



## Get With the Times #2: Trends and Styles

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### Introduction

I don't consider myself very stylish or trendy, and I'm sure those around me would agree. I wear my shoes until the soles wear through. I buy tops that would be considered traditional – thus making them long lasting. I'm practical first, and stylish – a far, far second.

So what could I possibly know about including styles and trends on your pages? Well, I asked myself the same question. It was this very segment that had me the most concerned. But then I took a closer look at my layouts—at what I enjoy sharing in my journaling—and I realized, that, really, the styles and trends surround us and are a part of our lives in more ways than one. While I might not think I'm very trendy, it's a sure thing that looking back on my photos from today ten or twenty years from now will have me saying: really, we did/wore that?

A page doesn't have to be about a trend in order to include a trend. By expanding our journaling a little bit, we can add details that add to its depth and record elements of our times. Think beyond the obvious.

So now the question is, how do we get more of those particulars included onto our pages? Follow me.

## WAYS TO INCLUDE CURRENT TIMES ON YOUR SCRAPBOOK PAGES

### 1. Remember when, and compare the then and now.

Sometimes it just takes a look at what our current habits are to realize how much things have changed over the years. For instance, just today – we played a new CD on the way to the library, we picked up an audio book that looks rather like an mp3 player, I put a dvd into the computer so the kids could watch a little something while I did some errands. These are all things that I never did when my oldest was their age. How quickly times change – and just thinking about how I do these now reminds me of how I did things then.



How I documented music trends in "Remember the 80's:"

- ◇ Design. For this particular layout, I wrote my journaling first. Once I had that formatted and sized, it was a matter of figuring out how many cassette covers I could include into the design. It would have been quite simple to make this a one page layout – but I had too many memories wrapped up into these cassettes and wanted to include two pages worth before dumping the rest.
- ◇ Photos. Ah-a! One quick look shows you that I actually don't have photographs on this layout, but the cassette covers. I thought I'd include this bullet anyway because the selection was a process. My Rubbermaid container held, easily, over 400 cassettes. And, as my journaling mentions, I pitched them all. The covers here are all that I saved – along with one cassette. In trying to pick out a variety I chose my first cassette ever (Dimensions) some that were mentioned in the journaling (Lobo and Def Leppard) and others that reminded me of my keeping up with the music trends.
- ◇ Journaling. My journaling on this one was straight from the gut. I was having a real hard time purging this particular box of memories, and just coming to the computer and typing those memories in as I was reliving them – made it that much easier for me to part with the physical reminders. I shared some specific memories, the reactions of my children, how even we wonder how we enjoyed these so much when our ears are now trained for better quality.
- ◇ Title. Remember the 80's. The Remember plate came in a packet from 7 Gypsies and I knew that I wanted to use it as a title someday. It worked perfectly here. To carry the eye through to the second page, I expanded on that title by stamping 'The 80's' and including that on the lower right side.

**JOURNALING for "Remember the 80s:"**

I've been purging.

For the most part, I've been finding it easier than expected – but occasionally I run into an obstacle.

My box of cassettes was a major roadblock. I was flooded with so many memories just opening the box; memories of my teen years, of roller-skating, of dates. Memories of friends long unheard from, but brought so vividly to mind with a single song.

There were road trips wherein we challenged ourselves to listen to just one tape, over and over and over for 9 hours straight. Why did we do that? Lobo lyrics are forever sealed in my memory.

There are bands and singers that I associate with certain people. The Del Fuegos will always mean Barb Johnson to me, Jackson Brown was introduced to me by Greg Storm, and it was with Andrea that I went up north with and only listened to Kris Kristoferson. Dr. Hook is me and Sue going to watch the guys play hockey in Ann Arbor. And, fact, the majority of my youth is surrounded in Tom Petty.

There are bands and songs that represent places. When I hear Cheap Trick's "I want you to want me" I immediately recall fun times in Copper Harbor. Chicago will always remind me of spending the night at Carol's house. Def Leppard equals camping at Grand Marais – an odd combination to me now at 38...but such a part of my single years, it just made sense. And the list goes on and on; so many memories in one plastic container.

The kids laughed at Greg and I the night we went through this box. We put some old tunes into the cassette player and cranked it up loud. We were instantly baffled at the quality, at one time so ideal, now just barely acceptable... laughable even...to our CD trained ears.

The kids – they got a kick out of what we deemed 'good stuff.'

So, in the name of purging – what you see here is all I saved. Oh – and one Tom Petty tape – for old times sake.

**2. Document current technology in your daily life.**

Once upon a time, we wrote letters and had the mailman carry them to our carefully chosen recipient. Do you remember those days? It's been a long time since I wrote a real honest-to-goodness letter. The trend now is a quick email hello, an instant message, text messaging, or some other form of communicating that I'm not yet aware of. It all moves too fast for me!



