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## Mini-Albums

**Acrylic albums:** Using multiple layers will bring added depth to your scrapbook



DIANA  
HIRSCH

It is easy to over think an acrylic album. The beauty of acrylic albums is the peek-a-boo aspect of elements exposed on more than one side, and that is also the challenge many crafters face. You create individual pages while keeping all the other pages in perspective, and that process can seem overwhelming. You will not be able to see what you have created until you are completely done. Often the placement of elements is serendipity. You may not plan for something to happen or work out, but you will surprise yourself.

For this article, I am using the 5- by 8-inch Maya Road Curved Edge Scallop Layer Book which has a "front" and "back." On a small album like this, you should plan one picture per page. With a larger album, use no more than two small pictures on each side to keep an uncluttered look. Create these pages with room to breathe as you build up each sheet. The key is to leave space for eyes to wander through the layers and textures.

I used paper scraps on my example but acrylic albums are perfect for coordinated, double-sided papers. The best way to start is to use paper and pictures only, cut much smaller than the size of the pages. Keep it simple so you can play with and layer embellishments later. Once you do one acrylic album, you will have a better feel for how to approach the next one. I will walk you through creating 3 pages of an album to show you how to make it, while you keep in mind the see-through feature.

**STEP 1:** Remove adhesive from each acrylic page sheet, on the front and the back.

**STEP 2:** This album has different size pages. I started with the middle sheet. It is good to start with a larger piece of paper as a background on the middle sheet since it will show through all the other layers. I chose one sheet of double-sided paper so I could glue a photo to the front and back of it.

**STEP 3:** On the striped side, I adhered one photo and overlapped the mat off the edge. When you flip the page over, you can see the layering beginning.



**STEP 4:** One picture will be exposed and one picture will be protected with an acrylic surface to play on. How do you decide which photo to place under the acrylic? If you have a delicate older photo or you want to use a rubber stamp over one photo element, then place that photo under the acrylic sheet. If you want to add any embellishments near the photo, under the acrylic, do it first and then adhere it to the acrylic. I used double-sided tape strips to adhere the paper. I used glue dots to hold the photo down.



Step 1



Step 4

**STEP 5:** Choose a smaller sheet to work on next. Place this first sheet on top of the middle one and plan your layout based on what you want to see from the page below. In this case, I cut my next photo into an oval shape. I found patterned paper with a funky tree element, and when I trimmed around that, it was almost a perfect match for the photo behind it.



Step 5

**STEP 6:** Flip the sheet over. I matted this photo onto different double-sided paper and cut the paper down to a shape that showed through to the other side.



Step 6

**STEP 7:** With two sheets complete, you can see how each sheet works with the one in front of it and the one behind it. The pages are now stand-alone creations and they work as layers.



Step 7

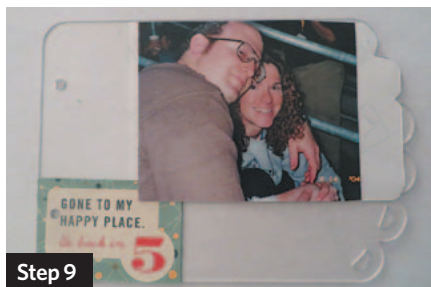
**STEP 8:** The third sheet will be the "back cover" of the album. Because this is the back of the book and may get roughed around, I chose to adhere the photo under the acrylic.

**STEP 9:** I used a double-sided tag, so I attached the last photo directly on the back of the other one. I intentionally did not mat the picture here to leave room for embellishing.

So now you know how to adhere the paper



Step 8



Step 9

and pictures. Using these same principles you can add flowers, buttons, washi tape, stamped images, or anything else you can imagine. Just continue to pay attention to the see-through aspect of acrylic as you create. ✨

*Diana Hirsch is a Certified Zentangle Teacher and an award-winning writer. She can be reached at [diwolf@aol.com](mailto:diwolf@aol.com) or through her blog at [www.wolfhowlings.wordpress.com](http://www.wolfhowlings.wordpress.com).*

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