

YOUR GUIDE TO
THE TOP 10
SCRAPBOOKING
TECHNIQUES

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1 CHALKS

2 STITCHING

3 DISTRESSING

4 STAMPING

5 COLOUR
BLOCKING.

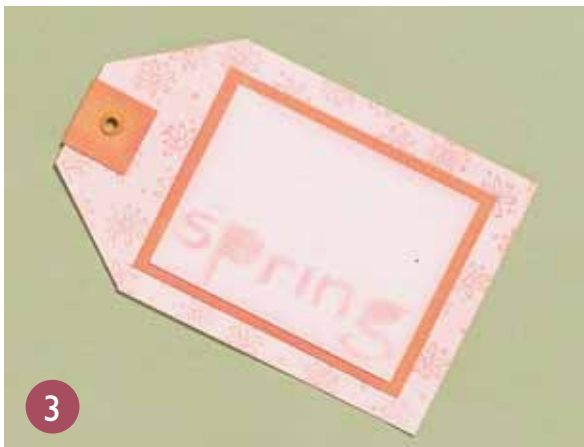
6 TEARING

7 DYEING

8 PAINTS
AND PASTES

9 MATTING

10 PUNCHES



CHALKS

Decorating chalks are great for adding depth and dimension.

BASIC MATERIALS

- Decorating chalks
- Applicator
- Baby wipes to keep your hands clean
- Smooth piece of paper for colour blending
- Chalk eraser

USES FOR CHALKING

- Add highlights to titles
- Chalk the edge of journalling blocks
- Shade die-cut images
- Use chalks with stencils

1. APPLYING CHALK

Foam applicators absorb chalk and give an even application but they can be expensive and make-up applicators do the same job. Cotton tips are more economical choice but they tend to spread – which is great for a fuzzy effect.

2. BLENDING COLOUR

Chalk colours can be mixed on a sheet of smooth paper such as normal printer paper. Add black or grey to darken the shade, white to lighten it or a different colour to create a new tone.

3. WHAT CAN I DO?

Shading

Select a chalk slightly darker than the area you're shading and apply it in a circular motion along the edge, working into the centre. The colour should be dark around the edge and soften as it moves inward.

Highlights

Shade or colour an image, then use a chalk eraser to rub-out the areas you want to highlight.

Reverse images

Stamp an image using clear VersaMark ink and let it dry, then rub chalk over the ink with an applicator. The chalk sticks to the ink and exposes the image.

handy TIPS

- Write text before you chalk, otherwise the ink will bleed into the paper.
- Use make-up sponges to blend colours.
- Start with light colours and layer darker ones on top.

STITCHING

Stitching adds a personal, homey touch to any project.

STITCHING IDEAS

- Stitch paper and cardstock together for backgrounds.
- Create borders for photos or embellishments.
- Machine stitch without thread for a perforated effect.
- Stitch titles, words or images.

1. STITCHING BY HAND

Openings need to be created first for the needle to pass through. Lightly trace a stitching line in pencil and mark each point that a stitch will be made. Then, place the material on a protective mat and carefully pierce a hole at each stitch mark.

2. HAND-STITCHING TIPS

- Use leather, cord, ribbon, wool or chain as a substitute for thread.
- Secure materials with a paperclip to avoid movement.
- Trace stencils or basic shapes to stitch around.
- Don't place holes too close together, as they can tear.

3. MANAGING THE MACHINE

Back and zigzag stitches are quick, easy and effective, but you could also experiment with specialty stitches. Try sewing without thread in the machine to create unique perforated borders and motifs.

handy TIPS

- Test your stitching on a scrap of the material you want to use.
- Make sure there's plenty of thread in the bobbin to avoid unwanted holes.
- Don't end-off with the machine – just tape the ends to the back of the project.
- Use cardstock as a supportive backing for finer materials.

BASIC MATERIALS

- Needle/ Sewing machine
- Thread
- Paper piercer/ mat
- Paper clip
- Pencil





DISTRESSING

Distressing is a great technique for adding extra character to your scrapbook.

handy TIPS

- Use a sponge for a more subtle effect when distressing with ink.
- Layer different distressed effects on a layout for added interest.
- Spray bleach on patterned paper or cardstock for a mottled effect.

