

Ways to Store Scrapbook Embellishments

Organize, Protect & Spark Your Creativity

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Welcome! ✦ A Note Before You Begin

If you've ever spent 20 minutes hunting for that one perfect little gem or spent the better part of a crafting session untangling a spool of ribbon, you already know: **good embellishment storage is not a luxury — it's a necessity!** A well-organized craft space means less time searching and more time doing what you love most — creating beautiful pages and memories that will last a lifetime.

Smart storage does so much more than just keep things tidy. It **protects your supplies** from dust, humidity, and damage; it **saves you precious time** so you can dive straight into your creative projects; it **sparks creativity** by making your entire collection visible and accessible at a glance; and it keeps your craft space a **joy to work in** rather than a source of stress.

Whether you're a seasoned scrapbooker with bins overflowing with treasures or someone just beginning to build your collection, this guide is designed to give you *practical, real-world solutions* that fit every budget and every space.

What Counts as an Embellishment?

Embellishments are all those wonderful little extras that bring your scrapbook pages to life! They include:

- **Fasteners & Hardware:** Buttons, brads, eyelets, and snaps

- **Fiber & Trim:** Ribbon, twine, baker's twine, lace, and trim
- **Tape & Adhesives:** Washi tape, decorative masking tape
- **Paper Elements:** Stickers, die cuts, chipboard pieces, tags, and labels
- **Dimensional Accents:** Enamel dots, sequins, gems, rhinestones, and glitter
- **Floral & Botanical:** Paper flowers, fabric flowers, leaves, and sprigs
- **Specialty Pieces:** Charms, clips, mini clothespins, and decorative pins

✦ **Pro Tip: Start With What You Have**

Before buying any new storage, do a full inventory of your embellishments first. Spread everything out on a table, take stock of quantities and types, and *then* decide what containers you need. This saves money and prevents buying storage that doesn't suit your collection!

Section 1: Sorting & Categorizing Your Embellishments

Before a single embellishment goes into a container, let's talk about sorting! The way you categorize your collection will determine how easy it is to find exactly what you need when inspiration strikes. There's no single "right" way — the best system is the one that matches how your creative brain works.

Here are four popular and highly effective methods for categorizing your embellishments:

Method 1: By Type

This is the most straightforward approach. Group all similar items together regardless of color or theme: all buttons together, all ribbons together, all enamel dots together, and so on.

- **Best for:** Crafters with large quantities of each type of embellishment
- **Benefit:** Easy to find the right type of embellishment quickly
- **Works well with:** Compartment organizers, bead trays, and labeled drawers

Method 2: By Color Family

Sort embellishments by their primary color — reds and pinks together, blues and greens together, neutrals together, and so on. Many scrapbookers love this method because they often design pages around a color palette.

- **Best for:** Color-focused designers and those with a large variety of types
- **Benefit:** Instantly see everything that coordinates with your chosen palette
- **Works well with:** Clear glass jars displayed on shelves, rainbow-organized bins

Method 3: By Theme or Season

Group embellishments by the occasion or theme they're best suited for: Christmas, Halloween, birthdays, travel, baby, wedding, everyday life, and so on.

- **Best for:** Crafters who often work on themed albums or holiday projects
- **Benefit:** Grab one box or bin and have everything for a themed layout at hand
- **Works well with:** Labeled bins, binders with dividers, stackable storage boxes

Method 4: By Project or Album

Dedicate a container, bag, or bin to each active or upcoming project. All supplies for your "Summer Vacation 2026" album live in one place, your "Baby's First Year" album has its own designated space, etc.

- **Best for:** Crafters who work on one album at a time and like a fresh start for each
- **Benefit:** Everything for a project is portable and ready to go

- **Works well with:** Project bags, tote bins, decorated shoeboxes

 Helpful Hint: Combine Methods!

Many experienced scrapbookers use a **hybrid system** — for example, storing general embellishments by type, but keeping a separate themed bin for Christmas and another for baby layouts. Don't be afraid to mix and match methods until you find your perfect combination!

Section 2: Container & Storage Solutions

Now for the fun part — the containers! From tackle boxes to mason jars to rolling carts, there are so many wonderful ways to house your embellishment collection. Here are 15 tried-and-true options to consider, with tips on what each works best for.

1. Small Compartment Organizers / Tackle Boxes

Plastic fishing tackle boxes and bead organizers are an absolute staple for scrapbookers. Look for models with **adjustable dividers** so you can customize the compartment sizes to fit everything from tiny sequins to larger chipboard shapes. They stack neatly and many come with secure latching lids — perfect for those tiny embellishments that love to escape!

