

Freebie Download Frenzie & Purchasing Kits By Hummie

Freebie Download Frenzie

It is time for you to make your first layout, but you wonder, "Where do I get the things to put on my layout." It is time for you to go on your newbie Freebie Download Frenzie!

Designers offer freebies that you can put on your pages all over the internet. They offer these freebies in hopes that it will draw people into their shops to see their kits for sale or in hopes that people will see the quality of their work and want to seek out purchasing more of the designer's items. Each person has their own personal taste of elements and you will probably find that you like certain designer's styles over others.

When you download elements, most often they will be zipped up. If you are using Windows XP, unzipping is simple. First, create a new folder and name it appropriately (possibly including the kit name, site, and designer name in the folder name). Next, double click on the zipped file and then cut (or copy) and paste your elements into your new folder. Leaving the elements zipped makes it difficult to see the thumbnails of the items to be able to search for what you want to use.

You may run across some downloads on blogs which are in the .rar format. This is another zip file type which needs different software to unzip. I use [UnZipThemAll](#), a free program, as it will unzip both .zip and .rar. However, the wonderful thing about this program is that it will unzip many files all with one click!

A common mistake of newbies who get anxious to go on their first Freebie Download Frenzie is to note where and who designed the kit or elements that you are downloading. It is important to give credit to designers when sharing your layouts online. So be sure to make note of where and who you are downloading from, either in your folder names or make a .txt note using notepad and insert it in the folder with the elements. Most often, the designers will include a TOU (terms of use) for you in the download, so you can just keep that with your download.

Go ahead and get started in downloading and unzipping, but don't go too far! You will want to read the next lesson about organizing what you download. Here are some links to some sites that have freebies to get you started on your very first Freebie Download Frenzie! [By the way, I had my first Freebie Download Frenzie June 6 through 12, 2005!]

A. Be sure to watch the forums for freebies from me!

B. A great resource on the internet for freebies is the blogs of digital scrapbookers, both designers and those who just enjoy creating and sharing. There are hundreds of digital scrapbooking blogs on the internet. The quickest way to find the freebies on individual blogs is to visit the “Freebie Hunters.” These are ladies who enjoy scouring the internet for freebies and they create lists of the current available freebies daily. I keep a list of the Freebie Hunters in the sidebar of my [blog](#).

C. Here is a list of other places on the internet.

Free Bait - Hook em while you can!	http://www.fishscraps.com/FreeBait/freebait.htm
Scrapmonkey	http://www.scrapmonkey.com/freebies/index.html
Amsdigiscraps	http://www.amsdigiscraps.com/freebies.php
Digital Design Essentials	http://www.ddecad.com/files/Free_Downloads.html
CottageArts.net	http://www.cottagearts.net/samples.html
YouniquePhotos	http://www.yuniquephotos.com/freebies.html
Scrap Elegance	http://www.scrapelegance.com/goodies.htm
ShabbyPrincess.com	http://www.shabbyprincess.com/Downloads.asp
DesignerDigitals Freebies	http://www.designerdigitals.com/ddgallery/showgallery.php?cat=531
Computer Scrapbook Designs	http://www.computerscrapbookdesigns.com/freebies.php
Digital Design Essentials	http://www.digitaldesignessentials.com/files/Free_Downloads_2.html
Digital Scrapbook Place (I recommend this!)	http://www.digitalscrapbookplace.com/gallery/index.php?cat=738
Jeri's Digitals Freebie Page (one of my favorite designers)	http://www.jeris-digitals.com/Freebies.html
Scrap Girls (subscribe to newsletter)	http://www.scrapgirls.com/index.html
Bannerwoman Design's	http://www.bannerwoman.com/
Digital Freebies on Fridays (Great!)	http://www.digitalfreebies.com/freebies.php
eSCRAPPERS	http://www.escrappers.com/freefiles.html
House of Lime	http://www.houseoflime.com/freebies.htm
Northern-elements	http://www.northern-elements.ca/northern-elements-web/freebies.htm
A little Scrap of Time	http://familypayne.freeservers.com/freebies.html
Scrapartist	http://www.scrapartist.com/gallery/showgallery.php?cat=538
Scrapbook-bytes (I recommend this!)	http://www.scrapbook-bytes.com/chat/local_links.php?catid=5
Simple Scrapbooks magazine	http://www.simplescrapbooksmag.com/download/digital/
Free Graphics Goodies	http://graphicssoft.about.com/od/freedownloads/l/bloldfreeindex.htm
Two Peas in a Bucket (Digital Section under Free Kits)	www.twopeasinabucket.com
Peppermint Creative (free kit each month)	www.peppermintcreative.com
Polka Dot Potato (will need to add to cart and go through checkout)	http://www.polkadotpotato.com/catalog/index.php?cPath=85&osCsid=f7f660bcc699bd3cf7be7731050a957a

