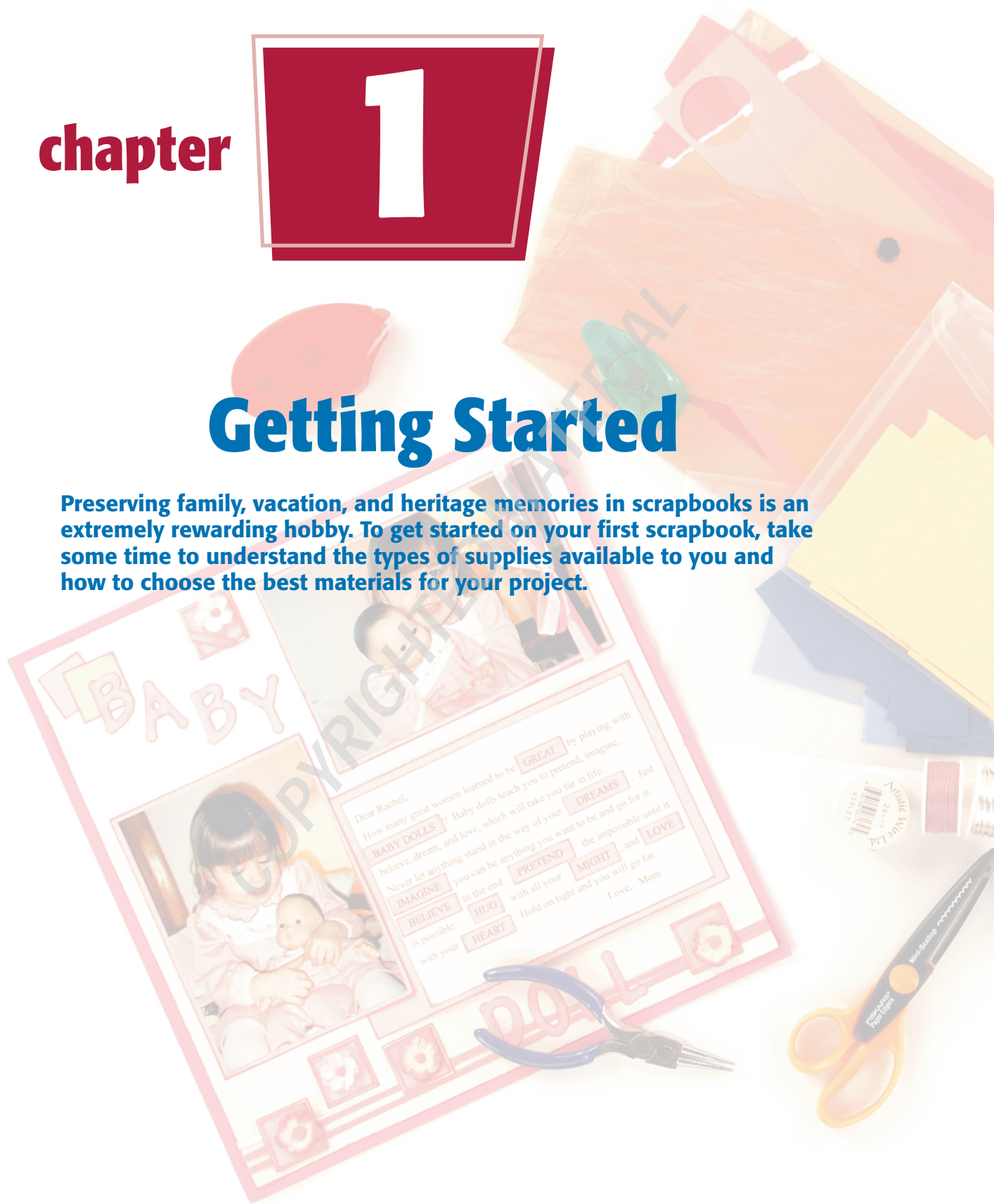


# chapter

# 1

## Getting Started

Preserving family, vacation, and heritage memories in scrapbooks is an extremely rewarding hobby. To get started on your first scrapbook, take some time to understand the types of supplies available to you and how to choose the best materials for your project.





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# Why Scrapbook?

Understanding why scrapbooking is important to you and deciding what your purpose is in scrapbooking determine the types of supplies, embellishments, and album that you use.



## Reasons for Scrapbooking

### PRESERVE YOUR PHOTOS

Many pictures that have been put into photo albums over the last 50 years have been damaged by the harsh chemicals used in the adhesives in those albums. Scrapbookers need to use materials (paper, adhesives, and inks) that will not damage photos in order to preserve them for future generations.