**JOURNALING** for "SUQ is a SOWPODS word:" It's our daily routine - we've been playing for a few years now. Everyday - or almost - we take our turns and exchange daily tidbits and notes in the comment section. We use Word Wizard and we use all the dictionaries. It's a daily thing - and I love it

How I included a technology trend in "SUQ is a Sowpods word:"

- ◇ Design. Because of my love for Scrabble, I have a bit of a collection going of Scrabble-looking patterned paper. I began with a block of that as my base for grounding. I wanted just enough to add to the theme of the layout without taking away from the story with its busy-ness. From there, I began laying out my photos and story.
- ◇ Photos. In this particular case, I took the photos to go with the layout. I knew I wanted to document this memory, as it's such a part of my daily life, but since I'm the one behind the camera, it wasn't a photo that we happened to have. For my mother's photo, I used one that was current to when I told the story. That she's not at the computer or playing Scrabble in it doesn't matter.
- ◇ Embellishments. This layout is a little bit different than my normal fill-the-page style, so I had to work a little harder to get my visual triangle. By adding a bit of red to the upper left and a red arrow on the right – I was able to tie everything in when combined with my red title.
- ◇ Journaling. While I do love to ramble, I don't feel that it's always necessary to be lengthy. In this one, I included just enough facts to trigger memories and record details of this activity: we play daily; we use word wizard, we use all dictionaries; and we communicate by way of the comment section.
- ◇ Title. I wanted my title to be relevant to the game while referring to the fact that we use all dictionaries. I chose the red title to aid me in creating that visual triangle, and I chose a straight, non-fussy font for the rest of the title in keeping with the appearance of the letters on the tiles.

### 3. Record a fashion trend in health gear.

Yes, there is fashion involved in the medical world. Colored casts, polka-dotted walking canes, colored bands on braces, and a vast selection of colorful scrubs for those in the medical field. Fashion is not just for the healthy!

#### Journaling for “Bands:”

Oh Al. Promise me you'll never change, okay? So, we headed down to UofM that early November day in '08 to get your lower braces on. What I didn't know, had no clue really, was that you got to choose the color of your bands - I didn't even realize colored bands existed. You walked into the waiting room after your visit with a schmirk on your face that told me instantly that you had a joke to share. You opened your mouth and told me, look mom, I got state colors put on and we're at UofM! Only you would do that just because you love the irony of it. Even on the way to the car you said, I better not open my mouth here, huh? Laughing as you pondered how that would go. You make me smile.

A month later when we went for another visit, you switched out to Christmas colors in spirit of the holiday. I can't wait to see what you come walking out with at the next visit!



### How I shared a trend in "The Bands:"

- ◇ Design. I sometimes think layouts with two or three 4" x 6" photos can be the most difficult to compose. The options are few. In this case, I could have set them side by side or on top of each other. I chose on top of each other and matted them before I made any other decisions. Once I had them matted together, I began moving it around on a piece of paper trying to come up with a design and this fell into place. A scalloped border grounds and holds; the journaling lines up with the break between photos; the title acts as a lead-in.
- ◇ Photos. I got such a bang out of my son's color selection when it came to his bands, that I found myself taking photos for his grandma so I could share the story with her as well at the time. It occurred to me afterwards that they made for a great scrapbook layout and look into his personality as well.
- ◇ Embellishments. These flowers are a favorite of mine, I buy them whenever I see them. I keep them in a container within reach of my workspace and often find myself grabbing them when I'm looking for just a little bit of something, as I did in this case. That it's a boy layout is irrelevant, just don't try to tell him that.
- ◇ Journaling. Sometimes I write to my kids, and sometimes I write about them. In this case, I chose to write to. I wanted it to be a note to him about how much I appreciate his humor and individuality. I also wanted it to be a bit about my surprise, lack of knowledge of such things and the timeline. I wove all those details into that small paragraph.
- ◇ Title. Simple and to the point, and in keeping with the color scheme.

#### 4. Scrapbook first forays into style.

There are a lot of first time experiences when it comes to style. First haircut, first piercings, first time choosing ones own clothes, first formal . . . the list goes on and on.

I remember the first time I had money to spend on clothes, I had my mom bring me to a t-shirt shop the next town over. It was one of those stores that were quite popular in the 70's, where you could pick out your decal of the millions of those on the wall and watch it be pressed to the shirt of your choice right there as you waited. I chose a metallic rainbow type decal that said "Class of '86" and had it pressed onto a baseball jersey that had red sleeves and a white trunk. I was so proud of that shirt: it was the true me in seventh grade.

