

CREATING STAMP ALBUM PAGES

Overview

Setting up the album page template takes the most time. But after you have established a template, you do not need to do all the steps again. It is fast and easy to clone a copy and modify it to fit the specific requirements of a new page. Eventually, you will be able to create a library of different templates you can use.

The setup process involves the following actions:

1. Define the page size
2. Set the page margins
3. Add a page border (optional)
4. Choose the fonts, style, and other formatting
5. Place and format the stamp blocks
6. Label, space, and align the stamp blocks

To create a new album page, select a template that closely resembles the format you need (i.e., one that has the right size or quantity of stamp blocks). Save it as a new file and modify the design to fit your needs.

It is often useful to print a draft copy of the new page to verify that the stamp blocks are the right size and positioned correctly. When you are satisfied with the design, print the final page on acid-free, card stock paper. Some typical card stock weights that are sufficient for sturdy pages are 67, 90, and 110 pound.

Page Size

The most common page size for personal albums is the standard 8½×11 inch letter size. You will find more paper choices in this size and it is also the size used to fit in standard philatelic exhibit frames.

However, you may want to prepare your album pages to fit in one of the standard commercial albums that you may already own. These page sizes are typically larger than the standard letter and require a wide format printer to produce them. The table below shows the page sizes and margins for some common commercial album types.

Album	Height (in)	Width (in)	Top (in)	Bottom (in)	Left (in)	Right (in)
H.E. Harris	12	9.125	0.625	0.625	0.875	0.5
Scott International	11.25	9.25	0.625	0.625	0.75	0.75
Scott National	11.5	10	0.625	0.625	1.5	0.75
Scott Minuteman	11.2	9.12	0.5	0.5	0.875	0.5
Minkus	11.25	9.5	0.875	0.5	1.12	0.5

Web Sources

There are some websites that offer pre-formatted album pages, or enable you to create generic pages. Of course, these are much less flexible than pages you make yourself, but they do save you some time and effort.

FreeStampAlbum.com. This site enables you to create stamp album pages. You choose your page settings, then enter a caption, width, and height for each of your stamps. When your design is just the way you want it, you can generate and download a PDF file containing your page.

StampAlbums.com. This website has more than 200,000 U.S. and foreign album pages that you can print out on your own computer. The cost is \$40 for a one-year subscription. You can also order all the pages on compact disc for \$40 that can save you some time downloading.

Instructions

The following pages describe the steps to follow to create a template or album page.

