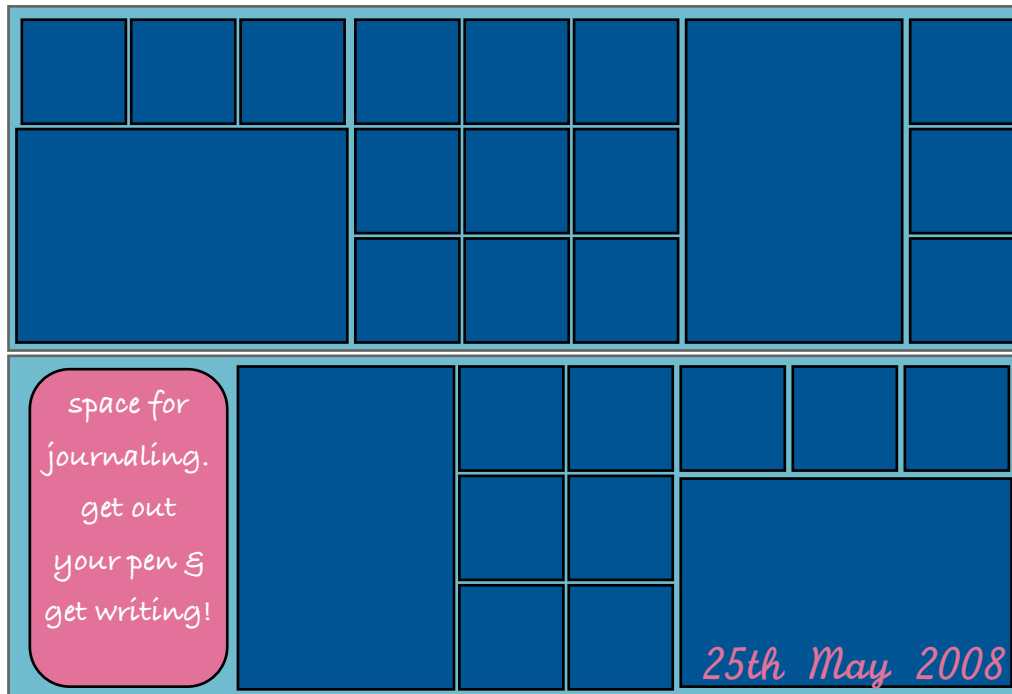


Scrap Your Day

Album Prompt #02 :: May 2008

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Each month on the 25th, along with snapping pictures all day, you can download an album prompt. You don't need this before you start snapping -- it's for the crafty part of the project. Each album prompt will include some ideas to help you put your pages together, but they also purposely leave a lot up to your imagination. That way, your personal style will shine through and the resulting book will be very much your own.



Depending on the size of your album pages and the size of your photo prints, you may or may not be able to use this sketch as shown. Even if the layout doesn't fit quite like this, you can still use some of this month's tricks to pack tons of photos into a two page layout. In the 15x7 format, you can easily include up to twenty-four photos, and you can include more in any size book when you determine the size of your small squares. If you prepared your album with the notes from the getting ready prompt, you'll already have background papers attached. They aren't shown in the sketch -- you work right over the top of them. Leave gaps between photos to show the background here and there, and otherwise just know this is why we kept the backgrounds simple! I love pretty papers but I don't think we need to spend hours agonizing over our choices when we're going to put the photos over the top. The pictures and the story will end up more important anyway, so let's spend our time with that.

Tricks to try this month:

Playing favourites: Following on from the photo fact sheet this month, this sketch is designed to make you choose your four favourite shots of the day. Print those at a standard size like 4x6, while all the other shots from the day will remain small. I've used two portrait and two landscape in the sample, but the grid design of the sketch makes that easy to change if all your favourites are the same orientation.

Reduced in size: When you look over the photographs you have taken, let them determine what method you use to get to the small grid. Print them all at 4x6 and use a square punch or your trimmer to crop small details or use your computer to print the photos at a small, square size. In iPhoto, select your pictures, hit print and then just enter the size of square you want under 'print size' and the computer will do your cropping for you. Other programs have similar features -- check the help files or Google for more details if you can't find an easy way to print small squares.

Pick and choose: Using lots of small squares is one of my favourite ways to include lots of photos in a small space, but there's actually more flexibility to this sketch than just that. Crop a photo to take up two or three squares instead of just one. Or who says the boxes have to be photos? Make some boxes embellishment and spread them around to break up the images.