



## Week 1

- Rethink Your Scraps
- Repurpose Your Books, Envelopes and Folders.
- **Research Multi-Purpose Punching Tools**
- Reinventing the Wheel: Make Your Own Smash Journal

## Let's Research Multi-Purpose Punching Tools

As many of you know, there are several different punching tools available for purchase in today's scrapbooking industry.

I'd like to highlight some of these products, discuss their creative uses and give you the information necessary to help you decide if your scrapbook arsenal would benefit from one or more of these gizmos!

Now I'm sure it's safe to say that most of us have owned and operated your average, everyday hole punch—and for some of us, this tool will suffice for our scrapbooking needs. However, others may be interested in tools that can be used for both punching and eyelet or snap setting. Still others are in search of gadgets that have more punch power and a farther reach. And then there's always that bunch of us that want it all!

Please be advised that these reviews contain my personal recommendations and opinions based on my experience and research of the items reviewed. Any and all information provided should be verified by the manufacturer.

**So let's have a look at what's out there!**

## Universal Punch Sets

*These sets offer the most versatility out of all of the multi-purpose punching tools. Sometimes they are sold as a set with the tools necessary for both punching as well as the setting of eyelets and snaps. Other times they are sold separately as either punches or setters. These sets will require the use of a craft hammer and self-healing mat. You should also check out the leather punching tools at your local craft store because they are often the exact same tool sold with a larger selection of punch shapes.*



### **Popular Options:**

**Darice's Eyelet Tool, Making Memories Hole Punch + Making Memories Eyelet Setter or Making Memories Tool Kit II, ProvoCraft Zision Tool Set.**

**Price Range:** \$4.99-29.99

### **Pros:**

- You can punch anywhere and through most surfaces.
- A variety of sizes and shapes are often available for these types of sets.
- These sets are usually interchangeable, meaning you don't have to stick to the same brand when building your collection.

### **Cons:**

- Sometimes these sets require additional tools not included with the tool itself.
- The hammering can be a bit loud for you late-night scrappers.
- Paper chads can cause the tool to get clogged if you don't clean them out often.
- Punches eventually get dull and most options don't sell just the replacements tips.

**My Pick:** The ProvoCraft Zision Tool Set. In addition to the universal setter, self healing mat and craft hammer that this set comes with, you'll also find a handful of other very useful tools for a great price. The bright pink handles also make them easy to find among the constant clutter in my craft room!



## Easy Setters

*These are the most convenient of all of the multi-purpose punching tools. They operate with the use of an internal spring hammer, therefore, they are quiet, portable and easy to use. Most options are sold as a set containing the three basic sizes of punches and setters, as well as a self-healing mat.*

### **Popular Options:**

**Provo Craft's Silent Setter, Making Memories Instant Setter and Fiskars 3-Piece Setter Set.**

**Price Range:** \$14.99-\$24.99

### **Pros:**

- Silent punching and setting
- Quick, easy and portable.
- Most options are available in 3 or more sizes.

### **Cons:**

- Paper chads can cause the tool to get clogged if you don't clean them out often.
- Punches eventually get dull and most options don't sell replacements tips separately.
- These punches may require more than one attempt for a clean punch or secure set and may not handle thicker materials.
- Some of these only work well with soft metal eyelets.

**My Pick:** The Making Memories Instant Setter. In my experience this easy setter was the most durable and my tips remained sharper for longer period of time. It's a little louder than the silent setter, but works well with both hard and soft metal eyelets.



## Heavy Duty Multi-Purpose Punching Tool

*These are the strongest and most durable of the punching tools available in today's market. They will allow you to easily punch through materials ranging from chipboard to acrylics and even some metals--making this perfect for those of you who enjoy making albums and projects in addition to scrapbook pages.*

### **Popular Options:**

**We R Memory Keeper's Crop-A-Dile and Big Bite.**

**Price Range:** \$24.99-\$44.99

### **Pros:**

- Silent punching and setting.
- You can punch through virtually ANYTHING!
- Sliding guides allow you to punch a succession of holes in a straight line.

### **Cons:**

- You are limited by the reach of the tool.
- There are only two punch sizes.
- A bit more hand strength is required to operate when punching through thicker materials.