### SAVE YOUR MEMORIES

Photos without journaling are memories for only a short time. Soon the names, places, and event information are lost and only a photo remains. The heritage photos (family pictures from previous generations) shown here have no memories associated with them because the names and information about these people have been lost over time.



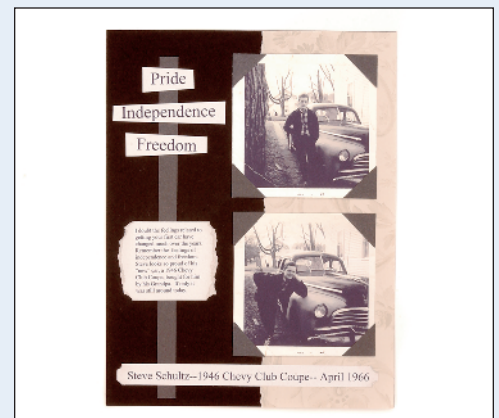
## RECORD MAJOR EVENTS

Weddings, graduations, birthdays, holidays, and anniversaries are among the many life events that easily lend themselves to scrapbooking.



## RESEARCH OF YOUR FAMILY HISTORY

Genealogy study and even just looking up the basics of your family tree can be the perfect time to start scrapbooking. Documenting this information in a scrapbook will allow future generations to benefit from the knowledge you have gleaned of your family's heritage.



## REMEMBER THOSE PRECIOUS EVERYDAY MOMENTS

Not every photo you take will be of a major event in your life. Most of them will be the little things. These everyday pictures will be treasured in your scrapbooks for years to come.



# Scrapbooking with Children

Children are naturally creative. Including them in your scrapbooking provides not only quality family time together but also adds their unique perspective to your pages.

## GATHER SUPPLIES

Keep it simple. Basic supplies such as a pair of scissors, an adhesive runner, a trimmer, paper, and stickers are all a child needs to get started. Store these basic supplies where they are readily accessible so that you can take advantage of any free time to work on some scrapbook pages with your child.



## USE A SMALL-SIZE ALBUM

Smaller album pages require fewer photos and decorations to complete. These albums come in a wide variety of styles and colors, making choosing the album almost as fun as completing it.



## MAKE COPIES

Giving your children copies of the photos they are working with allows them to have some creative freedom while giving you peace of mind.



## ENCOURAGE JOURNALING

You will look back on these pages and enjoy seeing how your child grew and how their handwriting changed over the years. Help them decide what to write by asking them questions that relate to the scrapbook page. Their answers become the journaling text.





# Themes for Children's Scrapbooks

Getting Started

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Theme albums are perfect for children. A theme album has a defined beginning and an end. It can be completed in a shorter amount of time than a regular chronological album. Following are some theme albums that work great for children; more theme album ideas can be found in Chapter 13.

## ABC ALBUMS

ABC albums are theme scrapbooks where each page starts with a different letter. Larger books can cover the whole alphabet, while smaller books could cover just the letters in your child's name; for example, "What is special about RACHEL?"



## ALL ABOUT ME SCRAPBOOKS

All about me scrapbooks are interview-style albums where children fill in information about themselves on each page; for example, "My best friends are . . ." "My favorite books are . . ."



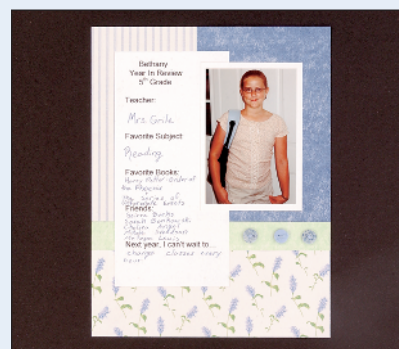
## TRAVEL/SPECIAL TRIP

Travel/special trip scrapbooks allow your child to record which events and memories were most meaningful to them. These albums may include photos, memorabilia, and journaling, all from your child's perspective.



## SCHOOL PAGES OR YEAR-IN-REVIEW ALBUMS

School pages or year-in-review albums cover the events of a specific year. One album can cover the whole year, or you can simply add a couple of pages each year to an ongoing album.

