

What is Digital Scrapbooking?

Digital scrapbooking is very much like traditional scrapbooking, just using digital images, including digital photos, digital papers, digital decorations and composing a page on your computer. The difference is that you have more instant flexibility in changing all of those elements to fit the situation. Often I would be scrapbooking and wish I had a picture printed in a larger or smaller size to fit the page. With digital scrapbooking you can change the size of the picture and are not limited to just the traditional sizes. You can also crop the picture to be any size you want. With traditional scrapbooking I often did not have a paper that was the color or style I wanted. With digital scrapbooking you can change the style and color of your papers very easily. You can also combine digital and traditional scrapbooking. If you have mementos or artsy elements you want to add to a digital page you can do that.

At first, digital scrapbooking may seem a little confusing. If you think of it just like constructing a traditional scrapbook page it will help. With traditional scrapbooking you build layers on your page. You start with your background paper. You gather the pictures you want to add. You decide what size you want them to be, if you want to crop them, if you want to mat those pictures or add a strip of decorative paper along one side. You then decide if you want to add decorative elements on top of the page and what those will be.

With digital scrapbooking you can do all of those things. Somewhere in the program you will have a “layers palette.” As you add things, you add to the top layer – so you can see them. But if you change your mind you can move each item around, just as you can with traditional scrapbooking before you glue things down.

Another advantage of digital scrapbooking is that you can reuse digital items as many times as you wish. When you purchase a piece of paper at the scrapbook store, you usually can only use it once, or cut it and use smaller pieces as needed. Once you buy a digital paper, it is yours to use over and over again. You can change its color. You can change its characteristics. You can remove its color and use it as a paper template to add design and/or texture to another paper.

If you travel for genealogy research at your ancestor's original location you can scrapbook the pictures you take and complete journaling to accompany it while it is fresh in your mind. You can then upload it over the Internet to your home resource and the pages will be there waiting for you when you return home.

There are several programs you can use for digital scrapbooking. Most work in a similar manner. You may already have one on your computer that came with some other software. The program I chose is Photoshop Elements. It is much easier to use than Photoshop, which is a program first developed for professional photographers. Also, there seem to be more resources which are specifically designed for Photoshop and Photoshop Elements.

Whatever program you choose, find a good tutorial for that program and start by doing some basic steps first and gradually learning some of the more advanced features. I have learned a little at a time and keep experimenting with new features each time.

Topics:

Introduction to digital scrapbooking
Basic size and resolution
Building a page – layers palette
Moving things around
Journaling
Shadows
Elements – purchased and self made
Changing colors
Textures
Output:
Printing
Uploading to photo resource
Using with purchased photobooks.

Resources:

Scrapper's Guide:

<http://www.scrappersguide.com/>

Linda Satgasst has excellent video tutorials for learning Photoshop Elements (separate video for version 6, 7, or 8). This is the best tutorial I have found. You can also sign up for a weekly newsletter that includes more lessons. Linda also offers a Premier Membership also. Each month you receive for downloading a collection of papers, elements and an alphabet that coordinate. It also includes about 15 QuickPages. These are pages their designers put together for you to use. You can just add your photos or you can make some changes to fit exactly what you want.

I found Photoshop Elements at Costco (online) for about 85.00 including shipping. It had Linda Satgasst's tutorial with it. This is a good buy. Most other copies I've seen do not include her tutorial.

ScrapGirls

<http://www.scrapgirls.com/>

You can sign up for a daily or weekly newsletter. Sometimes there is a tutorial, but usually about using one of their products. The “boutique” is a place you can purchase many digital items, papers, elements, alphas, brushes, etc. My caution, it's easy to get carried away. They do have some good online classes. Learn the program you are using a little first before you try these.

Scrapbook Memories

<http://www.scrapbookmemoriestv.com/>

This is a tv program on scrapbooking on BYTV. On the website go to “projects” and scroll through the different series looking for any instructions on digital. Various presenters give digital lessons on various topics. This is where I first learned about Linda Satgasst. E.g. look at Project Series 1200 and 1201-5 is one of her lessons.