



Welcome to Anam's Beginner Scrapbook Project known as 5Ws.

The Ws standing for the *who, when, where and why* of Scrapbooking and The Class will be run every Wednesday on Anam's blog: [www.anamstubbington.typepad.com](http://www.anamstubbington.typepad.com)

## Lesson One: PREP!!

*The truth about scrapbooking is that it can be done by anyone with any sort of supplies. No matter what the craft industry says, you do not need the \$100 tool or every sheet of that pretty paper nor four packs of those flowers – it is like any other art form, as you go, you accumulate, you collect and you horde – there is nothing wrong with this as long as you use what you buy before it goes moldy. I have a ton of tools and at one point I had a large bedroom full of supplies so I can speak from experience when I tell you that you don't need it all – you can want it all – but you can scrapbook without it all - I have scrapbooked out of a backpack on a hotel bed.*

### These are essential **TOOLS:**

**Paper:** Each Single layout I have designed for this project will use 2 to 3 sheets of paper.

**Trimmer:** This is to cut your paper sheets to the size you need – you can use a blade and ruler instead.

**Scissors:** for shaping papers, cutting ribbon and everything else.

**Adhesive:** I would suggest three kinds

- 1) Double Sided Tape (roll, runner etc) to attach the paper together, for ribbon etc
- 2) Liquid – this is good for thin, tricky pieces
- 3) Foam Pads – these are good for layering embellishments

People use all varieties of glue – try some out and see what works for you and what you trust.

**Embellishments:** you can make you own from or buy them from stores you like. You can use Ephemera that match up with the memories i.e. show tickets, ribbon from a present. Ribbon is always a good addition to your box of stash. I will leave this up to you but will give suggestions when I share the week's class project.

**Pens:** You need these for your journaling, paper shaping and outlining. I would suggest a few difference colours – especially black and brown.

*I also would suggest the following tools as they are what I use on a regular basis:*

Stapler, Hole Punch, "Pokey Stick" aka darning needle or something that allows you to make small holes in things, Sandpaper and Black small ink pad. I also have a rotating date stamp like an old fashioned office version and an edge distresser as that saves getting paper cuts in fingernails.

After that, get tools are you want them. As you go along, there are a few that I would suggest you look out for – especially if they are on sale:

Edge Punches – they can give a plain edge a much different feel.

Shape Punches – I recommend getting a star and a heart one to start with.

Stamps – I would start with a good journal or label stamp as they are the most versatile.



*The next step is to sort out your PHOTOGRAPHS into manageable and related lots.*

# Photographs:

In this age of digital cameras, we tend to take a ton of shots and print none out. This leads to heartbreak when a memory card is lost or a computer crashes – this pain is horrible and causes a lot of guilt.

I suggest that each month you print out your favourite shots from each time you picked up your camera and put them into a photograph album – use 6"x4" sized photos and grab a pack of index cards. Put the details of each photograph on the index card and put it behind the photograph in question. *I call it the 4 W's – who, where, when and why - it just needs to be date, place and who and if you want to expand add a why as in "why did you take that photo?" – perfect family group, the sunlight was awesome etc".* This way your family and you have the details should you never get around to scrapbooking everything. I don't scrapbook chronologically and I doubt I will ever be caught up but if I got hit by a bus tomorrow, the main details are there for my loved ones.

Pockets of Photographs sorted into general groups



Contents of each pocket sorted into memories



Memories and events grouped together



Envelopes with more details



Contents of my November 5th Envelope



Contents of my Sushi Envelope



The next step is to decide which memories you want to make a layout about.

Print out the photographs relating to event – you might not use all the photographs but it is handy to have them to hand. Then grab a pack of Envelopes that fit your photographs – write on the front of the envelope the same details as for the album i.e. who, where, why, when.

This allows you to pick and choose what events you want to scrapbook at any time. I am an emotional scrapbooker so I tend to scrapbook what feels right on the day.