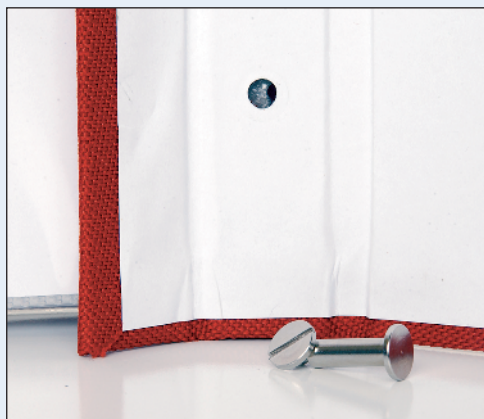


# Choose Your Album

Scrapbooks come in a variety of styles and colors. Each style is defined by a distinctive binding method. Looking at the pros and cons of each style can help you choose which one is right for your project.

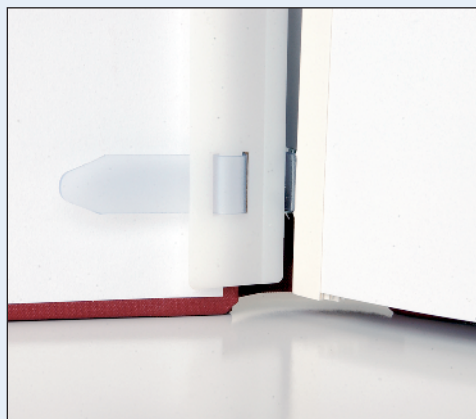
## POST-BOUND ALBUMS

Post-bound albums are bound by screws and posts. The page protectors are bound into the album and the pages slip into the protectors from the top.



## STRAP-HINGE ALBUMS

Strap-hinge albums are bound by a plastic strap that passes through staples that are bound into the edges of the scrapbook pages.



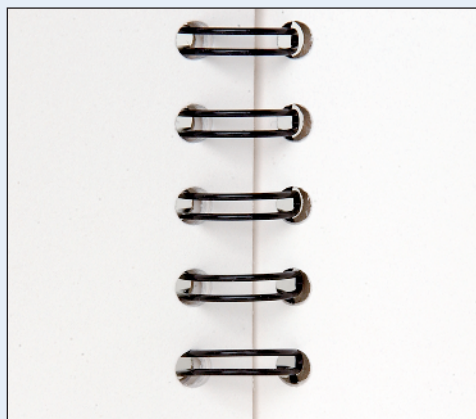
## 3-RING BINDING ALBUMS

Three-ring binding albums have a lot in common with a classic 3-ring office binder. For scrapbooking, you can find binders with leather and fabric covers. Top-opening page protectors simply slip on the rings.



## SPIRAL AND BOOK-BOUND ALBUMS

Spiral and book-bound albums can be simple and inexpensive, or elegant and pricey. These scrapbooks are usually chosen for a special project or gift album.



### POST-BOUND ALBUMS

**Advantages:** The pages lie flat. The album is easily expandable by adding post extensions. Top-opening page protectors allow any type or color of paper to be used for each layout.

**Disadvantages:** You need to slip pages out of the protectors or remove posts to rearrange pages.



### STRAP-HINGE ALBUMS

**Advantages:** Pages lie flat when open. Albums are expandable.

**Disadvantages:** Pages are bound by a strap, making it difficult to rearrange layouts. When the pages are bound to the book, you have to cover each page if you want a selection of backgrounds with each layout.



### 3-RING BINDING ALBUMS

**Advantages:** Rearranging pages is quick and easy. Several sizes of rings are available; choose a D-ring style for ease of use.

**Disadvantages:** The rings lie between the pages of a two-page spread when open. The albums are not expandable.



### SPIRAL AND BOOK-BOUND ALBUMS

**Advantages:** Spiral-bound albums are inexpensive and great for working with kids. It's also easy to decorate the cover and the binding. Book-bound albums make professional-looking heritage and family albums.

**Disadvantages:** These albums are not expandable. You are limited to flat embellishments. Pages can't be rearranged or removed after they are completed.



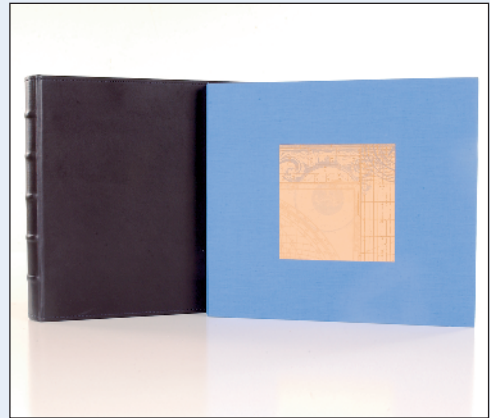


# Album Sizes

The scrapbook project you are working on determines the size album you need. The variety of sizes available will spark your creativity and get you thinking about all the different albums you could make for friends and family. The most common sizes of scrapbook albums are  $12" \times 12"$  and  $8\frac{1}{2}" \times 11"$ .