IDEAS FOR DISTRESSING

- Antique tags
- Sand background cardstock or the edges of an album
- Curl the edges of journalling blocks

TECHNIQUES AND TOOLS

1. SANDING

Place cardstock or paper on a flat surface and rub the sandpaper over it. The more pressure you apply, the more pronounced the sanding will be. Try steel wool, blades or a grater. You can also experiment with different sanding motions to alter the effect.

2. INK

- Slide the ink pad from one side of the paper to the other, leaving streaks across the surface.
- Place an ink pad squarely on the paper to leave a light impression. Repeat this for the rest of the surface.
- Swipe ink around the edges in a circular motion creating dark edges and a soft brushed effect on the page.

3. NATURAL LOOKS

- Put a small amount of water along the edge of the project and gently curl the edges with your finger to give a worn look.
- Scrunch paper into a ball and leave it for a few seconds, then gently unroll it and highlight the creases with an ink pad or stipple brush.

BASIC MATERIALS

- Ink pad
- Sandpaper or other textured materials
- White paint
- Stipple and foam brushes

STAMPING

Stamping is an effective way to create interesting backgrounds, titles and accents.

HOW TO STAMP

Turn the stamp upside down and apply ink to the whole image. Place the inked stamp face down on the card on a smooth, flat surface and apply even pressure. If you can't get the image quite right, try standing directly above it when stamping to give even distribution of pressure.

1. CUSTOMISE BACKGROUNDS

Stamp with VersaMark or pastel shadow inks to create a subtle impression of the image slightly darker than the original paper or cardstock. Alternatively, use basic images with darker shades for a more pronounced look or try bright colours on a stark cream or white base for a dominant background.

2. CREATE UNIQUE TITLES

Alphabet stamps are great for creating customised titles. Rubber stamps give a defined image and foam stamps have an arty feel. Titles can be stamped as full words or as individual letter tiles to allow freedom with placement. You could also use letter stencils with paint for a quick and easy title.

3. COORDINATE ACCENTS

There are so many images available and you can experiment with different inks and the way a stamped image is presented to change its context. Emboss the image for a risen edge or shade it with watercolours or Tombow markers to add colour.

handy TIPS

- Don't use pigment ink for intricate images.
- Use Tombow or Marvey markers directly on the stamp for colour variation.
- Repetitive images are great for backgrounds

BASIC MATERIALS

- Black pigment ink
- Clear embossing powder
- Alphabet stamps – foam and rubber
- Basic image stamps
- Acrylic paint



COLOUR BLOCKING

Colour blocking is a simple technique for creating effective layouts with ease.

handy TIPS

- To vary the layouts, leave gaps between the blocks, stitch them together or cover the joins with ribbon or ricrac.
- To save time, label the dimensions of each block on the template with a fine-tip pen.
- Double or triple-mat some of the blocks for extra depth.

IDEAS FOR COLOUR BLOCKING

- Create tribute layouts for loved ones
- Reduce the template and use it to create accents
- Use the same template with different colour schemes to create continuity in an album

1. THE TEMPLATE

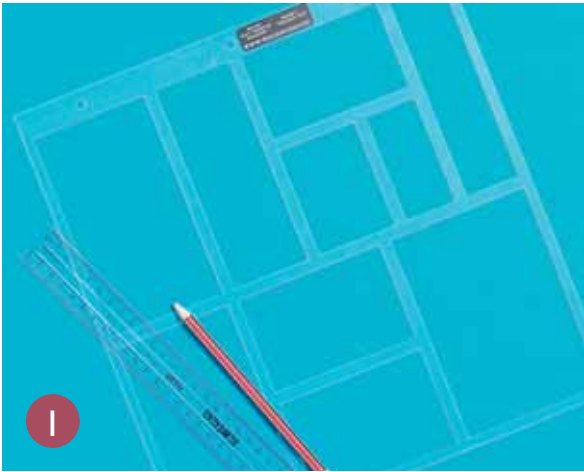
Pre-made templates come in numerous designs and each block represents a different element on a layout. You can alternate the position of photos, journalling and embellishments to create varied looks with the same template. The whole template can also be rotated to allow additional design options.

