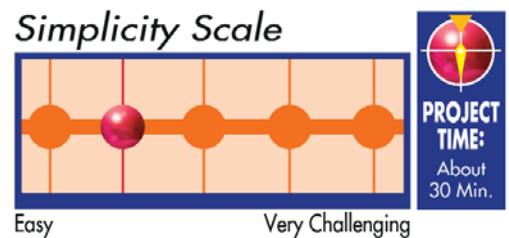


Print Lab #72

Rescue and Restore Old Photo Albums!

We all have them somewhere in our stash of memorabilia: our oldest photo albums and earliest scrapbooks, put together long before the terms “archival” or “acid-free” were ever heard. The worst offenders are the style of photo albums called “Magnetic”. These were easy to use, with sticky pages ready to grab and hold onto our photos. Their now-all-too-visible problem was that they often destroyed our photos in the process!



You'll recognize the albums we're talking about: lift one up and the photos are likely to flutter out from the bottom, the adhesive now an old faded memory. And not only is the adhesive probably long gone, the photos themselves are likely to have discolored and faded along with that adhesive, and that's no coincidence. The damage was partially caused by acidic chemicals in the glue.

So what to do? Our ardent advice is to **take action now!** The longer your photos remain in those old albums, the worse they will continue to deteriorate with time. Pretty soon, you'll not be able to discern any part of the photo.

The **least** you should do immediately is to rescue those photos! Carefully remove them from their current albums and adhere the photos onto an acid-free archival page (such as PremierArt Matte Scrapbook Photo Paper for Epson). Once adhered to the archival pages, place the page into a new archival album. Cover with a polypropylene page sleeve. Discard the original album: its damage-causing days are now over.

The **ideal** thing to do, however, is not only to rescue the photos from their current harmful environment, but to also restore the photos before placing them into their safe new home. And it's never been easier as it is with the new One-Touch Color Restoration Feature offered with Epson's scanners. You'll be amazed at how easy it is to restore the photos to near original condition, automatically, while scanning. No photo manipulation is required, no extensive procedures in a complicated software program. This can be done in one step while scanning the original, old faded photo.

For complete instructions on how to use the Epson scanner to color restore, please click on the separate file within this Print Lab Series project called "Color Restoration Instructions" or refer to the instructions included with your Epson scanner.

Materials Suggested:

(Not all are required) For printing: PremierArt Matte Scrapbook Photo Paper for Epson (letter or 12" x 12") or Epson Semigloss Scrapbook Photo Paper (letter), Epson Glossy Photo Paper (4" x 6" or letter), Epson Premium Glossy Photo Paper (4" x 6" or 5" x 7" or 8" x 10" or letter), Epson Photo Quality Ink Jet Paper (letter), Epson Glossy Photo Greeting Cards, and an Epson Stylus Color Printer and an Epson Perfection Scanner.

For the digital photos: an Epson Scanner and/or an Epson Digital Camera.

*If you do not have a scanner or a digital camera, you can use personal photos from a CD, sample photos or graphics provided in your creative software programs or visit the Epson Print Lab image gallery for a variety of downloadable images!

Procedure: Make it easier on yourself. Don't try to redesign the original layouts or enhance with new embellishments. Keep the album true to its original design, journaling and layout. Your mission here is to simply rescue the photos so that future generations can enjoy them in the colors they boasted way back when they were taken. Our advice is to work on your old albums one page at a time, and to reproduce the same layout originally used.

Step 1: Remove the plastic sleeve from the old page, and carefully lift each photo off that page. So that you remember where each photo was on the original layout, write notes directly on the original album page. As you remove each photo, identify each one by assigning and writing a number onto a removable sticky note. Attach its number to the back of each photo. (Don't write on the photo itself.) Write that same number on the original album page in the place where that photo had been lifted. This will remind you of each photo's placement on that page so that you can quickly reproduce that exact layout. You won't have to wonder how to get them all to fit onto that same page again.

Step 2: Scan your photos, one at a time. Place each photo onto the glass of the scanner. Start scanning and restore your photo by clicking on the Color Restoration checkbox. (Refer to the "Color Restoration Instructions" included with this project or that came with your Epson scanner).

Step 3: Print the photos onto Epson Photo Paper (listed under "Materials Suggested") or Epson Semigloss Scrapbook Photo Paper (letter) to ensure that this project will be appreciated for generations to come! You may choose to either:

- print the photos in the same size that they were originally, or,
 - as extra page space is available, you may prefer to slightly enlarge any photos where a bigger print will fit.
- Just be sure to check the print size desired before scanning the original photo so that you know what final print size you will need to select when scanning.

Step 4: Trim each photo and place onto the new scrapbook paper page. Use acid-free adhesive to stick photos onto the pages.

Step 5: You may want to rewrite any text that was on the original page to include in the new album. The best way to reproduce any journaling or headlines is with your computer and printer. By browsing a selection of fonts, you may find a style consistent with the period of the original album. Again, we recommend you print all text on acid free, archival ink jet paper so it will last as long as you're newly reprinted photos. You can choose to print text onto an acid free inkjet page, cut out and stick to your new pages. Or, you may prefer to print directly onto the scrapbook page to which you will affix your retouched photos. If you choose to print directly onto the album page, be sure to print all text before attaching the photos.

Tips:

- If any of your photos are black and white, they will still be enhanced by scanning with the One-Touch Color Restoration Feature. Try it!
- If you have the original version of a print, the most original photo source would be the item most likely to provide you the most improved, restored reprint. For any prints that you'd like to reprint for which you still have (and can readily locate!) the original negative or slide, scanning and color restoring the negative or slide will give you a better result than scanning and restoring the print made from that negative.
- For the longest lasting prints, print onto archival Epson photo papers using Epson photo prints that use pigment ink.
- Once you have completed restoring, reprinting and reassembling an entire album, consider making "copies" by scanning and reprinting each page as meaningful gifts for family and friends. With the 12x12" size of PremierArt Matte Scrapbook Photo Paper for Epson is currently included a copy of ArcSoft PanoramaMaker.* The software allows you to easily scan and stitch 12x12" pages using a letter size scanner. A wide format printer would be required to reprint 12x12" pages of the restored album. If the original album and its reproduction are letter size, then the process to scan and reprint would be even simpler. No stitching would be required and reproductions could be quickly churned out!
- Store your photo albums in parts of your house most likely to extend your albums' lives. The worst household locations would be a basement or non-insulated attic or garage. Inside your house, it is best to store your albums in a dark place, (or box), in which temperature is controlled, and where the ideal ranges for humidity are below 50% RH.
- See selection of Epson photo papers, scrapbook papers, scanners and printers at www.epson.com

Restore, preserve, and share those cherished memories all over again.

* Promotional software included with paper products are subject to change over time.