

# make it mini

Commemorate a new year of learning with a cute school-themed mini album! BY NATHALIE LEONELLI

Like many of you, I take the traditional back to school photo of my kids on their first day of school before we leave the house, and now that my youngest is done with school, I decided a mini album would be a really fun way to gather these photos all in one place. A special event or a special "through the years" series like this one is the perfect subject for a mini album. I love the creative freedom that mini albums allow.

**MINI SIZE:**

3½ x 5



## GETTING STARTED

**Figure out your format and design before starting on the project.** This step typically takes the longest because it is the one where you figure out what your mini will look like. Find inspiration online: look at tutorials or at past issues of *Scrapbook & Cards Today* magazine. I have been wanting to make a tag flip album for a while so that was my first design decision.

✓ **MAKE IT TIP: Make your own.**  
In order to make my mini album exactly the size I wanted—5 inches tall by 3½ inches wide (closed)—I created my own book out of cardboard cut to size and covered with patterned paper

✓ **MAKE IT TIP: Create a pretty closure.**  
A coordinating satin ribbon to cinch the album shut adds a special and useful touch to a mini album!

## back to school

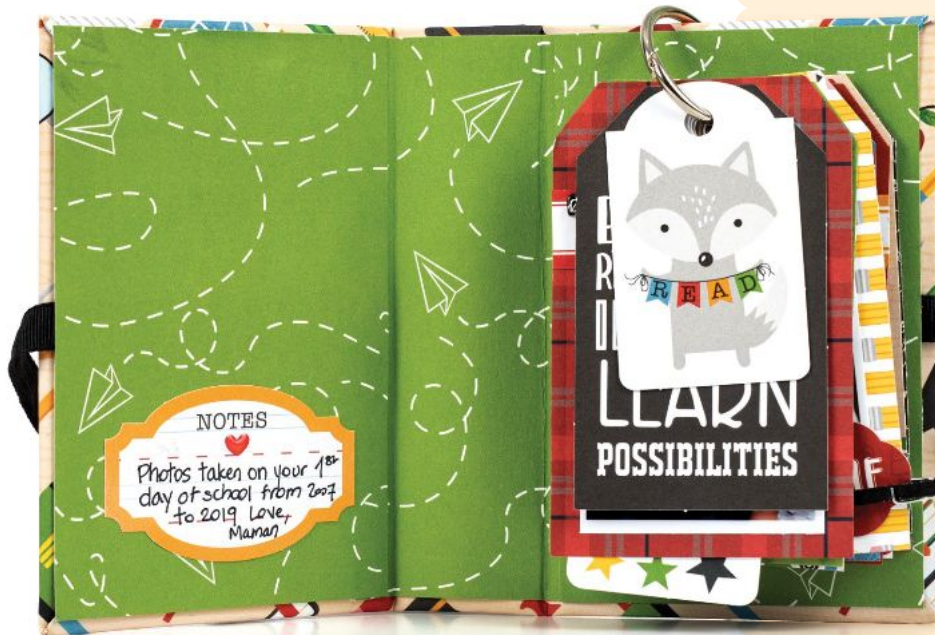
**supplies** PATTERNED PAPER, DIE CUT SHAPES: Echo Park Paper; STAMPS, LABELS: Elle's Studio; PEN: Staedtler; CLOTHES PIN, ENAMEL DOTS, PAPERCLIPS, SEQUINS: Doodlebug Design; STICKERS: Echo Park Paper, Elle's Studio; LETTER STICKERS: American Crafts; TRIM: Michaels; ADHESIVE: Scrapbook Adhesives by 3L; OTHER: Book ring, hole protectors

✓ **MAKE IT TIP: Put a title on the spine.** If your mini albums sit on a shelf, putting the title on the spine is a great way to quickly find the mini you want.

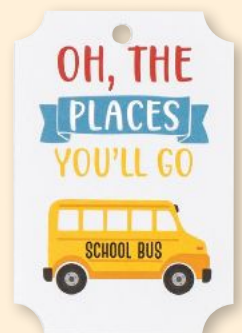
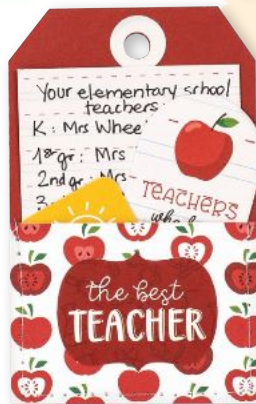
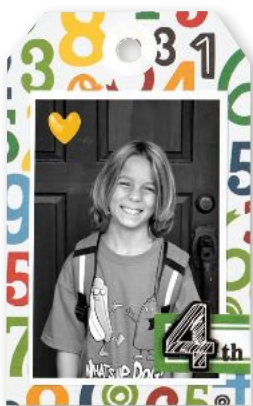


Get more creative ideas from Nathalie by following her on Instagram at [@anounceofcreativity](https://www.instagram.com/anounceofcreativity).

✓ **MAKE IT TIP: Use tags and a binder ring.** Instead of traditional pages for my album, I used large tags and a binder ring which allows you to flip through the mini. It's a fun and surprising twist on the usual!



✓ **MAKE IT TIP: Keep it consistent.** When you're working with a series of photos like I did, make sure that the photos have similar angles and proportions and crop them, if necessary, to achieve a consistent look.



✓ **MAKE IT TIP: Be fearless.** Don't stick to only functionality when you can add pages/tags that are purely decorative. I love the little shaker tag I made with a frame and transparent pocket filled with sequins.

✓ **MAKE IT TIP: Add pockets.** The beauty of a mini album is its interactive nature. Add pockets with fun little bits that can be pulled out.