

YOUR MEMORIES... OUR KITS...

You're going to LOVE this club!



MemoryWorkshop.ca

Packing For a Retreat

So you're going to a crop or retreat! Hope you're planning to have a blast! You are in for an exciting weekend and some well-deserved "me" time for cropping and creating to your heart's content.

For some scrappers the excitement of an event is overshadowed by the anxiety of figuring out what to bring. You can't bring your whole crop room, so where do you start? Packing for a crop or retreat doesn't have to be stressful! Below we've included some time-saving and stress-reducing tips for planning and packing. We answer the most asked question "what do I bring?" by breaking it down into 4 categories:

- o Projects
- o Products
- o Tools
- o Other stuff

Why not just bring everything that will fit in your car? After all, you might need it "just in case." Please consider that space in the crop room may be at a premium. It's not as simple as just relocating all the furniture from you home to the event.

So let's get organized.

But wait...before you start jamming everything and anything in your tote "just in case", lets work on a plan of attack. Remember, in order to accommodate as many scrappers as possible at this event, space around tables is precious. Out of respect for other scrappers we ask that you streamline your totes, bins & boxes.

The scenario we're trying to avoid is a common one: you wait until the last minute to look for your photos. You end up bringing a Rubbermaid bin full, and spend much of your crop time sifting through the envelopes, wondering where to start. And because you brought so many

photos, you pack everything you can possibly cram in your car, because you never know what you might need. Let's put a stop to that insanity!!

The scenario we're aiming for is a productive one: Page Kits. Photos, paper & embellishments all coordinated and bundled together. You only bring what you're likely to use, and you can leave the rest at home. You can make page kits from your existing stash or use ready-made kits. And don't worry...the onsite store will be stocked with a wide variety of fun products, page kits, and all the cardstock and adhesive you'll ever need.

The first step is to decide ahead of time which photos or projects you want to work on. I always suggest that you throw "chronological" out the window, and scrap the photos that inspire and excite you right now. Scrapping "what excites" can be much more satisfying than scrapping "what's next."(If you are comfortable and productive with "chronological" then continue working that way. Making progress is what matters most.)

Begin by sorting your photos into layout idea piles. Don't obsess about exactly which photos you'll use on a page. Keep them together for now, and you can edit later once you start playing with the layout. Be realistic about how fast and how detailed you scrap...are you a 2-layouts-per-hour scrapper, or a 2-layouts-per-day scrapper? Bring more than you would usually complete, because you still want choices once you get there. And when you're this organized you'll be pleasantly surprised by how much you can accomplish. (I either amaze myself with my productivity, or I go home with page kits that I can use the next time I crop)

If it helps you, add notes, title ideas, or quick memory prompts to each pile. Piles can go into a photo storage box, or be wrapped with rubber bands, or dropped into individual Ziploc bags to keep them separated but accessible.

Getting your kits together.

In this segment you're going to learn the formula for making your own page kits, based on the photos you've gathered (as suggested in Part 2). This method will work whether you are shopping in a store or digging through your own stash.

Begin with a set of photos and keep them handy. Does the layout you want to create have a theme, such as an event or holiday? Look in your stash for "themed" items. Gather these coordinated items, but don't feel pressured to use them all on your layout. This is simply a kit of possibilities. You can decide what stays and what goes once you start assembling the page.

From here, pull patterned paper from your stash that coordinates with your embellishments.

You'll notice cardstock is last on the list of kit ingredients. This is because it's easier to find cardstock to match your patterned paper than it is to find patterned paper to match your cardstock. If you don't have just the right shade of cardstock on hand, it's easy to find at any store. I'll have close to 100 shades to choose from at the retreat.

A typical kit will look like this:

- o 1 or 2 sheets of patterned paper
- o some kind of sticker or embellishment
- o Title material (sticker or rub on letters, diecut, page topper, etc)
- o 1 or 2 sheets of cardstock for your base page

- o 1 or 2 sheets of cardstock in different shades for matting and accents
- o Finishing touches* (ribbon, flowers, brads, eyelets, etc)

*I like to bring the finishing touches with me in my tote – alphabet stickers, rubons & chipboard; brads & eyelets; ribbon; flowers – because I don't know exactly how much I'll need until the layout starts to come together. These are basic, multi-purpose products that can be used on any number of layouts, so it makes sense to have them handy.

Put everything including the photos into a jumbo Ziploc bag. (Zellers extra large Truly brand is good). This is your kit! You may only be able to assemble partial kits from the products you have on hand. Bring your incomplete kits to the store to shop for missing items.

Repeat the process with each stack of photos, and amaze yourself with how many layouts you can fit in your tote, while packing fewer products than you imagined.

One question I am asked frequently is, "why go to the trouble of making the kit only to put it aside and not work on the layout from start to finish?" The best answer I can give is: creating a layout is made of two parts – hunting & gathering the products, and then cutting & pasting them into a finished work of art. One uses the analytical and organized part of your brain, and the other is artistic and creative. It's more efficient to use one part of your brain at a time! Do the hunting & gathering at home, and save the cutting & pasting till the event.

Don't forget your toothbrush!

Yes, your toothbrush! This advice isn't just for those of you who are staying overnight at the hotel. An old toothbrush is a handy tool for cleaning foam stamps!

Tools – Review the page kits you've made and determine which tools you'll need to assemble the products you've packed. Check the details and tools lists for each of the classes you've registered for (if there are classes at your event. If you don't own the required tools, arrange ahead of time to borrow from a friend or buy your own. Your essential tools and class tools should be in one tote or container that's easy to carry to and from classes. The [All My Memories Tote-Ally Cool Tote](#) is brilliant!

Shared Tools -- Check with friends to see if you can bring one circle cutter or die cut system to share amongst your group.

Adhesives – my Top 5 are: EZ Runner tape runner, Zig 2-way Squeeze n Roll glue pen, Mini Glue Dots, Foam Squares, and Pioneer Extra Strong Embellishment Glue Stick.

Your photos and/or page kits – don't laugh. I've done it, and I know I'm not the only one!

Camera – this is an event you're going to want to document.

Snacks & drinks – goodies for between meals and late night munchies if you're staying over. Check with the venue for their policy about outside food.

Butt (or back) pillow – I can't vouch for the comfort of the crop room chairs. Cover your own butt, that's my motto!

Money – *cash* for 50/50 draws, raffle tickets, etc. Money for meals and shopping. (The Memory Workshop takes Visa, MasterCard, Cash & Cheque)

Clothes & shoes – bring a sweater or dress in layers. Every crop room and classroom is different.

Personal Items – especially if you are sleeping over. Toiletries, clothes, sleeping pillow, hair styling tools, glasses, contact lenses, retainers, prescription meds, ear plugs, cell phone.

Scrapbooker's Survival Kit – Advil, lip balm, Kleenex, Tums, gum and chocolate. Best kept in your tool tote at all times!

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