

Repurposing Your Clothing, Patterns and Notions

I think if you look around at the scrapbooking products and collections that are being offered to us as of late, you'll see that sewing-inspired items are very hot right now. From clothing pattern-inspired papers and embellishments to measuring tape-inspired ribbon--today's scrapbooking industry is highly influenced by these everyday items. And while I know it's fun to have the latest products--I would encourage you to look to your own worn-out clothes and unused notions with a little bit of imagination to see what you can come up!

Week 3

- Rethink Your Ribbon & Trim
- **Repurpose Your Clothes, Patterns and Notions**
- Research Sewing & Embroidery Tools
- Reinventing the Wheel: Make Your Own Tool Clutch

Finding Ways to Use Your Old Clothes in Pages & Projects

Using fabric in your scrapbooking is a great way to introduce texture and pattern into your pages, while adding a home-spun feel. Repurposing your old clothes and accessories is a great way to come by good-sized fabric scraps and interesting details to use in your pages and projects. So when you go through old clothes to donate them or throw them away, first think of how you might use them in your scrapbooking!



Quick Tip:

Looking to incorporate vintage patterns and details into your pages? Visit your local thrift store for clothes and accessories at an affordable price. This is a great way to approach your heritage scrapbooking--by introducing time appropriate patterns and details into pages from earlier times.



Let's look at few ways you can put your old duds to good use:

1. Remove buttons, sequins, beads, ruffles, patches and other accents from unwanted clothing to use as embellishments and details on your layouts.
2. Use logos, appliques, and screen print transfers for fun backgrounds and mats.
3. Use your pockets for places to hide journaling on your pages or even as a fun accent.
4. Create charming fabric flowers, banners and other embellishments from you repurposed clothes.
5. Use belts and purse straps to create interesting borders on your pages.
6. Use lace, crocheted materials and tulle to create transparent, yet rich layers.
7. Use snaps, rivets and studded jewels as bling on your next page.
8. Use sheer materials to create an overlay effect on your backgrounds.
9. Use belt loops to create decorative tabs.

Repurposing Sewing Patterns in Your Scrapbooking



Repurposing patterns in your scrapbooking can really help you to set the tone of your page. Because they are neutral and have clean lines they can be incorporated into virtually any style of scrapbooking. Leave them bare for a vintage or clean and simple feel, or accent them with colors and patterns for a more free-style, artsy effect.



Here are just a few of the ways you can repurpose your sewing patterns on your pages:

1. Use patterns in place of paper for die cuts, mats, etc.
2. Make tissue flowers or ruffles from damaged or unwanted patterns.
3. Try out a fun crinkled pattern background.
4. Layer pattern tissue over your papers for a fun overlay effect.
5. Print out your title in your favorite font and use this as a template to make your own tissue-pattern alphas.
6. Don't forget about the folders and instructions! Pattern illustrations can make for beautiful ephemera to add to your pages.
7. Use pattern folders from Halloween costumes, prom dresses, etc. as memorabilia on your event pages.



Quick Tip: Often patterns come with multiple sizes or styles and projects that we will probably never use. Put them to use on your pages and projects today!

Using Your Notions--Zippers, Buttons, Pins and More



Incorporating those leftover notions from your latest sewing or mending projects in your scrapbook pages and projects can be lots of fun--especially since so many of today's scrapbooking products are already inspired by or utilizing these elements. Are you ready to save yourself some money while donning the latest and greatest trends on your scrapbook pages? These ideas will get you started today!

Here are a few ideas to help you use up those extra notions you have lying around.

1. Saw small thread spools in half to create a fun border or accent for your page.
2. Pins can be a great way to fasten things to your page, while adding charming details to your layouts--try designing your own stick pins.
3. Use seam binding to make buntings for your pages and your home.
4. Turn your zippers into fabulous embellishments and borders.
5. Transform your measuring tape into a simple border or use it to make handmade embellishments for your page.
6. Use decoupage and patterned papers to give your buttons a whole new look.



Quick Tip:

For more great ideas on storing and using up those buttons check out my article: ["MacGyver's Button Bootcamp"](#) on the Get It Scrapped! blog.

Your Assignment:**Head on over to Pinterest:**

And check out my [Repurposed Board](#) for more great ideas on repurposing these types of everyday items! Not a member? Leave me a note in the classroom post for this lesson and I'll send you an invite!

In the Forum:

Most of you seem to be embracing the idea of repurposing your everyday items! Tell us about the items you are already repurposing and some of the items you're excited to experiment with from this week's lesson!

In the Gallery:

Post a layout or project utilizing one of the items from today's lesson. How you choose to repurpose this item is up totally up to you! I'm excited to see what you all come up with!