Purchasing Kits

You can purchase kits online in the digiworld to use on your pages. There are more varieties than you can imagine!

Take a trip over to our [links page](#) for a long list of sites. Most of the sites have shops to purchase kits, galleries to upload and share layouts (and to get inspiration), forums to chat and find crops and challenges, tutorials, and much more.

A must-join for new scrappers is the advertisement yahoo group called P4D. The site associated with the yahoo group is located at <http://www.promos4digiscrappers.com>. The Yahoo group can be found here: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/promos4digiscrappers/>.

[Digishoptalk](#) has a product gallery which is a perfect place to find new kits.

Do a search through Yahoo Groups as there are other digital scrapbooking advertising groups available.

Another site that has previews of kits from many shops is <http://digitalscrapbookpreviews.com/>. You can also scroll down to the search box below the icons to search for a particular kit here.

When purchasing online, most often you will need to use [Paypal](#). Therefore, if you do not have an account set up with them, you may want to take a moment to do that.

Technical Difficulties

As a newbie, you may run into some technical difficulties in downloading. These common problems are easy to work around once you become aware of them.

1. Often in the digiworld, you may have trouble finding a download link. Why? It is common for designers to put the links right on the icon of their product. What does this mean? Simply click directly on the photo, icon, or layout when in doubt.

2. Most download links will make a new browser pop-up. This is the way zip files work. If you have a pop-up blocker, you will need to turn it off. You may have a pop-up blocker and not even realize it. They are add-on's to so many downloads. For my computer, I have a Norton pop-up blocker and the one that comes with Windows XP (which I leave turned off all the time). Some other common pop-up blockers are those that come with the Yahoo bar and the Google bar. They are such an annoyance for me as a digiscrapper, I simply uninstalled both bars.

To turn off the Windows pop-up blocker, go to the Tools drop down menu on your browser and in the fly-out menu, click "Turn Off Pop-up Blocker." This will turn off the blocker for all pages. If you want to hassle with it, you can choose individual page settings under the "Pop-up Blocker Settings."



3. Often, before you can download or even see a freebie, you will have to register at the site. Do not be afraid to do this; it is quick and easy. And if you become a digi-addict, you will be glad you got the registration out of the way. For some sites, you will find you go back to them often. I would suggest using the same user name at all the sites. People will come to know you by your user name.

4. Especially on blogs, you will find that the designers utilize various downloading hosting sites. Some of these are very confusing as the links on the hosting site's page are hard to find and you may have to wait a time period before the link becomes available to click on. The most popular has become 4shared.com because it is the least confusing and easy to use.

I run Spybot (http://www.download.com/Spybot-Search-Destroy/3000-8022_4-10401314.html?tag=lst-0-1) and Adaware (http://www.download.com/Ad-Aware-SE-Personal-Edition/3000-8022_4-10399602.html?tag=lst-0-2) on my computer daily and I would recommend the same for you. I recommend you do the same.