

Computers make it easy to design album pages

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If you have a computer, you can easily design attractive album pages for your perfin. You don't need any special software; you can make attractive pages on standard word processing programs such as Word or Word Perfect. All it takes is a little experimentation and a little creativity.

Using a computer provides an infinite variety of page possibilities. The simplest design, which I use for my foreign covers collection, involves just the name of the country at the top and the identification at the bottom. I use varying line weights to establish page borders at the top and bottom.

My "one stamp from every country" collection is set up on pages which allow me to have three countries on a single page. It is equally easy to divide the page into two or four or any number of equal or unequal size spaces.

For my "word perfins" collection, I get a little fancier. The top border is wide enough to accom-

modate text and then I reverse the type so it shows up white on black. A narrower border at the b o t -

envelopes. The same page design can be used for both portrait and landscape pages. All it takes is a little "stretching" of the design.

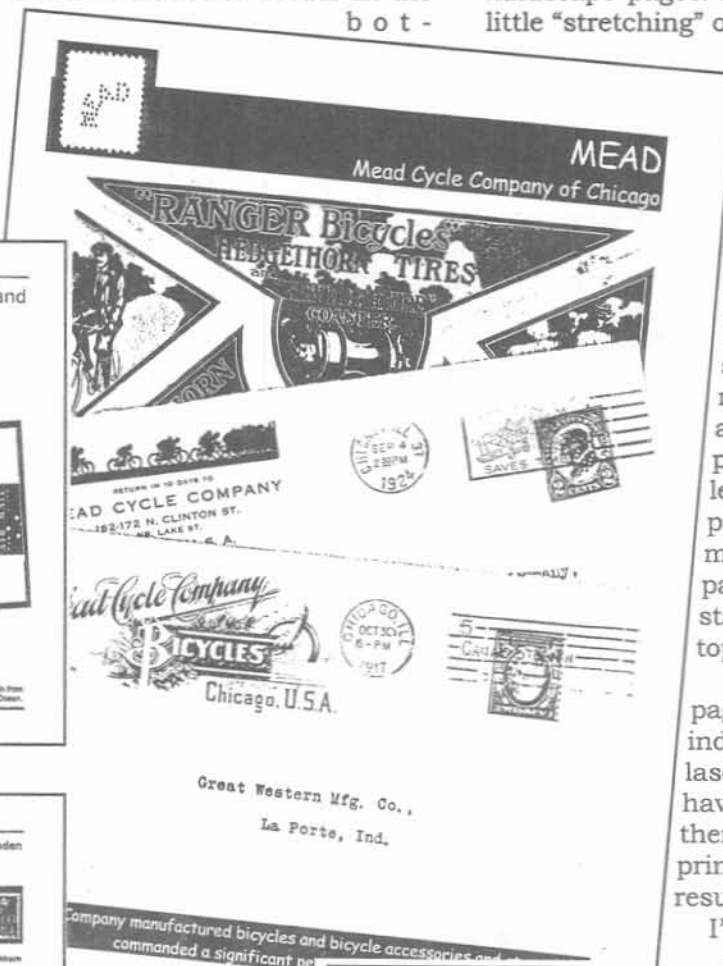
If you're inclined to get a little fancier with your page designs—and have access to a clip art program—you can add things like state flags or maps or other artwork to your pages. My collection of Texas perfins is mounted on pages with the state flag at the top.

I print my pages on white index stock on a laser printer but I have also printed them on ink jet printers with equal results.

I've learned a valuable lesson about making my own album pages, however. I tend to complete a page and mount my stamps on it and then a few days later find more information or another stamp I wish I had added to the page. Because I use acetate mounts

for my perfins and covers, replacing the mounts every time I re-do

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tom provides more information and also establishes the page limits.

Since many covers are impossible to fit on a standard "portrait" page layout, I've also established a "landscape" layout to accommodate business or other odd-size covers.

The landscape layout (see the illustration on the next page) is particularly useful since so many U.S. perfins are found on #10 business

Computer pages can be as fancy as you want to make them

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page can get expensive. The solution is to use "restickable" adhesive to secure the mounts to the page. The adhesive, which is available in any office or art supply store, holds the mounts securely but also allows them to be repositioned or moved to a new page easily.

Because stamps—and particularly covers—tend to want to escape from acetate mounts, I slide my pages into clear plastic page protectors. That also allows me to avoid punching holes in the pages themselves and lets me to put two pages in each page protector—providing more options in arrangement and a saving on the page protectors.

The computer can also be used to create pages for mounting is-

sue collections or type collections—which can be used without the acetate mounts. Again, using standard word processing software, one can create boxes for standard size stamps, copy them as often as needed and place them wherever you want on the page, and then add titles, identifications,

be overly safe for long term stamp storage: they may well have some chemical ingredients that will degrade your stamps and covers over a long period of time.

I've decided that I am willing to take the risks. I'm over 60 and the chances are good that the stamps will survive the next 50 years or so a lot better than I will. I suspect that the next owner of

my perfins will want to remount them. If you're younger, you may want to invest in mounts and page protectors that don't pose any danger to your perfins—even over a hundred years or so.



or other text at will to individualize the pages as you need them.

A word of caution should be offered about the acetate mounts and the page protectors. They may not

