

Scrap Your Day

The 25th of every month is official Scrap Your Day day!

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Ready to Scrap your Day with your own stash? There's plenty of room to personalise this project with your own supplies. The photographs are the focus of this project, so we just want a pretty, almost-blank canvas to showcase them. Each month's layout will look entirely different just by adding the photos in a different way. But I'll stop now before I give it all away! The instructions for making your own album may make more sense if you have a quick look at the kit instructions first, so just skim through these, then read through the notes on page two.

You will need:

The contents of your kit -- one 15x7 calendar and thirteen 6x12 sheets of patterned paper.

Adhesive

Scissors and trimmer

Black ink pad

Cardstock

Stamps (optional)



Choose an order for your patterned papers and go to the first calendar page in the album. The 6x12 paper should cover the calendar grid but there will be some left over that hangs off the right hand side. Mark that point and trim. Don't discard the piece you trim away! Ink the edges of the large piece of patterned paper and adhere it right over the top of the calendar.



Choose two colours of cardstock that coordinate with that patterned paper and cut into strips 6" wide. The lengths can vary through your book, but the two put together should cover the top page, leaving a small frame of white around the edge. Ink the edges and adhere these. Cut the small piece of patterned paper into two strips and adhere to the corners to make everything match.



Repeat this process for the entire book with a different piece of patterned paper covering each calendar grid. If you are like me and buy background stamps then forget to use them, stamp them on the cardstock blocks to dress them up.

The remaining piece of patterned paper goes on the very first page inside the front cover. We'll add more to that later, just like the rest of the book.



Using your own stash

Now from that basic structure, hopefully you can see what we're aiming for. You can work in any size, shape or format. Your colours and patterns are up to you too -- use papers you love or reach into the stash for something that's been waiting for a special project way too long.

The idea of starting early comes both from saving time and for motivating you later on in the project. The idea is to record the 25th day of every month for one year, documenting a tiny snapshot of your everyday life. Some things will remain the same, others will change with the seasons, still others may change entirely in a year's time. With quite a few of us all recording this little part of life at the same time, we will see weddings, births, graduations, milestone birthdays, new cars, new homes, new jobs and new travels. Some we will have seen coming, others will be a surprise as life takes us through its twists and turns. But as those twists and turns happen, it's easier to put a project aside, so we want to start with as many points on our side to help us finish! Plus, which is more time efficient -- cutting twelve boxes at once or getting the paper trimmer out, cutting one piece, putting the paper trimmer away and repeating that twelve times? Sometimes it's logic like that that makes me wonder why I would ever leave a project unfinished...and oh boy have I done that a few times!

So start with something that can hold twelve months of entries. The prompts for each month are designed on having a two page spread, and you can alter it to fit the size and shape of page you choose. An easy way to make the book is to take seven sheets of 12x12 cardstock, cut each in half to have fourteen 6x12 sheets and punch holes in the long side to bind it together with ribbons, book rings or spirals. That will give you your twelve spreads plus spare room for a title page and some opening and closing notes. Or look through your stash and find something that will hold twelve entries - you can always add a page protector or two to an album. There's no right or wrong size or format for this project other than using something you like!

Once you have chosen something, go ahead and create all the page backgrounds. Choose some patterned papers and solid coloured cardstock to add to the background. All our photos and embellishments will go on top of this, so it doesn't need to be fancy! Coming up with one background design you like will make the album come together quickly and you'll find it easy to work on top of these backgrounds every month. Use the layout of the kit album as an example -- big simple boxes with a few little details like a background stamp, inked edges and even spacing.

That's all you need to worry about for now -- find or make an album and create your page backgrounds. This Wednesday, stop back for this month's photo fact sheet to help you think about photos to take on Friday. And then on Friday you can download this month's album prompt. Each month there will be a new photo fact sheet and album prompt to keep you going, and you can meet others participating in the project at both UKScrappers.co.uk and shimelle.com.

Once you've prepared your album and pages, if you post a picture of it anywhere online, [email me](#) and let me know! Throughout the year, we'll highlight the project as it comes together, and I'd love to share your album!