them (if you want to print an album), however, as we saw, printing is never a necessity, just an option.

## Scraping chronologically

I think this is a great way to go, but unless you just have a few photos to use, it is not very practical. However, one version of this style of scrapping is when you want to document a timeline of events, like a pregnancy, the baby's first year, the construction of your new house, etc. Those are chronological documents, a bit like a diary. Since the event unfolds over several weeks or months, it is much easier to stay up-to-date on scrapping the photos as they are taken. Beware that if you are taking LOTS of photos, you might not be able (or even want) to scrap them all. Once all your pages are completed for that particular time period then you can group your layouts into an album to print, create a video montage or a slideshow.

## Scraping by theme

There are times when a whole album is planned around a particular event. It may be a life event like a wedding, a graduation with flashback through all the school years, or it can be a vacation trip. Some of those events will be associated with tons of photos and you might want to use as many as possible (if they are good enough quality). To create a whole album is a much bigger task and will probably require a bit more planning and definitely more time. Imagine creating 30 or 50 pages to display 100 photos. That is quite a task. It will require a lot of work and patience: although you will go about it one page at the time, you

will still have a constant reminder that you still have 25 pages to go, or 87 photos to scrap. It can also be frustrating if you happen to run out of inspiration for a period of time. You see all those photos just waiting to be used, but you are drawing a blank. Don't panic. If you keep your focus on the goal, you will be able to make it. Make sure you are not stressing yourself too much with tight deadlines either! The main advantage of scrapping by theme like this is that you will have a finite number of pages after which you can get the whole project printed.

The choice of scrapping randomly, chronologically or by theme will depend on your own style of work, if you tend to be the kind of person to have everything in order, or someone who goes a bit as you feel that particular day. It can also depend on the photos you are actually using and their number. If you have very few photos, it would be harder to scrap by theme, while if you have a lot of them, it would be easier. And remember that you can scrap in all three ways, depending on the day, the time, your mood and the photos. Are you mostly scrapping randomly? Chronologically? Or by theme? Tell us, and tell us why.