#### JOURNALING for "First Cut:"

I've been having Cindy at the Town Shop cut my hair for, gosh, at least three years now. Until now I've been doing yours at home, but you've reached an age where I now find it more difficult. I'm not real style savvy or even that knowledgeable in cutting in general. With a new school year quickly approaching and you being a flower girl in Teresa's wedding in October – well, those two combined had me justifying paying for your cut as well. It was worth every penny – a nice trim that will allow you to grow your hair, which is what you wanted. What I really loved though was how getting it cut nice spurred you into better hair care, completely unprompted by me! It's an unexpected bonus to have you now brushing without me asking.





How I shared a first style experience in "First Cut:"

- ◇ Photos. I have a confession to make. I'm not real good at taking my camera to these types of places. I'm horribly introverted and shy, and I feel a bit awkward about it. But I did it, and I'm glad I did. I love what I captured here – a first real haircut for my daughter, a bit of her style in her shoes, a bit of her nervousness as her hands grasped the sides of the chair. And I love that I got a bit of our hairdresser – it'll be fun to remember her years down the road.
- ◇ Embellishments. One little flower. I often find that when I'm creating a layout, there's one spot that bothers me, that needs just a little something to make it right, as was the case here. Adding the flower helped me blend in that after-haircut photo and bring just a bit of balance and interest to the page.
- ◇ Journaling. I included details such as the salon, the name of our stylist, why we chose this to be Wendy's first time, and how she reacted afterwards to the cut and the style that she chose.
- ◇ Title. I went with a green title to tie in the bottom paper (that visual triangle again). Because I felt it needed just a bit more pop, I matted the green letters onto the white cardstock to keep them from falling into the background. While that word could have been enough, I wanted something more to create interest. I chose the word first, and made it happen with those little sticker letters. It's subtle enough that the title could stand without it, but there enough that when you see it you think, hey – that's kind of cool. (you said that, didn't you?) Just a little extra something.

## 5. Scrapbook current fashion trends.

As I mentioned earlier, I don't consider myself much of a follower of trends. However, my second grader very much is. When I took her to Limited Too for her birthday, a store that neither of us had been to before, she struck up a conversation with the sales clerk while trying to discern what she should purchase. With a tilt of her head and her hip jutted out she shared, "and most of the girls at school wear a little shirt under a big shirt and that's cool to do." She knows about layering. It's fascinating to me what she catches onto, and I need to get more of that down in her books as she grows.



### JOURNALING for "Crazy Eight:"

October '08

You've got a style and uniqueness about you that's completely your own.

I love these pictures of you! I wonder what a passerby would see, compared to what I do?

I see a stylin' new shirt chosen by you as a birthday gift from Limited Too. I tried talking you into leggings to go with but you wrinkled your nose and said they weren't your thing.

Your thing seems to be holey jeans.

Individuality, confidence to be who you are, life, spirit and all while wearing your favorite cowboy boots. That's what I see. I love you!

xoxo mom

How I included a current style in "Crazy Eight:"

- ◇ Design. I knew that I wanted one photo larger than the others, so I based my design around that, deciding to create a border of sorts with the remaining three pictures.
- ◇ Photos. These photos were an attempt at getting my daughter's 8-year-old portrait. Together I feel they present a pretty good story of who she is along with a bit of her fashion sense and style.
- ◇ Embellishments. One red heart. In rummaging through my embellishment bin, I fell upon this red heart. It's close enough in color that it doesn't clash, fitting because of my love for my daughter, and just the right size to bring the eye through the layout.
- ◇ Journaling. In the journaling I included some of her fashion choices; i.e., holey jeans rather than new leggings, and a new top out from the Limited Too—a store that caters to girls her age.
- ◇ Title. The title states her age and her personality. I carried it down through the layout for both visual interest and to create flow through the page.

## **TRIGGERS for scrapbooking styles and trends**

- Think about what you're doing today and how it might have been done differently just 10 years ago, 20 years ago.
- What fashion statement have you noticed in your home? I've noticed for awhile now that kids don't wear winter jackets anymore, but they wear hoodies.
- Consider a first-time style experience: first haircut, first piercing. Document the event and the choices made.
- What current trends are you displaying in your home? Do your paint color choices represent the times? Do you change it accordingly, or do you go with what you like?
- How about current trends in education? Our school just changed their spelling program to follow yet another trend in teaching. Before that, the math curriculum was changing with trends.
- What about language? Think of all the computer language we use today almost as if it's second nature, when ten years ago it never would have entered our minds that we'd communicate any differently.
- Consider trends within a hobby. We certainly see trends in our scrapbooking. Do you follow it, do you care? Depending on how much attention you pay to it, it might make for some interesting history.
- Consider current trends in networking. Right now, many of my friends are hopping on the facebook bandwagon, a tool originally designed for the college age set has now enveloped all ages. Some use it as a way to do more networking as the economy worsens, and others use it because they are interested in what this phenomenon is about. Have you joined, and what were your experiences? Who did you reconnect with?
- How about trends in vehicles? We're seeing a lot of downsizing right now and changes in our fuel resources. Has that had any impact in your life?