Best for: Sequins, brads, enamel dots, gems, rhinestones, eyelets

2. Glass Jars & Mason Jars

Clear glass jars are as beautiful as they are functional. Fill them with buttons sorted by color, ribbon scraps, or decorative elements and arrange them on open shelves for a charming, cottage-style display that doubles as craft room décor. The

transparent glass means you can see every treasure at a glance without opening a single lid.

Best for: Buttons, ribbon scraps, mixed embellishments for display

3. Pill Organizers / Weekly Pill Boxes

Don't overlook the humble weekly pill organizer! These are surprisingly perfect for very tiny embellishments. They're **lightweight, portable, and inexpensive** — toss one in your craft bag when you're heading to a crop or class. Look for double-row versions for extra compartments.

Best for: Micro sequins, mini brads, tiny gems, small enamel dots

4. Muffin Tins / Cupcake Pans

Repurpose an old muffin tin to sort embellishments by color or type directly on your work surface during a project session. It keeps everything visible and within reach while you work, and cleanup is a breeze. A silicone cupcake pan works especially well since embellishments won't slide around.

Best for: Active project sorting sessions, color grouping while working

5. Clear Zip-Lock Bags

One of the most budget-friendly solutions around! Store like items together in small labeled bags, then file them upright in a labeled bin, file folder box, or in a binder with page protectors. Small 2"x3" bags are ideal for tiny embellishments; larger bags work great for ribbon bundles and sticker sheets. Write labels with a permanent marker directly on the bag or use adhesive labels.

Best for: Any embellishment type; excellent for those on a tight budget

6. Bead Storage Trays with Lids

Stackable bead storage trays feature multiple small compartments and satisfyingly secure lids. They're designed to stack directly on top of one another, making them

excellent for small spaces. Look for sets sold at craft stores or online — they often come in sets of 3-6.

Best for: Flat embellishments, die cuts, chipboard pieces, sequins

7. Craft Drawers / Desktop Mini Drawer Units

Stacking mini drawer units — similar to those used in hardware stores for nuts and bolts — are among the most popular craft room storage solutions. They offer **easy access with no lid to remove**, keep items dust-free, and look tidy on a desk or shelf. Label every drawer clearly so you can find things at a glance. These are widely available at hardware stores, craft stores, and online retailers.

Best for: Mixed small embellishments, washi tape rolls, ribbon bundles

8. Spice Racks & Spice Jars

A rotating countertop spice rack filled with small matching jars or tins is a wonderfully creative and space-efficient storage display. It looks beautiful on a craft desk, and the rotating design means every jar is instantly accessible. Label the lids so you can see the contents when looking down at the rack.

Best for: Buttons, small sequins, gems, brads — anything small and pourable

9. Pocket Pages in a Binder

Use scrapbook pocket pages (baseball card sleeves, 4x6 photo pocket pages, or standard trading card pages) inside a 3-ring binder to sort flat embellishments by theme or type. Add labeled tabbed dividers for each category. This system is **completely flat, portable, and expandable** — just add more pages as your collection grows!

Best for: Stickers, die cuts, chipboard, tags, flat embellishments

10. Shadow Boxes & Display Frames

For embellishments that are too beautiful to hide away, mount them in a shadow box and hang it on the wall. This works wonderfully for vintage button collections,

colorful spools of ribbon, or a curated display of silk flowers. It's craft room décor that also keeps your prettiest treasures visible and accessible.

Best for: Vintage buttons, ribbon spools, floral embellishments, decorative display

11. Ice Cube Trays

A clever and inexpensive solution that works surprisingly well! Standard ice cube trays offer individual compartments great for temporarily sorting during a crafting session, or as a permanent home for chunkier embellishments. Silicone ice cube trays are especially handy as items pop out easily without tipping the whole tray.

Best for: Session sorting, larger dimensional embellishments, flowers

12. Magnetic Tins / Small Metal Tins

Store small embellishments in decorative metal tins that can be labeled and stacked prettily on a shelf. For a wall-mounted solution, attach a large metal sheet or magnetic board to the wall and stick magnetic tins directly to it — an eye-catching and space-saving display that keeps everything at arm's reach.

Best for: Mixed small embellishments, washi tape, brads, enamel dots

13. Over-the-Door Organizers with Clear Pockets

Hang a clear-pocket over-the-door organizer on the back of your craft room door to maximize vertical space. The clear pockets make contents visible instantly, and the range of pocket sizes accommodates everything from sticker sheets to ribbon bundles to small containers. This is one of the **best solutions for small craft rooms** where floor and desk space is at a premium.