## Common Sizes

**$12" \times 12"$  albums** are most often selected for chronological or event-oriented family albums. The larger page size allows room for more photos and embellishments. Paper is available in a huge array of colors and styles in this 12" square size.



**$8\frac{1}{2}" \times 11"$  albums** also make great family albums; however, this smaller size makes them a good choice for a more defined album, such as a school album or a child's scrapbook. The smaller page size allows you to create great pages with fewer photos.



**11" × 8½" albums** are basically the 8½" × 11" album turned on its side. The long rectangular shape of these album pages makes them ideally suited for the classic 4" × 6" size of photos. This album is a fun alternative to the more traditional album sizes.



**4" × 4", 6" × 6", and 8" × 8" albums** are all varying sizes of the square page made popular by the 12" × 12" album. These smaller sizes are perfect for gift or theme scrapbooks. Fewer photos are required to complete each page, while the square shape works with the same design schemes as the 12" × 12".

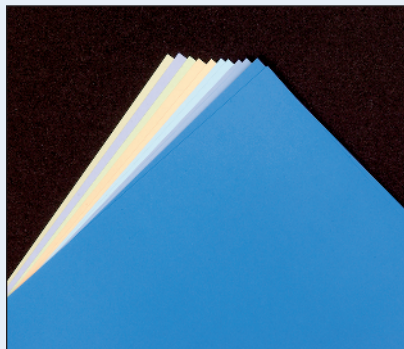


**Smaller and specialty albums** are fun, complete-in-a-weekend-type scrapbooks that come in as many shapes and varieties as your imagination can dream up. Scrapbooks can be made from CD holders, tags, or even paper lunch bags (see Chapter 13). Some manufacturers are selling these tiny albums to add to pages or stand alone as mini-books.



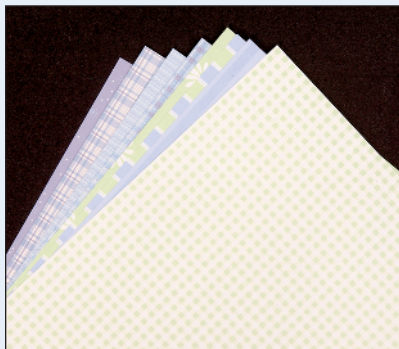
# Types of Paper

Scrapbookers know it is all about the paper. The array of paper available for this craft is amazing. Choosing paper appropriate for your specific scrapbook project will be easier after this overview of paper types.



## CARDSTOCK

Cardstock is a scrapbooking necessity. You could create entire albums with only different colors of this heavyweight paper. An easy way to coordinate cardstock is to purchase it in monochromatic sets of different shades.



## PATTERNED PAPER

Patterned paper adds interest to your cardstock layers. This lighter-weight paper comes in every print imaginable. Pattern paper fills in the spots on your scrapbook pages that may look a little too plain.



## SPECIALTY PAPER

Specialty paper includes vellum, mulberry paper, metallics, and meshes. You can print on vellum while still having the photo or colored paper beneath it showing through. When you tear mulberry paper, it leaves a fuzzy edge that can add an interesting texture to a scrapbook page. Just a small amount of metallic or mesh can add a significant level of texture and drama to a page.

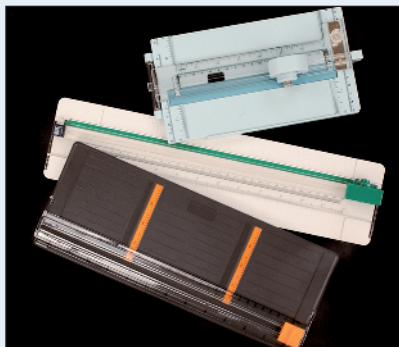


Trimming, cropping, and edging are all fancy words for cutting up things in scrapbooking. Good scissors and a paper trimmer are a must. Shape cutters and punches make their respective tasks quicker and easier.



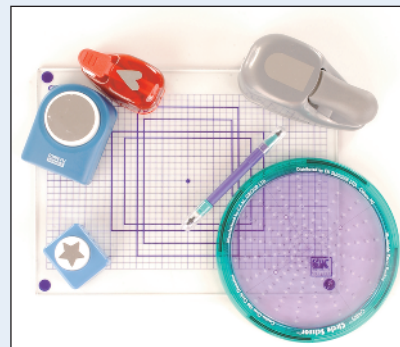
### SCISSORS

Scissors are a scrapbooker's best friend. A good-quality pair of scissors with a nice sharp edge makes every scrapbooking task you do easier. Decorative scissors come in many different styles. One mistake that beginners sometimes make is cutting photos with decorative scissors. The fancy edge takes the focus off of the photo and puts it on the decorated edge.



