

clean & simple

Approach your holiday memory keeping with simplicity and zero scrapbooking stress

BY CATHY ZIELSKE

I'm no papercrafting Scrooge, but I'm going to level with you: I used to loathe scrapbooking the holidays. Every December, I'd put my memory keeping on hold for the month. Why? A number of reasons, but mostly I felt there was too much pressure to nail the perfect holiday pages. I mean, let's face it: the winter holidays are pretty picturesque, right? But I just couldn't handle the pressure I put on myself to capture those memories perfectly.

Then I got over it and realized that I didn't need to change my approach to scrapbooking just because of big, intimidating holidays. I could keep it simple, add a little fun to the mix and not take the holidays quite so seriously. I've got some ideas to help you do the same in an effort to keep your holiday memory keeping stress-free.



pg 1: have your selfie ...

tip: use your camera phone and a self-timer app to capture a fun holiday photo

Who doesn't love a great family photo? I know I do! But the reality is, sometimes it's tricky to get one. Last Christmas Eve, I came up with a modern, inexpensive solution: I put my cell phone on a shelf and used an app that let's you trip the shutter by clapping (see more details about the clap app on page 55).

We sat on the couch. I clapped my hands. Family selfie magic ensued. With the number of camera apps including self-timers today, you can create a fun family-selfie moment just about anywhere.

Not sure about camera-phone placement? I have a little gadget called a GripTight Mount (see sidebar on page 55) that screws into my tripod and holds my phone securely in place. It has been amazing for selfies of all kinds.

The point is, when you let go of grand expectations for the perfect family photo, you might find your cell phone is the key to creating a truly memorable holiday portrait.

have your selfie a merry little christmas

supplies CARDSTOCK: Bazzill Basics; PATTERNED PAPER, STICKERS: Pink Paislee

pg 2: ho ho ...

tip: put your Instagram images to work on a simple grid design

More and more I am using my iPhone to document my life, and this is especially true around the holidays. It's always with me and it's far less obtrusive than hauling around my big, old DSLR camera. Don't get me wrong, I love my big fancy camera, but it's my camera phone that lets me snap a photo that I might not otherwise take.

I'm a huge fan of Instagram and I love taking holiday photos. From the twinkle lights on the tree to the amazing cookies I make with my daughter, I snap away and share many of the moments as I capture them. I decided to take advantage of my shared images by printing a handful of them out and making a simple grid design incorporating some fun holiday patterned papers. Every image is two inches square, making for easy size matching.

Whether you're an active Instagram user or simply appreciate the square approach to photos, you can easily draw a grid for your images and embellishments. It's a fun way to combine a handful of holiday images onto a single layout.



ho ho holiday instagrams

supplies CARDSTOCK: Bazzill Basics; PATTERNED PAPER: BasicGrey; EMBELLISHMENT: Pink Paislee



video resources:

Download Cathy's printable journaling card and page template to create your holiday selfie page. New to digital? Watch her step-by-step video tutorial on how to use this template:

youtube.com/watch?v=H-KqTbfM9A8



selfie resources:

- Joby GripTight Smartphone Tripod: joby.com/smartphones/griptight-mount
- Key Cam Self-Timer app (for iPhone): itunes.apple.com/us/app/keycam-self-timer-camera-clap/id687573996?mt=8
- Camera MX Photo Effects app for Android: play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.magix.camera_mx&hl=en



pg 3: love this ...

tip: zero in on a single photo and one memory that matters

As soon as I let go of the pressure to document everything, I can focus on some of my favorite photos and memories. There is no rule that says you have to document every holiday shot you take.

For this page, I found one photo that just made me smile. My husband, Dan, invented a silly game last Christmas called "Deer in the Clear" in response to the whole Elf on the Shelf craze. Instead of a mischievous Elf doing silly things around the house, he simply placed this little balsa-wood deer in very conspicuous locations and when someone spotted it (which trust me, was not hard to do!) they had to shout, "DEER IN THE CLEAR!"

I'm guessing everyone has fun little traditions during the holidays and if so, take a photo and share a single story on a layout. Yes, there are probably a ton of holiday photos in your stack but when you focus on one story you really love, you'll know that you've saved a story that really matters.

love

supplies CARDSTOCK: Bazzill Basics; PATTERNED PAPER: BasicGrey; EMBELLISHMENT: CZ Design Digitals; CIRCLE PUNCH: Fiskars DIE-CUTTING MACHINE: Silhouette



Cathy has created a treasure trove of exclusive freebie files, including the "love" title (above), a digital template of her 12x12 layout (page 60), and a "have your selfie ..." colour printable. Grab them all at:

scrapbookandcards.com/bonus-files

love

Say 'bah humbug' to holiday scrapbooking stress!

Letting go of big expectations around the holidays is such a great approach to saving the memories that matter most. I learned years ago, when my kids were little, to focus less on saving the perfect memory and more on the making of them. With this in mind, use your phone's camera to quickly and easily snap your shots. Give yourself permission to document a story or two you really love. Don't worry about covering the entire holiday season. I promise if you hit a few points here and there, you'll be as golden as the star on top of the tree or the menorah on your mantle. Happy clean & simple holidays to you! **SCT**

For more great ideas, free templates and digital inspiration, visit Cathy's web site at cathyzielske.com