Best for: Flat embellishments, sticker sheets, ribbon bundles, small containers

14. Rolling Craft Cart (e.g., IKEA RÅSKOG or Alex Cart)

A rolling cart is one of the most versatile craft storage investments you can make. Dedicate individual drawers or bins to different embellishment categories, and

wheel the entire cart right to your workspace when you're ready to create. When you're done, roll it away to keep your space tidy. The mobility alone is worth it!

Best for: Large collections; crafters who work in multiple areas of the home

15. Embroidery Floss Boards / Thread Bobbins

Prevent ribbon and twine from becoming a tangled mess by wrapping them onto plastic bobbins or cardboard floss boards — the same ones used for cross-stitch and embroidery thread. Store the finished bobbins standing upright in a flat box, in a clear container, or in a binder with bobbin page holders. Write the color or type on each bobbin for fast identification.

Best for: Ribbon, twine, baker's twine, lace, decorative fiber

♦ Pro Tip: Use Stackable, Matching Containers

Whenever possible, choose containers that **stack neatly** and come in matching sizes. Mix-and-match containers waste space and make shelves look cluttered. Buying several of the same bead organizer or drawer unit keeps your craft space looking organized and polished — and makes the most of your vertical storage space!

Section 3: Storing Specific Types of Embellishments

Some embellishments have unique storage challenges — they tangle, they escape, they get crushed, or they dry out. Here are dedicated tips for the most common embellishment types so you can give each one the care it deserves!

Embellishment Type	Best Storage Method(s)	Special Tips
Buttons	Glass jars sorted by color; compartment trays; small open bowls on a shelf	Sort by color for a beautiful display. Mix sizes within the same color family.
Ribbons & Twine	Wrapped on bobbins or cardboard spools; tension rods in a drawer; labeled zip bags	Store ribbon upright in a shallow bin. Use tension rods in a drawer to keep rolls tidy and wrinkle-free.
Washi Tape	Tension rod in a drawer; clear box standing upright; washi tape dispenser or case	Store upright so you can see the pattern on each roll without unrolling it. A dedicated washi tape case with a windowed lid is ideal.
Stickers & Die Cuts	Pocket page binders organized by theme; flat drawer with dividers	Never store in direct sunlight — adhesive can degrade. File sticker sheets whole in page protectors until ready to use.
Chipboard Pieces	Labeled envelopes; page protectors in a binder; flat labeled drawers	Always store flat to prevent warping. Group by theme or collection for easy finding.
Flowers & Dimensional Embellishments	Compartment trays with generous-sized compartments; small open boxes; clear lidded bins	Never pack tightly — flowers and dimensional accents get crushed easily. Give them room to breathe!
Enamel Dots & Sequins	Small compartment organizers; tackle boxes; pill organizers	Keep lids secure at all times — these are notorious escape artists! Always close before moving the container.
Brads & Eyelets	Compartment organizers divided by size and color	Group by size first, then color within size. This makes finding the right brad for a project much faster.
Gems & Rhinestones	Bead organizers; tackle boxes with fine-division	Sort by color and size. Store sheets of

Embellishment Type	Best Storage Method(s)	Special Tips
	compartments	rhinestones flat in a page protector to preserve the sheet until needed.
Tags & Labels	Tabbed binder; labeled envelopes; flat divided drawers	Punch a hole in the top of each tag and group them on a loose binder ring sorted by theme or color for easy flipping.

★ Special Note on Washi Tape

Washi tape deserves its own special mention because collections can grow very quickly! Consider dedicating an entire drawer — or even a full binder — just to washi tape. Many crafters wrap a small sample of each tape around an index card and keep them in a binder as a **visual catalog**, so they know exactly what they have without digging through the whole collection every time.

Section 4: Labeling Your Storage

Even the most beautiful, well-organized storage system falls apart if you can't find anything! Labeling is the secret ingredient that ties every storage solution together. Here are the best labeling methods to keep your system working for you.

Labeling Methods to Try

- **Label Maker:** A handheld label maker produces clean, professional-looking labels that are easy to read at a glance. They adhere well to plastic, glass, and metal surfaces. Brother and DYMO make popular, affordable options widely available at office supply stores.

