

# design your story

There are so many ways to document birthdays!  
 We have two that are sure to inspire you. BY CATHY ZIELSKE

**We document a lot of birthdays in our albums.** If you're looking for some fresh ways to tell these stories, design team member Wendy Sue Anderson is sharing two fantastic layouts. One spans time and the other zeroes in on a single moment. You can shake up your time frames any way you like for beautiful birthday pages!



## layout 1

### THROUGH THE YEARS

**Be still my time-travelling heart!** Wendy Sue took five photos from different years to create this sweet layout. "I love being able to watch him grow up right in front of my eyes on a single layout!" she says.

**DESIGN TIP: Go for black and white.** Wendy Sue converted all her photos to black and white to create a more cohesive look.

**DESIGN TIP: Use non-birthday themed products.** The patterned papers and ephemera are not birthday specific which makes it nice for a masculine-themed design. Wendy Sue did add some die-cut candles to add a little birthday flair.

## happy birthday

BY WENDY SUE ANDERSON

**supplies** CARDSTOCK, PATTERNED PAPER, DIE CUT SHAPES, DIES, ENAMEL DOTS, STICKERS: Carta Bella Paper; TRIM: DMC; FONT: Traveling Typewriter; ADHESIVE: Scrapbook Adhesives by 3L; OTHER: Vellum

### STORY TIP: Show the passage of time.

If you've never used photos from different time periods, it's a great way to create a layout. Give it a try for your next birthday page.



layout 2

**DESIGN TIP: Use vellum to create fun pockets on your tags.** Vellum softens the look of ephemera and is a cool way to add texture and tone.



**FOCUS ON A MOMENT**

The second layout shows multiple close-up photos of a single birthday moment. Whether you repeat the style of photo depicting an action as Wendy Sue has done or take different angles and shots of a single moment, it's a great photographic way of telling a visual story.

**DESIGN TIP: Use tags in your design.** Wendy Sue says, "I love using tags as mini canvases on my layouts. It is less overwhelming, and it's a fun way to incorporate lots of coordinating papers and embellishments."

**STORY TIP: Choose your story focus.** Both of Wendy Sue's layouts feature photos taken with the birthday boy and his cake, yet they are very different. Both are great options, both are important, and both are fun!

**make a wish**

BY WENDY SUE ANDERSON

**supplies** CARDSTOCK: Carta Bella Paper; PATTERNED PAPER, DIE CUT SHAPES, DIES, STICKERS: Echo Park Paper; TRIM: American Crafts, DMC, May Arts; Font: Century Gothic; ADHESIVE: Scrapbook Adhesives by 3L; OTHER: Vellum

See more pages and stories by Wendy Sue on Instagram at [@wendysuea](https://www.instagram.com/wendysuea)