I often do this while watching TV or sitting with the kids when they are reading – it's a 10 minute job once a month that helps greatly when we get to the next stage in scrapbook Prep.

As I said, this is the way I do it, there are others systems – maybe print out two each of your Favourite photos and put everything together in an album and then flick through the regular album when looking for stuff to scrapbook. Others only keep everything on their computer and print out photographs as they need. You will find your own way of working that will suit you with time.

*Gathering up your project aka making a Layout Bag is the last step in the process of prepping.*

# Layout Bag:

Most of us have lives that are busy and filled with lots of different to-do lists. This makes sitting and scrapbooking without interruption difficult and often is the part that puts off people from creating.

The way around this is to break down the layout process into little 10 minute slots now and then. You have already sorted out your photographs and written down the main information. Now you need to find the papers and the embellishments to match – these don't have to be the final decisions but more of a general feel for an end layout. Often I put more into a project bag that I use so it gives me choices at the time I am sticking everything down.

I use 13"x13" ziplock bags for this step – you can pick them up online or grab the XL bags from the grocery section in your local supermarket. Some people use large brown paper bags and others use file folders. Some people use a box and just add a small ziplock bag of the photos and embellishments stapled to the cut-off strip. Use what you have to hand for starters and then work on it from there.

Play with the photographs on paper to see which one sparks your imagination - sometimes this means adding and discarding as you go.



Decide what is important to emphasise in the photos - which one of the W's are you going with the left layout is about Bees as that's personal to the people in the photo. The right layout is going with a seaside colour scheme.



Finished selection of embellishments.

Bagged up and ready to go.



Now get together your papers and start to match them up with the photographs and the memories you want to work on – I normally make up batches of 10 layout bags at a time but then I make a layout every day – Others might make up 4 layouts bags a month – I would suggest start with 3 or 4 and go from there. Every time you finish a layout, empty the project bag and start again.

Sometimes a paper might be the starting place for the emotion and sometimes it's the photograph, also decide what you are matching the photo to – the clothes they are wearing, or a colour or an emotion.

When you have gathered your papers, start adding a selection of embellishments. Remember to add more than you think as you can always discard them later. Once you are happy with your choice, put them all and your photos (in their envelope – so they don't get scratched) in a bag and gather the layout bags together in a safe place.



Now you are ready to start and finish a layout in one setting when you have a spare 30 minute to an hour because you just grab a layout bag and some adhesive and off you go.

As you can see from the photographs, sometimes it takes playing with the photos on the papers to find the one that works for the story you are trying to tell on your layout.

*This is the most time consuming part of scrapbooking for a lot of people but it is also the most fun bit.*

I normally do this part over a few days, when I have 10 or 30 minutes going spare so I am often walking past thinking of ideas or changing embellishments as I go but I am lucky to have a dedicated work surface to leave my supplies on and I am packing 10 layouts at a time.

When you are starting out, I would use a timer and set it for 10 minutes per layout bag. Pick your papers you need in those 10 minutes, and then walk away. Come back in a few hours or the next day, decide if you still like the paper and then set the time again for the embellishments. After a while, you begin to trust your choices and it becomes less of a stress to pick out bits.

I will say though, I have been known to start a layout bag and then change my mind completely half way through and start it again and I have made layouts with the leftovers from another project bag because they sparked a creative flow so I do not hold hard and fast to the layout bags but they are a good place to start.

Again, this is only one way of sorting out supplies for layout and you will find a method that works for you. I have found that this works for a lot of people who only get to scrapbook once a week or once a month – The time they have to actually sit down at a table with adhesive with the dedicated time to create is very precious so this makes it easy to pick up a few bags at once and know you will get layouts finished at the end of the time.

I wish you creative joy in this part of scrapbooking as this is where you make each layout your own.

As usual, I am available for questions or suggestions at [email](#), [Facebook](#), [my blog](#) or through [twitter](#)

Regards & Enjoy,

Anam

