

Here are some tips to quickly create themed albums.

First off, let me explain what – to me – constitutes a themed album. For me, a themed album is anything with a start/end date (e.g., child’s first year of life, vacation, birthday, event). Or it could be one type of event (e.g., Christmas, birthdays).

Here are the basics:

1. Choose a general design.
2. Choose a kit (or kits) to use throughout your album.
3. Choose a few basic elements to use throughout your album.
4. Create a base document that you can copy for every page.
5. Organize (your photos & folders)!

1. Choose a general design.

- Before starting a themed choose a general design to use throughout the album (e.g., minimalist, clustery, artsy, vintage, etc.) to get a cohesive look for the themed albums.
- One way to do it is to always make two-page spreads. One way to do it is to have a large blended photo on one page and on the facing page showcase a collection of supporting photos. Having a format on all pages helps put pages together quickly.
- Here are a few 2-page layouts from a vacation album to show you that, while these pages fit a general design, you could still change the pages to showcase the photos from particular events.
- These pictures are from the person that originally wrote this article (not mine). These pages closely fit this design. *At the end of this document are her examples.*
- For these pages she used large, blended photos (with the photos bleeding from the frames with added frame clusters on each page:

2. Choose a kit or kits to use throughout your album.

A themed album should have a cohesive look, so it is good practice to choose a kit or two that work well together. This saves you from constantly searching for “just the right thing” for each and every page. But remember that you can always use the features in Enhance to change colors.

3. Choose a few basic elements to use throughout your album.

For a cohesive look, for a themed album use just a few basic elements. The easiest way to do this is to use kits. You may also look for frame clusters sets.

4. Create a base document that you can copy for every page.

Creating a base document is a HUGE time saver. If you work with 2-page spreads create one 24x12 page (if you are doing 12x12 or 17x8.5 if you are doing 8 ½ x 11) that can be named "0Template" (the "0" was so that the template always stayed at the top of my Finder window). In that template document you can include a couple of things that would be available for every page you create:

Guides. Place a guide in the center of the page (this would be the divider between pages. Place guides 1/2 inch from the edge of every page (including the center of the 24x12 page and 1/2 inch on each side of the center mark. If you print books you want to make sure the important stuff (journaling, images, etc.) will not be lost in the printing or in the gutter of the book. A ¼ inch would probably be sufficient for bound books; but it is good to have a little "wiggle room."

Special Separating Layer. Create an New layer above the Background.

- Name the Layer "Left Side Below". It will be a blank Transparent Layer.
- Change the color of the layer on you Layer panel so easy to see.
 - Right Click the Layer, scroll down to the bottom of the options and pick a color.
 - Save this as a TIFF so you can use it for every page and not have to recreate every time.

5. Create Folders for your supplies. You can always add to these folders as you work.

- Background Paper Folder.** Save the papers that you chose in step 3.
- Embellishments Folder.** Pull all of the embellishments you chose in step 3.
- Titles Folder.** If you are going to have a specific Title look for each page or a group of looks create some pages to use as sample title text in this folder. You might use a larger sized type for my capital letters and a smaller sized type for my lowercase letters – both in separate text layers – if you wanted to be able to move them around for sizing. Not having to reinvent the wheel on every page is so helpful.
- Frames Folder.** Collect the frames you want to use in one folder.

A lot of this came from [TUTORIALS POSTED BY BARBARA UNZEN 18 DEC 2013](#)

I added some things from other sources and took some things out that I didn't feel were relevant.