### PAPER TRIMMERS

Paper trimmers are a must for cutting sheets of paper and also for getting a good straight edge when you crop or trim your photos. A 12" trimmer allows you to cut any size paper. This is a tool that you will use every time you work on your scrapbooks.



### SHAPE CUTTERS AND PUNCHES

Shape cutters and punches are used to cut paper and photos into a variety of shapes and designs. The most basic shape cutter can be used to cut circles and ovals of varying sizes. Punches come in every shape and size imaginable. Select some basic punches like geometrics (circles and squares) and tags that you will use again and again.

# Choose Adhesives

Adhering photos and memorabilia to the pages is the main task in scrapbooking. When you shop in the scrapbook aisle at your local hobby store, you will find that there are many different types and styles of acid-free, scrapbooking adhesive. Choosing the right one makes all the difference in how your project turns out.



## Styles of Adhesive

**Tape runners** will be your scrapbook friend. These versatile adhesive dispensers are the right choice for adhering both paper and photos to your album pages. Some tape runners dispense clear white strips, or even little blue dots of adhesive. Be sure to read the label. If you want to be able to remove items from your pages in the future, choose a “repositionable” adhesive; otherwise “permanent” is best.



**Photo tabs** are small squares of white double-sided adhesive. Despite the name, they work on both paper and photos. Just one tab in the corner on the back of each photo is all you need. This adhesive also allows you to pop the pictures back off the layout if you need to remove them to make copies at a later date. To save time, purchase a photo tab dispenser, similar to how tape runners are sold.



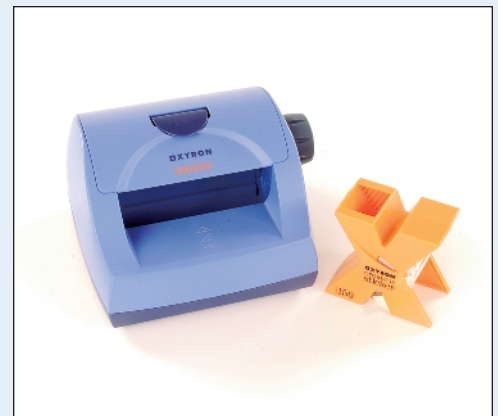
**Adhesive dots** come in a variety of sizes and thicknesses to suit the project. These little super-sticky dots are exactly what you need to adhere dimensional items to your layouts such as buttons, metal embellishments, and even fabric and ribbon strips.



**Liquid glues and glue pens** are good for specific uses such as metal embellishments and tiny items like letter die-cuts. Use liquid glues sparingly to avoid any spillover on other parts of your layout. Because liquid glues are permanent adhesives, you may not want to use them on your photos.



**Adhesive machines** are the fastest way to adhere die-cuts to your pages. Simply insert the item into the machine, turn the crank or pull the strip, and out the other side come items that are now turned into stickers. If you decide to use die-cut letters, an adhesive machine is a must.





# Tools for Journaling

Journaling is the process of writing down the thoughts and memories that go with your photos. Having the right tools for the job makes the writing process easier and ensures that your memories last as long as your scrapbooks do.

## A BASIC BLACK PEN

Use a basic black pen to write on your pages either in a journaling box (a space created specifically to hold the text) or directly on the background cardstock. The pen you choose must be permanent ink, acid-free, and fade-resistant. You can choose from a selection of different tips to create bold, fine, or fancy lines.



## PEN OR PENCIL FOR LABELING PHOTOS

Labeling photos may be part of your photo organization technique. The pencil or pen you use for this purpose should be designed specifically for the task. Do not use ballpoint pens; the ink will continue to bleed through the photo for years, eventually causing damage to the front of the picture. Soft photo labeling pencils are perfect for writing on the back of pictures.



**MATERIALS FOR GETTING CREATIVE**

Getting creative is the heart of scrapbooking. You can add creativity to your journaling with colored pencils, chalks, letter templates, rubber stamps, or a collection of pens in a range of colors and tips. The same rules that apply to the basic pen apply to these supplies: permanent ink, acid-free, and fade-resistant.

**TIP****Basic Supply Checklist:**

- ☐ Scrapbook album
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Paper trimmer
- ☐ Cardstock in a variety of colors
- ☐ Patterned paper
- ☐ Adhesive
- ☐ Basic punches: circles, squares, tags, corner rounder
- ☐ Black journaling pen

