

Scrapbook and Photo-Album Storage

For this Two Minute Technique, you will need

- Gloves
- Soft Brush
- A book cradle to cushion the album spine – ours is improvised out of a medium---width book and a pillowcase.
- Archival quality paper that has been subjected to the Photographic Activity Test, or PAT
- Unbleached linen or cotton flat tape
- A larger sheet of archival paper
- Acid---free glue dots

We were able to find all these materials at a nearby Michael's Craft store.

Start with a clean work surface.

Put on gloves, and gently wipe surface dirt from your album using your soft brush.

With the book cradle in place to support the binding, open the scrapbook. Whenever you find pages with facing photographs, insert a sheet of archival paper. This is called interleaving.

Once you have finished interleaving, close your scrapbook again.

If the cover or binding is loose or detached, use the flat tape to tie the book together, Christmas gift style. The knot should go on the outside edge of the cover to prevent it from indenting the flat surfaces of the book.

For extra structural support and protection, one can wrap the entire package in your larger sheet of acid---free paper, in the style of gift---wrapping. Glue dots work well for securing your package because you can peel them off and reuse your paper if you want to access your album in the future.

Now your artifact is ready for flat storage on a shelf, or ideally in an archival storage box or drawer to protect it from light.

Helpful Online Resources:

The Library of Congress's "Preservation Basics: Preservation of Scrapbooks and Albums"

<http://www.loc.gov/preservation/care/scrapbk.html>

The Scrapbook Preservation Society

<http://www.scrapbookpreservationsociety.com>

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