**My Pick:** The Big Bite. Though the eyelet setting method is a bit more of a hassle with this tool than its smaller counterpart, its free-standing design makes everything else a cinch, and, in my opinion, the added reach alone is worth the extra money you'll spend for this model.

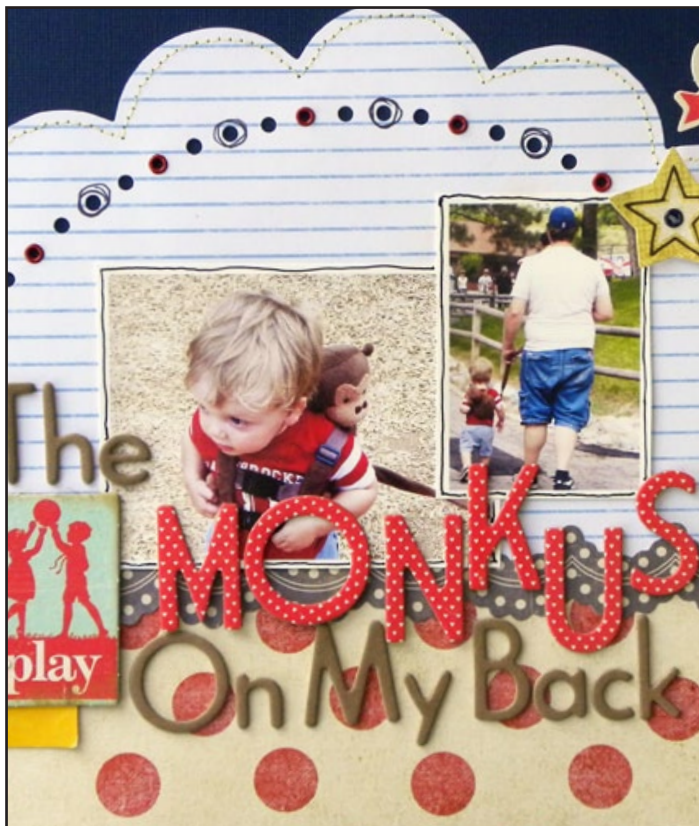
## A Few of My Favorite Ways to Use My Multi-Purpose Punching Tools

*There are so many ways you can use your multi-purpose punching tools in your scrapbooking as well as your crafting. Here are just a few of my favorite ways to put these tools to use to help lend flair to my pages and functionality to my mini albums and projects.*



### Dress up your scallop borders with a series of eyelet accents.

In my layout "The Monkus On My Back" I used eyelets to dress up the punched scallops on my photo mat. It introduced the right amount of color and playfulness to my page--not to mention it gave the entire layout a polished and pulled together look.



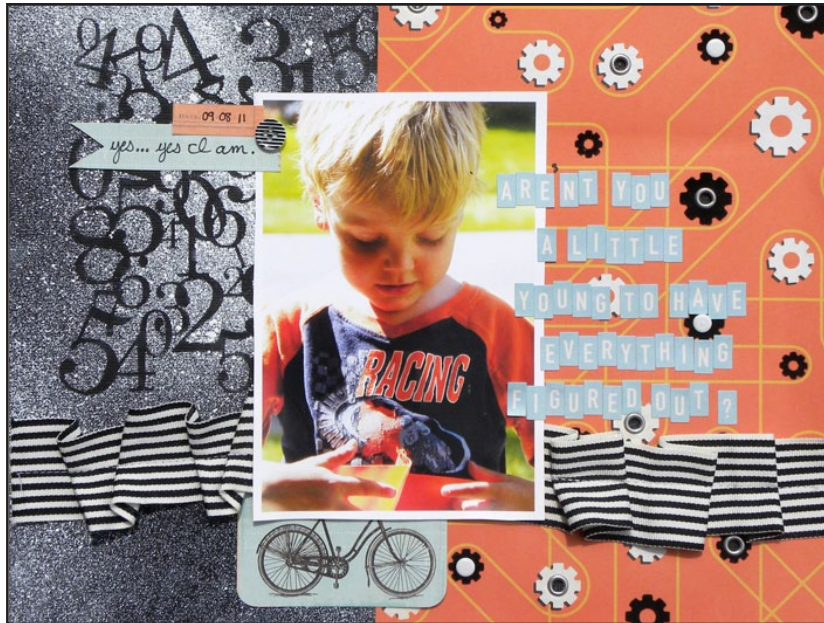
My scalloped mat came with the holes already punched, so all I had to do was set my eyelets every three holes for a fun, yet subtle effect.

