

Teaching Photography: Projects to Do With Your Finished Photos

So now you have photographs. What are you planning to do with them? You could put them in an album or frame. Or...

- 1. Make a photo spinner.** Take 2 pictures that are sequential in motion and place them back to back, with one facing up and the other facing down. They need to be positioned so that if you flip them (held together) up from the bottom, the one now in front is right side up. Punch holes on each end of the photo pair and tie a rubber band to each end. Twist the photo pair and hold the rubber bands still. Let go of the photos, pull the rubber bands taut, and your photos will spin rapidly, creating a mini-movie.
- 2. Colorize black and white photographs.** Not shooting in black and white? Don't worry. Most photo printers will print from your negatives or digital media in black and white if requested. Colorization can be as simple or complicated as you make it. The easiest and most cost-effective way is with food coloring and cotton swabs. Mix the food coloring with water as desired for hue/color saturation, and use the swabs as a sort of paintbrush. (You could use actual paintbrushes, but what fun is that?) As you paint, the surface of the photo will absorb the color. Once finished, they will be sticky until the emulsion re-sets, but then they will look normal. This project is especially powerful with fireworks or by simply coloring one bloom in a field of flowers.
- 3. Make a gift or jewelry box.** Personalize a paper mache or wooden box (which can be found at any craft store, or even Wal-Mart, for very affordable prices) by adding a photo. Use watered down white glue or a spray adhesive to mount a photograph to the cover, then top with another coat of glue or an acrylic finishing spray. When you give mom that bracelet for Mother's Day, make it even more special by decorating the box with a picture of the two of you together!
- 4. Be puzzling!** Many varieties of blank cardboard or wood puzzles can be found at learning shops, hobby shops, and craft stores. Simply glue on your photo and gently cut it apart. There are even websites where you can upload a photo and they'll send you a finished puzzle, or you can order puzzles that are printable in your own home printer! Some places, like Walgreens and perhaps Kinko's, can also order out to have one printed for you.
- 5. Look into Walgreens, Kinko's, Wal-Mart.** How about a fleece blanket with a picture of your favorite vacation spot? Maybe a 12-month calendar with a different picture every month (like that one of you in the marching band from the 4th of July parade). A mug with your mug on it. Fido can even have his picture on his own pet dish! The possibilities are endless. If you're looking for a gift idea and are willing to spend some money, you can put a picture on just about anything these days.
- 6. Make jewelry.** A charm bracelet can be a nice gift or personal expression of fashion. You can purchase frame charms, and a chain bracelet to put them on, at a local craft store or Wal-Mart. Print your photos itty bitty, insert in frames, and you're all set. You can

purchase larger charm frames as a focal piece/ pendant for a necklace that can be strung on a wire with beads, put on an elegant ribbon choker, or just on a nice chain.

- 7. Have a magnetic personality.** You can find magnets with adhesive on them to mount your pictures to, and magnets that you can send right through your home printer. You could simply mount a photo or you could get creative. Do a photo collage by cutting and mounting several pieces of photos to one magnet. Mount a portrait of your favorite person, print off some alternate clothing options, and think paper doll (on the fridge).
- 8. Iron-ons.** Printable iron-on transfers can be purchased at any craft store. Choose, print, iron. It's that easy. T-shirts, bags, scarves, anything is possible!
- 9. Shrink-it.** They make printable shrinky-dinks that you can send right through your home printer. Just be sure to set your print quality to fastdraft or lighten your color tones on your photo. Once it shrinks, the color will intensify due to the space ratio. (The size of the sheet gets smaller, but the amount of ink stays the same- it just condenses.) There are many projects you can do with this wonderful product.
 - Christmas ornaments
 - Keychains
 - Jewelry charms
 - Tealight holders (Print photo horizontally, gently curve it before it fully cools. Be careful, VERY hot! Set it in front of the tealight.)
- 10. Flip out!** Print a series of consecutive motion photos. Stack them together in order and staple or bind them together in some other way. Flip through them and you have a movie.