2. COLOUR BLOCKING A LAYOUT

Choose monochromatic cardstock that coordinates with the photos. Use the template to trace the blocks onto scrap paper, then cut them out and use them as a guide for cutting the cardstock blocks. Refer to the template to lay out the blocks. Use some as mats for photos, journalling and embellishments, but also leave full blocks of colour to add interest.

3. STYLISH BACKGROUNDS

Use coordinating cardstock and patterned paper to fill all the blocks in the template. Once they're in place, treat it as a normal background and scrap over the top. Just remember to keep the photos and journalling simple so the layout doesn't get too busy.



BASIC MATERIALS

- Template
- Coordinating cardstock and paper
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Scrap paper

TEARING

Torn edges add depth, interest and texture to scrapbook projects.

IDEAS FOR TEARING

- Tear the edges of journaling blocks.
- Create a torn mat for photos.
- Age distressed paper by ripping the edges.

TEARING ETIQUETTE

There are white-core cardstocks and papers that give a defined white edge when torn, while others may result in a less pronounced colour. To gain a white edge, rip the paper in an upward motion. Tearing in a downward motion creates an edge the same colour as the cardstock or paper.

THE FINER POINTS

For a more defined edge, tear all the paper in a single motion – the smaller the pieces are that you tear, the more irregular the edge will be. You can also chalk or ink white edges to add extra colour or tie it into your colour scheme. Experiment with different papers, thicknesses, textures and tearing speeds as they all affect the end result.

TEARING WITH A RULER

You can use a normal ruler to give a straight edge, however it will be less defined. Tearing rulers are available that allow you to rip along wavy or jagged lines.

handy TIPS

- Cut a small slit in the top of the paper to start.
- Don't try to create a tear by pulling the two sides of the paper apart.
- Place a small amount of water along the tear line for a less jagged edge.



BASIC MATERIALS

- White-core cardstock
- Patterned paper
- Ruler
- Water





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DYES

Customise paper, cardstock, fabric, lace and other materials to suit colour scheme.

handy TIPS

- To lighten the tone of a dyed item, place it on a paper towel while it's still wet.
- Spray dye on fabric or patterned paper for a mottled effect.
- Use a portable clothesline as a drying rack. Lay papers on top and hang less fragile items from the rungs with pegs.

IDEAS FOR DYEING

- Dye paper with tea for an antique effect
- Alter the colour of fabric tags
- Create unique embellishments with the resistance technique

1. USING POWDER DYES

Add the powder to a small amount of water – remember, you can add water, but you can't take it out. To test the intensity of the colour, use a scrap piece of the paper or fabric to be dyed and adjust the water level to suit. Be aware that the colour will dry slightly lighter.

2. TIME FOR TEA

Dyeing with tea gives a unique antique effect on paper and cardstock. Simply add tea bags to a bowl, as if making a strong pot of tea. A small bowl would probably need about three or four bags – the amount you add determines the intensity of the result. Then simply dye the paper or cardstock as usual.

3. THE RESISTANCE TECHNIQUE

Stamp an image on paper or cardstock with a clear pigment ink such as VersaMark, then emboss it. Once the embossing has set, dye the paper or cardstock as normal. The dye will soak into the base material and the image remains clear. You could also replace the pigment ink with masking fluid to design your own image.

BASIC MATERIALS

- Scrapbook dyes
- Dyeing container
- Drying space
- Clear pigment ink
- Embossing powder

PAINT AND PASTE

Paint and texture pastes provide many options for backgrounds and unique accents.

IDEAS FOR PAINT

- Add dimension to accents with texture paste
- Customise metal embellishments
- Blend watercolours for an interesting background

1. ACRYLICS

Dry-brushing is one of the signature papercraft techniques with acrylic paints. Dip a foam brush in the paint, wipe it over a piece of scrap paper to get rid of the excess, then scrape the brush over the cardstock.

