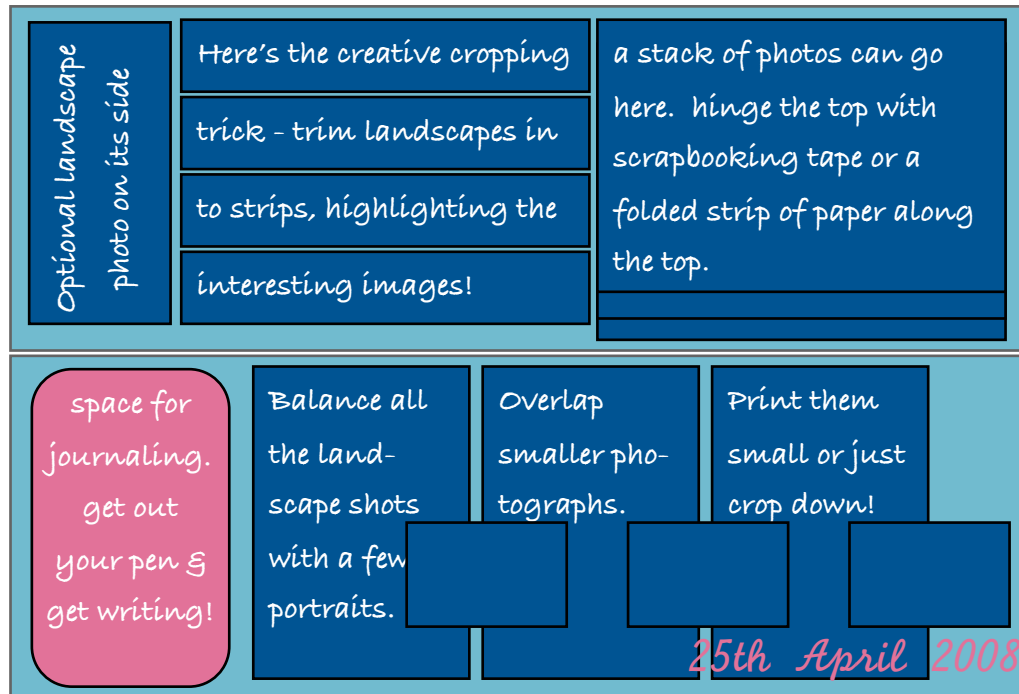


Scrap Your Day

Album Prompt #01 :: April 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 fifteen to twenty photos, and you just might bring that total down a little bit in a smaller album or up a bit in a two page 12x12 format. 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:

Cropped landscapes: Remember how the photo fact sheet said take some shots that are landscape and further away than you would normally shoot? This is why. Take a look at your landscape shots and see where you can crop things into a narrow strip, about one or two inches tall and six inches wide. Crop a few like this and line them up so they take up the space of one ordinary landscape photo.

Hinged photos: Do you have scrapbooking tape in your stash? I have rolls and rolls of it and even when I remember to use it, I never near the end of the roll! Time to start putting it to work. Look through your photos and pick a selection of four or more, depending on what will fit in your space. Start with the photo that will be at the bottom of the stack and line it up with the bottom of the page. That one can be adhered straight to the layout if you like. Then add another photo on top, moving up just a little from the bottom of the page so you can still see there is a photo below. Instead of adhering the photo to the page, run a strip of tape along the top edge of the photo so it is attached on a hinge and the photo can lift up to reveal the photo below. Continue this stack to fill the space, moving up as you stack the pictures. You can include twice the photos by gluing them back-to-back first, or use the back of the photos for journaling. If you want to get fancy, add pretty tabs to the side so people can look without getting fingerprints all over your photographs. If you're working with page protectors, you can cut gaps in

the plastic and let the photos sit on the outside while being attached under the page protector -- or if that's a little too risky for the hands in your house, leave it all underneath the page protector. You can look when you want to!

Photo on its side: This is the easiest thing in the world and yet it makes people gasp and comment on how clever you are! So try it -- wherever you have a gap, see if you can crop a photo to fit, but in the wrong direction. Just flip it. With most photos, you'll still be able to tell what's there. It's simple and silly and one of those things you just have to try, even if it's only once.

Big and Little: Obviously the smaller your photos, the more you can fit in a set space! And some months, we will run with the idea of little is better! This month, try mixing your sizes so you can overlap small photos with the dead space in larger ones. Make your smaller photos by printing at a smaller size or by cropping to a smaller size. Whatever is easier for you!

Don't forget: Today's date and some journaling. If you are doing just one project this year in your own handwriting, let this be it! Handwriting your journaling is quick and not as scary as it seems -- it just takes a little practice. You can always draft what you want to write in a notebook before you transfer it to your page if you're nervous. If you're not nervous, you know what to do - just get on with it! Two options to think about in your journaling -- do you want to record just today, or use it as a space to fill in what has happened in the gap in between each month? Either works - just pick one and off you go. This may be a project that is really suited to journaling in a list. If it was a busy day, you might jot down all the places you went, if you didn't have to move around all that much, try writing down the things you have seen, heard, etc. ([Emily](#) does this every Sunday on her blog and it's a fascinating technique!) Or separate the everyday (eating, cleaning, working, driving, etc) with the just-today (today's headlines, weather report, unique bits and pieces you accomplish today). Or come up with a few headings that can remain consistent throughout the entire book...Today I ate..., Today I finished..., Today I read..., Today I spent..., Today I loved... with whatever headings will be perfect for you.

The cover: If you've got an idea for your cover, go for it! If it's not coming to mind just yet, hang on. Next week I'll post a round up of different covers from lots of participants and you can nab one of those ideas if you need a boost!

But what if...

...I'm a digi girl?

I am definitely a paperfiend, but that doesn't mean you can't do the project digitally. You can still use the cropping techniques (without worrying about whether your trimmer is cutting straight!) to achieve the same look. As for the hinged photos, if you like the idea, you could always make this a hybrid project by making the majority of the page in a digital format, printing it out and adding the hinged photos right over the top.

...I'm an embellishment-loving girl?

No problem. You can still have heaps of photos along with some sparkle and dimension! Just get all the pictures you want included on the page first and make sure there's space for your journaling, then add embellishments wherever you like - in the gaps or right over the top of the photo.

...I don't feel like scrapping?

Try something different. I don't mean abandoning the project -- I mean doing something that doesn't involve pulling out your paper trimmer. You know that blogging does essentially the same thing as scrapbooking, yet without the crafty part? It seems a ridiculous comparison if you're in love with paper, but if you don't feel crafty, there's no need to force it! Try something that will still keep your photos and stories together, like uploading your photos to [Flickr](#) and adding a caption to each one to remind you of the important details. If you fall back in love with paper over the next year, you'll have everything you need to catch up. If you don't, you'll still have evidence of a year of everyday life. Either way is totally fine.