

make it mini

Join me in the crafty zone as we create a whimsical mini album! BY SHARA CRANE

To me, the words mini album mean endless possibilities to make things amazing and full of fun. It's a way to not only enjoy your photos, journaling, or memories, but also a way to let your creativity explode! It's normal to feel a bit overwhelmed when starting a mini album, but just start by completing one page at a time. Before you know it, you will have a completed and amazing mini album. We all have to start at the beginning, so get your paper out, sit back, and enjoy the ride into the crafty zone.

MINI SIZE:

4½ x 8



chasing dreams

supplies PATTERNED PAPER, CHARMS, RUBBER SHAPES: Crate Paper; BRADS, BUTTONS, CLASP, TRIM: JoAnn Crafts; SEQUINS: Cartwright's Sequins; CLIP: Pinkfresh Studio; GLASS BEADS: Angela Dose Design; STICKERS: American Crafts, Crate Paper, JoAnn Crafts; LETTER STICKERS: American Crafts, Crate Paper, Paige Evans for American Crafts, Pinkfresh Studio; DIE CUT SHAPES: Amy Tangerine for American Crafts, Crate Paper, Meri Meri; ELECTRONIC CUT FILES: Cricut; PUNCH: We R Memory Keepers; TRIM: DMC; RIBBON: Sari Silk; FABRIC: Hawthorne Supply, Co.; PLANNER DISCS: Happy Planner; ADHESIVE: American Crafts

GETTING STARTED

My albums always have a base of two pages—front and back. I work on one at a time. Once I am all done, I sew the two pages together making one. This allows me to hide all the mess that ends up on the back of each page. I couldn't live without my sewing machine! Next, I select the paper I plan to use. I like to mix up collections when I craft because it gives your project a lot of personality! A good tip when mixing collections is to stick with paper collections from the same designer. Most of the time these designers have similar colour palettes from one collection to the next making them all work together quite nicely.

✓ **MAKE IT TIP: Plan ahead.** If you're making a disc mini album like I have done, be sure to keep in mind where you will be punching the holes. You want to ensure that you keep the important parts of each page away from those areas.

✓ **MAKE IT TIP: Be brave and a little crazy.** I am a sucker for bulky. Add clips, beads, and all kinds of chunky fun that you've been hoarding in your supply stash!

✓ **MAKE IT TIP: Pull in textiles.** Fabric and pom pom trim can bring a mini album to life. Use a bit of both to make the album a tactile experience!



✓ **MAKE IT TIP: Save it for later!** When using a sticker and only half of it will show on the page, cut the extra half and save it to use later. The little yellow rose tucked into the banner below the photo is cut and the other half is used later in the mini.



✓ **MAKE IT TIP: Tack it down.** I love using my sewing machine to sew down letter stickers. This is a sure way to keep them in place.



✓ **MAKE IT TIP: Hide the rough stuff.** I like to sandwich the pom pom trim in between each page and sew them back-to-back. This way, you only see the pom poms sticking out.



✓ **MAKE IT TIP: Stitching makes magic.** Add die cut cards, pockets, and shaker pouches for a lovely little extra touch. I like to bring them to life by hand-stitching on them and around the edges, too.

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