- **Washi Tape + Marker:** Stick a strip of washi tape onto the container and write the contents with a black permanent marker. This creates a charming, handmade look that's perfectly on-brand for a scrapbooker! Use a neutral or white washi for best readability.
- **Color-Coded Labels:** Assign a color to each category or theme — purple for floral embellishments, blue for travel, red for Christmas — and use colored sticker dots or colored label tape. A quick glance tells you which category each container belongs to.
- **Photo Labels:** Take a photo of the container's contents with your phone, print it as a small thumbnail (or wallet-sized print), and tape it to the outside of the container. Ideal for opaque or lidded containers where you can't see inside.
- **Chalkboard Labels:** Available in sheets at craft and dollar stores, chalkboard labels can be written on with chalk or chalk markers and wiped clean when your storage needs change. They're **flexible and reusable** — perfect if your system evolves over time.
- **Clear Adhesive Pockets:** Attach a small adhesive pocket to the outside of a bin or drawer and slip an index card with the category name (and even a list of contents) inside. Cards can be updated or replaced without leaving a sticky residue.

Labeling Best Practices

- Label the **front and top** of containers if they will be stacked — you want to read the label however the container is positioned.
- Be **specific** on labels: "Purple Enamel Dots" is more helpful than just "Dots."
- Use **consistent font and style** throughout your storage system for a cohesive, polished look.
- Re-label containers when their contents change — an outdated label is worse than no label at all!

♦ Pro Tip: The Two-Second Rule

A good label should tell you exactly what's inside in **two seconds or less**. If you find yourself opening containers to check what's inside rather than reading the label, it's time to relabel. Specificity is your best friend: "Pink & Red Buttons" beats "Buttons," and "Christmas Stickers" beats "Holiday."

Section 5: Organizing Tips & Best Practices

Having the right containers and labels is a great start, but these overarching organizational habits will help you maintain a system that truly works — day in and day out. Here are the go-to best practices for a craft space that always feels welcoming and functional!

Workflow & Access

- **Keep most-used items within arm's reach.** Position your everyday embellishments at the most accessible spots in your craft space — on the desk surface, in the nearest drawer, or at eye level on the shelf. Reserve higher or lower storage for things you use occasionally.
- **Create a "current project" zone.** Dedicate a specific bag, bin, or tray to the project you're actively working on. Gather all relevant embellishments and supplies into one place so you're never searching mid-project.
- **Group tools near their supplies.** Keep scissors, adhesives, and applicators near the embellishments they're most often used with so your workflow is smooth and uninterrupted.

Maximizing Space

- **Think vertically.** Floating shelves, pegboards, and wall-mounted systems are your best friends in a small craft room. A wall of shelves with glass jars or labeled bins uses vertical space while keeping everything beautifully visible.
- **Use the backs of doors.** Over-the-door organizers and hooks on the back of your craft room door add significant storage in an often-overlooked space.
- **Stack intentionally.** Use uniform, stackable containers so every square inch of shelf height is used efficiently. Label tops as well as fronts.
- **A rolling cart beats a fixed shelf** when floor space is tight — you can wheel it out when crafting and tuck it back against a wall when done.

Protecting Your Supplies

- **Keep embellishments away from direct sunlight.** UV rays can fade colors, degrade adhesive on stickers and washi tape, and weaken delicate paper embellishments over time. Store in a shaded or enclosed space.
- **Control humidity.** In damp environments, wooden and paper embellishments can warp, and metal pieces can tarnish. Silica gel packets placed inside storage boxes help absorb excess moisture.
- **Seal small-compartment containers securely** before moving or transporting them. There are few craft-room disasters more disheartening than an overturned tray of micro sequins!

Maintaining Your System

- **Do a seasonal purge.** Set aside time each season — or at least twice a year — to go through your embellishments. Donate, swap, or sell items you no longer love or use. A collection you love is much easier to maintain than one filled with things you've outgrown.
- **Tidy as you go.** Return embellishments to their homes immediately after a project rather than letting them pile up. Five minutes of tidying after crafting prevents hours of reorganizing later.

- **Reassess your system annually.** As your style and collection evolve, your storage may need to evolve too. There's no shame in reorganizing — it's a sign your craft life is growing!

◆ **Pro Tip: The "One In, One Out" Rule**

To keep your storage system from becoming overwhelmed over time, try adopting a simple rule: when you bring in a new embellishment purchase, find a home for it immediately — and if a container is getting too full, purge before adding more. This habit keeps your system sustainable and your craft space manageable long-term.

Section 6: Budget-Friendly & Creative Storage Ideas

You don't need to spend a fortune to have a beautiful, organized craft space! Some of the most charming and effective storage solutions cost little to nothing. Here are creative, wallet-friendly ideas that work just as well as their pricier counterparts.

Repurposed Household Items

- **Cookie Tins & Mint Tins:** Those pretty holiday cookie tins are perfect for storing mixed embellishments by theme. Small mint tins (like Altoids tins) are ideal for tiny items like mini brads and micro sequins — and they're wonderfully portable.
- **Egg Cartons:** A clean egg carton makes an excellent free sorting tray for active crafting sessions. Each cup holds a different type or color of embellishment. Recycle when done or fold flat for storage.
- **Baby Food Jars, Jam Jars & Candle Jars:** Wash and dry used glass jars — they make excellent mini storage containers for buttons, sequins, gems, and

more. Remove labels, apply your own with a label maker or washi tape, and arrange them on a shelf for a beautiful cottage-style display.