However, if you are not working with pre-punched scallops then here are a few tips for getting the perfect look.

1. First, consider the size of the scallop, and thereby, the size of the punch, eyelet or brad you want to use to accent it.
2. Second, consider your placement of your punch, eyelet or brad. You could create a border further inside the scallops as I've done here--or you could move your accents further up into the scallop itself.
3. Create a guide for your border or scalloped accents by measuring and marking your punches beforehand. This will ensure a precise final result.
4. For some extra fun try mixing eyelets, brads and open holes for a whimsical and playful effect.

**Use your easy setters or universal sets to add dimension and detail to your background.**

In "Aren't You A Little Young..." I used a mixture of brads and eyelets to punch up my brightly colored gear-patterned background, while adding subtle dimension and detail.



To get this look consider the following tips:

1. Start out with a background paper that has a motif in which the pattern work is done for you (i.e. polka dots, floral, etc).
2. Punch your holes strategically if you are looking for subtle dimension and detail--or at random if you are going for a noticeably scattered effect.
3. Avoid areas where you know you'll be placing photos and accents--this will help save your eyelets and brads for future projects, while eliminating unwanted bulk.

**Use your heavy duty multi-purpose punch tool to experiment with new materials in your mini albums, banners and craft projects.**

From CD Banners to Acrylic Minis to Baking Tin Calendars--my heavy duty multi-purpose punching tools have helped me add both function and style to many of my projects. If you are interested in introducing new materials into your crafting projects I highly suggest trying out one of these tools!



Here are the materials I have personally tested out with my Crop-A-Dile and Big Bite. Go ahead and give them a try:

1. Plastic
2. Wood Veneer
3. Acrylic
4. Tin
5. Aluminum
6. Chipboard
7. Cardboard
8. Foam Board
9. Magnet Sheets
10. Cork



## More Creative Uses for Your Multi-Purpose Punching Tools



And to keep those tools of your busy--here are plenty more ideas for using your multi-purpose punching tools on your pages and projects:

- Use your interchangeable punches or easy setter to secure ribbon knots anywhere on your layout. This gives your knot a more "secure look."
- Secure a charming string of beads to your page.
- Create a "punchinella" effect on your mats, borders or accents using your interchangeable punch sets or quick setter.
- Give your banners a finished look by using an eyelet and punched hole to thread your swag through and secure on the back side of your layout.
- Use your smallest punch setting to recreate a paper-pierced border or design. This will really make the effect stand out on your page.
- Lace ribbon in and out of a series of punched holes to create a fun border.
- Add a fun corset-style accent to your page by setting two congruent lines of eyelets and criss-crossing your ribbon through them and tying it in a bow.
- Create a snap feature on your mini albums and other projects.
- Use your heavy duty tool to turn virtually anything into a tag--including chipboard alphas and diecuts, acrylic charms and even metal accents.
- Add a hip and modern feel to your page by accenting your alphas, frames and borders with eyelets.
- And don't forget about the leftover chads from your punching--they'll make for a beautiful confetti to scatter over your pages.



### **Your Assignment:**

#### **In the forum we're talking about:**

- *Whether or not you own one or more of the multi-purpose punch tools.*
- *If not what techniques or tools you use in place of this tool.*
- *Your preferences and recommendations on the different tools available.*
- *Your favorite ways to use your multi-purpose punch tools.*
- *Any questions you might have about the use of these tools.*

#### **In the gallery:**

*Try venturing outside of your comfort zone with this tool! Use your mutli-purpose tool in a way that you've never used it before. You can try out one of the ideas presented in this lesson or maybe one of your classmates will present an idea in the forum that sounds like something you might want to try!*