

# From Scan to Share: Using MyHeritage Photo Tools to Create Family Keepsakes

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Once you have scanned that favorite family photo, learn how the new **MyHeritage In Color™** and **Photo Enhancer** tools can help you create a variety of keepsakes to share with friends and family. Here are some ways to manage creative photo-based projects and get inspired to create fun stuff!

## The Power of Family Photos

The premise is simple: 1) scan your family photos; 2) use the MyHeritage Photo Tools to improve your scanned photos; 3) and then create a variety of items inspired by the photo craft projects described below.

## Photo Digitization Best Practices

- Choose photos with high impact, good darks and lights, and minimal background.
- Set your scanner to a high resolution, such as 300 or 600 dpi.
- Clean the scanner with a microfiber cleaning cloth. Remove dust, lint, and fingerprints so you can achieve the clearest possible scans.
- Make sure the photo is in contact with the scanning surface or as close as possible to the surface; however, often you can get a good scan right through a plastic sleeve, matt, or glass. Don't move the photo while scanning.
- Keep the photo lined up with the edges of the scanner to reduce editing later.
- When transferring digital images to your computer, always save an original scan of the photo and then make copies of the file to be used for editing.
- Use Adobe Photoshop Elements or your favorite graphic editing software to resize digital images for use with your favorite project.
- Remember to periodically backup your scans of photos and documents.

## Using MyHeritage Photo Tools

Once your family photo is scanned, you will want to improve the digital image so it can be used in photo projects. MyHeritage offers two amazing web-based digital photo tools for colorizing and enhancing photos.

- **MyHeritage Photo Enhancer:** Enhance your family photos automatically with the world's best deep learning technology. Faces will come into sharp focus!
- **MyHeritage In Color™:** Colorize your black & white family photos automatically with the world's best deep learning technology.

## Creating Keepsakes Using Family Photos

Once family photos are scanned and enhanced, the most difficult choice will be to find the right photo project!

- **Family Photo Displays:** There is lots of room for creativity with grouping and displaying family photos in frames. Whether it is a wall display or simply creating a mini-gallery on a book shelf, use your imagination! Also check Pinterest and Etsy for inspiration! Tip: consider PRINTING your scanned and enhanced photos and using them in frames instead of the ORIGINAL photo which can be preserved and stored for safe keeping. Another option is to use chalkboard paint on a wall or artist board, attached photos in frames, and then use chalk markers to write notes about the photos.
- **Picture Frame Memory Wreath:** Again, this is a project using framed photos and you can make some amazing wreaths! Most use a wire wreath form, but I've made my own wreaths with twigs and dried grapevines. Add an embellishment like a bow and consider "themed" photo wreaths: wedding photos, baby photos, military photos.
- **Pie Pan Photo Frame:** An excellent way to preserve memories related to cooking and recipes. Honor a family member with their photo in a baking disk or pie pan and even include the original recipe card, if possible. You can use your favorite cookware or hunt through thrift shops for unique items!
- **Dress Form Photo Display:** Not everyone has a dress form sitting around but they can be found easily in thrift stores. If possible, start with a vintage dress, costume jewelry, and then arrange photos on the dress form. An amazing way to show off family photos AND family heirlooms.
- **Family Photo Blocks:** Mount printed photos on to prepared blocks of wood (sanded and painted). Add sayings and notes using markers and arrange blocks by theme or age.
- **Family Photo Buntings:** Buntings or garlands are an easy way to display family photos. Some can be elaborate with printed pennants stitched to a wire. Others are simple with just decorative wire, binder clips and photos. Again, focus on themes such as travel, high school, etc.
- **Family Photo Jewelry, Purses and Glasses:** One of the biggest challenges is how to display items such as costume jewelry and other heirlooms. Use these items to "tell a story" such as old eyeglasses with the lenses replaced with photos. Old metal purse forms (for which women would crochet purses) make excellent photo holders!
- **Slide and Film Crafts:** Once you've scanned old family slides and negatives, what can you do with them? Consider lamp shades or other items that utilize light to show off the images.

- **Family Photo Jars:** One of my favorite ways to memorialize a family member who has passed. Place a photo in the jar and then add items such as costume jewelry, dance cards or invites, etc. Include a “story slip” which is a slip of paper that can be used to tell more about the person and the items.
- **Family Photo Story Telling:** This is where you can get REALLY creative! Use Altoid or candy tins to create mini shadow boxes centered around a family photo. Include other items such as jewelry etc. Also consider larger “shadow boxes” made from picture frames. Include gloves, purses, eyeglasses, etc. For men, use items from a hobby such as woodworking. And don’t be afraid to use text to tell the story of an ancestor right on the photo.

## Resource List

- **MyHeritage Photo Enhancer**  
<https://www.myheritage.com/photo-enhancer>
- **MyHeritage In Color™:**  
<https://www.myheritage.com/incolor>
- **15 Creative Photo Display Ideas That Don’t Need Frames**  
<https://www.artifactuprising.com/diy/display-photos-without-frames>
- **27 Unique Photo Display Ideas That Will Bring Your Memories To Life**  
<https://www.buzzfeed.com/maitlandquitmeyer/unique-photo-display-ideas-that-will-bring-your-memories>
- **DIY Family Tree Chalkboard**  
<https://www.yourhomebasedmom.com/diy-family-tree-chalkboard-2/>
- **Family History: Crafts**  
<https://www.pinterest.com/valerieelkins/family-history-crafts/>
- **Family Photo Blocks**  
<https://divaofdiy.com/easy-handmade-photo-gift/>
- **Picture Frame Memory Wreath**  
<https://www.infarrantlycreative.net/picture-frame-memory-wreath/>