- **Ice Cube Trays from the Kitchen:** Repurpose old or extra ice cube trays for embellishment sorting. Silicone versions are particularly handy since items pop out with ease.
- **Muffin Tins:** Bring an old muffin tin to your craft desk as an instant, multi-compartment sorting tray for your current project. When done, tip the embellishments back into their storage containers.

Thrift Store & Secondhand Finds

- **Vintage Tins:** Keep an eye out at thrift stores, garage sales, and antique shops for vintage tins in all sizes. They're charming, durable, and often have lovely designs that add personality to your craft space.
- **Glass Canisters & Apothecary Jars:** Thrift stores frequently stock glass canisters and apothecary-style jars at a fraction of their retail price. A few matching pieces create a cohesive, beautiful display.
- **Silverware Trays & Drawer Organizers:** Cutlery organizers and drawer dividers found secondhand work wonderfully to organize embellishments in craft drawers. The individual compartments keep things separated without any investment in specialty storage.
- **Spice Racks:** A secondhand countertop spice rack — filled with matching small jars — creates a beautiful, space-efficient embellishment display for very little cost.

Dollar Store & Budget Store Hauls

- **Small bins and baskets** for organizing larger embellishment groups on shelves
- **Compartment trays and organizers** — often just as functional as craft store versions
- **Zip-lock bags in assorted sizes** — a perennial budget staple for any crafter

- **Photo storage boxes** — great for filing flat embellishments by theme or project
- **Small plastic containers with lids** — perfect for sequins, buttons, and enamel dots
- **Chalkboard labels and white chalk markers** — affordable and reusable for flexible labeling

 Fun Idea: Make It Beautiful!

There's no rule that says craft storage has to look utilitarian. Decorate your storage containers with your own paper scraps, washi tape, or stamped designs! A row of matching mason jars tied with ribbon, or a set of tins covered in coordinating patterned paper, turns your storage into a work of art. After all, you're a scrapbooker — your storage can be every bit as creative as your pages!

Quick Reference: Storage Solution at a Glance

Use this handy reference table to quickly match your embellishment type to the best storage solution:

Storage Solution	Cost Range	Best Embellishment Types	Space Required
Compartment organizer / Tackle box	\$5-\$20	Sequins, brads, gems, enamel dots, rhinestones	Small
Glass jars / Mason jars	\$1-\$15	Buttons, ribbon scraps, mixed accents	Small-Medium (shelf)
Binder with	\$5-\$15	Stickers, die cuts,	Small (shelf or

Storage Solution	Cost Range	Best Embellishment Types	Space Required
pocket pages		chipboard, tags, flat items	drawer)
Mini drawer unit	\$15-\$50	All small embellishments; washi tape; ribbon	Medium (desk or shelf)
Thread bobbins / Floss boards	\$3-\$10	Ribbon, twine, lace, decorative fiber	Small (box or binder)
Rolling cart	\$30-\$100+	All categories; large collections	Medium-Large (floor)
Over-the-door organizer	\$10-\$30	Flat items, sticker sheets, ribbon bundles	None (door-mounted)
Repurposed tins & jars	Free-\$5	Any small embellishments	Small
Zip-lock bags in a bin	\$2-\$8	Any type; best for budget-conscious organizers	Variable
Shadow box / Display frame	\$10-\$40	Vintage buttons, ribbon spools, decorative display	Wall-mounted

A Closing Note ✦

Here's the most important thing to remember: **the perfect storage system is the one that works for *you*** — your creative style, your space, your budget, and the way your crafting brain is wired. There is no single right answer, and there is absolutely no need to have everything perfectly organized before you start. The best approach is always to **start with what you**

already have and build from there, one small improvement at a time.

Begin with one category — maybe your most-used embellishments, or the ones that give you the most trouble finding — and find a simple home for them. Then move to the next. Before you know it, you'll have a system that feels natural, functions beautifully, and actually makes you *excited* to sit down and craft.

Remember: every minute you invest in organizing today is a minute you get back tomorrow to spend actually creating. An organized craft space doesn't just save time — it frees your mind so that creativity can flow without interruption. Your beautiful pages, your treasured memories, and your unique creative voice are waiting. Go make something wonderful!

Happy scrapping! ✦

✦ *An organized space is a creative space* ✦