

Using Printed Transparencies

by Gemiel Matthews

Remember those transparencies from grade school? The teacher would put them on the overhead projector, shine them on the screen and use colored pens to illustrate some complex problem. Well, transparencies have now crossed over into the scrapbooking world. But these are not the transparencies of your past. Transparencies have evolved over the years. Not only can you find better quality clear transparencies, you can find colored and preprinted transparencies as well. And you can find all kinds of prints: words, quotes, pictures, photos, maps, memorabilia, the list goes on and on. In this article, we will explore some tips and techniques for using preprinted transparencies.



Once the scrapbook industry embraces a product, they run with it. Now there are many companies that make preprinted transparencies. 7gypsies, Li'l Davis Designs, Artistic Expressions, Magic Scraps, Creative Imaginations, ARTChix Studio, Daisy D's Paper Co., Me and My Big Ideas, and K & Co., just to name a few. You can expect even more companies to enter the market in the upcoming months.

The most frequently asked question about using transparencies is "How do I adhere them?" This creates quite a dilemma because transparencies are clear so most

adhesives will show through. I have had great success using the Xyron machine, spray adhesive or Crystal Lacquer or Zots glue dots.



Figure 1

Another option is to use a fine tip glue pen or tiny glue dots and place the adhesive behind printed letters or other darker printed elements on the transparency. If you have any areas of your transparency that will be covered by a photo or other page element, you can use traditional adhesives such as photo squares, tape, etc. Just be sure to place the adhesive directly under the section of the transparency that will be covered.

If you don't want to use adhesive, other options for attaching transparencies include brads, eyelets, snaps, clips, buttons, staples, photo turns, nail heads, and stitching. Now that you know how to adhere transparencies, let's look at some ways to use them on your layouts.

Overlays:

Overlays are 8 ½ x 11 or 12x12 transparencies that you just lay over the top of a completed layout. In figure 1 above, I matted my photos, attached them to the background paper and laid the transparency on top of the layout. I attached the tags and eyelet phrase to the layout on top of the transparency to help hold it in place. No adhesive was used to attach the overlay as the layout will be placed in a page protector. In figure 2, I also used an overlay, but this time I double matted the photo, placing one mat on the background paper under the transparency and placing the second mat and photo on top of the transparency. I adhered the transparency to the background paper behind the top photo mat.



Tags:

Transparencies make great tags. Just cut a tag shape out of your transparency sheet. In the tag above, I cut the transparency into a rectangular tag, placed it on top of a cardstock tag and attached them together with an eyelet and fibers. In the picture to the left, a heart shape was cut from the transparency and placed on a metal rimmed tag.



Slides and Shaker Boxes:

Use transparencies to make quick and easy windows for slides and shaker boxes.



Pockets:

Because they are see thru, transparencies make great pockets. In this Mexico layout, a transparency was used as a pocket to hold memorabilia from a trip. Brads and book darts were used for attachment.

Page elements:

Transparencies can be cut apart and used as page elements. In *On the Road Again*, a strip from a map printed transparency was placed across the layout under the photos. An overlay transparency was placed over the completed layout.

In *Letters From Abroad* (see top of page), a strip from a postage printed transparency was used as a page border. It was attached to the page with brads.

Now that you have some ideas and tips for using preprinted transparencies it's time for you to play. Remember the sky's the limit, use your imagination. You'd be surprised with what you can create.