For a mottled effect, apply a light coat of paint to cardstock, then put a piece of plastic over the top, move it around and scrunch it up slightly, then peel it off.

2. WATERCOLOUR

Watercolours are great for creating interest in backgrounds. Water down the paints to create a plain colourwash, then brush it over the whole surface for a soft, subdued effect or use a few different colours and bleed them together for more impact.

3. TEXTURE PAINTS

Mix paint with texture paste to produce a whole new creative medium – texture paint. Scrape a thin layer over cardstock for a textured background or use it with texture tools or a stencil to create risen images for accents.

BASIC MATERIALS

- Acrylic paints
- Watercolour paints
- Texture paste
- Foam brush



handy TIPS

- Keep a misting bottle handy when using watercolours, to keep the colours flowing.
- Apply texture paint with a stipple brush for a unique background texture.
- Acrylic paint backgrounds may take a while to dry, so make sure you allow plenty of time before you start attaching things to them.



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MATTING

Matting uses layers in a simple and effective way to emphasise the focus of a page.

handy TIPS

- Use black and white mounts for a classic look
- Highlight black & white photos with vibrant mats
- Use mounting foam to add depth.

IDEAS FOR MATTING

- Create a matted photo border for journalling
- Incorporate patterned paper into matting
- Mat embellishments or journalling blocks

1. HOW TO MEASURE THE MATTING

Take the measurements of the item you want to mat, then cut a piece of cardstock about 5mm larger to make the first layer. Create additional layers with the same 5mm overhang or vary the widths for added interest. Experiment with single, double and triple-layer matting.

2. COLOUR CHOICE

The matting should coordinate with both the photo and the layout. A double mount works well with different colours, where the top layer coordinates with the photo and the bottom one matches the layout. However, there is also the monochromatic option, where the mounts are all different tones in the same colour family.

3. WINDOW MATTING

On a piece of cardstock, measure a window big enough to fit around the item, allowing for additional layers that will decrease the viewing room. Draw a 2cm mat around it, then cut it out and trim the window from the centre. For additional layers, create a window 5mm smaller than the original and repeat the process. Attach this mat behind the previous layer with the colour showing through the window and adhere the photo behind them.

BASIC MATERIALS

- Coordinating cardstock
- Craft knife or square punch
- Cutting mat
- Ruler
- Pencil

PUNCHES

The humble punch is a versatile tool that serves many purposes.

IDEAS FOR PUNCHES

- Punch patterned paper shapes for backgrounds
- Use a corner adorer to add interest to journalling blocks
- Customise accents with die-cut shapes

1. DECORATIVE

These punches are great for adding decorative edges and objects to projects. Try punching one shape in patterned paper and another of the same shape in a different medium – like metal mesh or shim, cardstock or fabric paper. Attach the two punched shapes together with brads to create a layered effect.

2. FUNCTIONAL

Circles, squares, tags and other basic shapes are handy design features. They're also great for trimming elements to a certain shape and size for continuity and interest in a project. Choose a few small, not-so-perfect photos and some coordinating patterned paper. Use the circle or square punch to alter the shape of the photos, patterned paper and other elements, then piece them together like a jigsaw puzzle.

3. DIE-CUTS

Die-cut tools such as the Sizzix machine have a huge variety of alphabet and themed shape dies – or templates – that are punched using a slightly curved blade for a smooth finish. It's important to place the mat, paper and die correctly to suit the machine you're using – so read the instructions carefully. If you don't have a machine, you can access one at a scrapbooking shop or buy pre-cut shapes from stores, other scrapppers or even on Ebay.

handy TIPS

- Turn the punch upside down to assist with paper positioning.
- Anything you can cut with scissors, a punch can do too.
- Punch into aluminium foil to sharpen the punch blade.

BASIC MATERIALS

- Decorative punches – edges, corner adorners
- Functional punches – circle, square, tag, alphabet

