

BackPorchMemories

Creativity made easy...



Newsletter

January 2012

Happy 2012! I hope this year treats you all well!

The end of 2011 and start of 2012 were not good for our message board and gallery, unfortunately. Just before Christmas, both were hacked and had to be taken down.

It has taken my web guy a lot longer to get these things back up than anticipated. Fortunately, the message board is up and running again, just in a barebones state. In order to see the message board, you'll need to log in. Currently, the board cannot be viewed by anyone unless they're a logged-in member.

The gallery is another story. It's still being worked on and I hope it's up soon.

As for our February guest designer contest, we've had to cancel it due to the fact that no one could access the sketch or the gallery to upload. If you created a layout for this contest, don't worry! We're using the same sketch for our March contest. See our message board for details on how to submit your work.

I sincerely appreciate your patience as I work through these technical issues!

Paula



Meet Berta {January Guest Designer}

Hi, my name is Berta Ramsey and I hail from a small rural community in Northern California. I'm the mother of 5 adult children and grandma to 8. I met my soul mate in high school. We will be celebrating 45 years...yikes!!...on January 21. Besides scrapbooking I also love camping, playing on the beach, and visiting lighthouses. I'm a chocoholic and a 6-year breast cancer survivor.



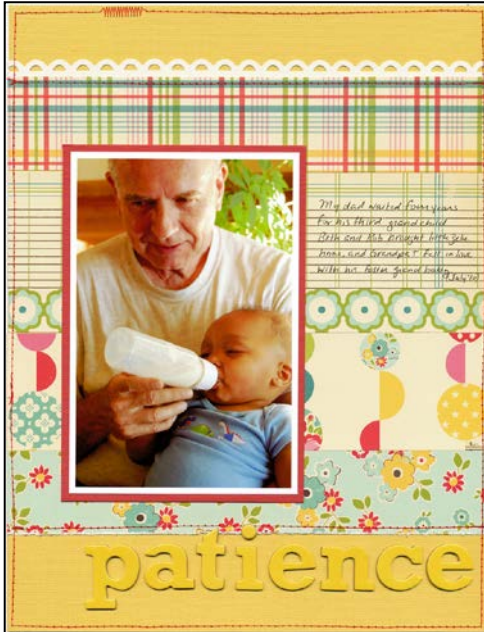
I've been keeping scrapbooks since I was a teenager. But started 'scrapbooking' in 2003 when I attended my first scrap camp with my DIL. My family is my greatest inspiration but I love to scrap just about anything. I 'collect' pattern papers and my favorite embellishments are flowers and butterflies.

I've been a member of BPM for several years and I'm familiar with all the talent here. I'm really excited to get the chance to serve as a guest designer in January. Thanks for the awesome opportunity!!

Layouts in 15 Minutes {or Less}

by Margy Eastman

This month's solo kit features papers that are perfect for pages about little ones – boys or girls. My sister and her husband recently adopted their foster child, so I can finally share some very sweet pictures taken of our new little nephew. Here is a simple design to feature a favorite, single photo. The “ledger” paper doubles as a journaling spot, and the yellow letters on yellow cardstock give the title a softer look.



10 Minutes

Ingredients:

Yellow, ivory and red Bazzill cardstock

October Afternoon “Sidewalk” papers: Hide and Seek, Marbles, Kick the Can, Red Light Green Light

“Typo” Thickers in mustard

Punch – Fiskars “Apron Strings”

15 Minutes

Additional Ingredients:

Maya Road flower colored with Glimmer Mist in “Jingle Bells”

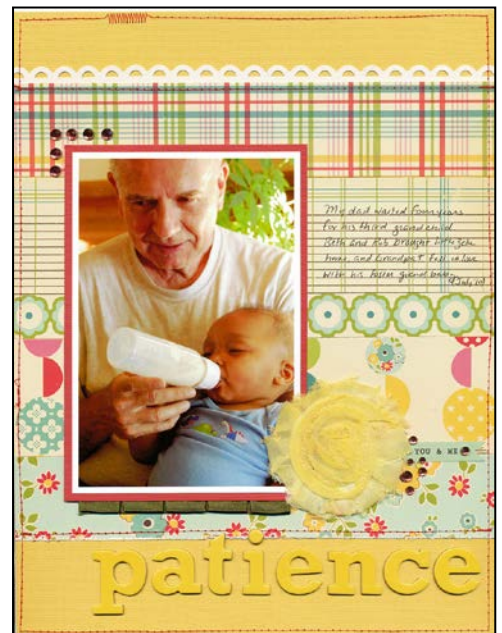
Kaiser Kraft Rhinestones in “Lippy Red”

October Afternoon sticker

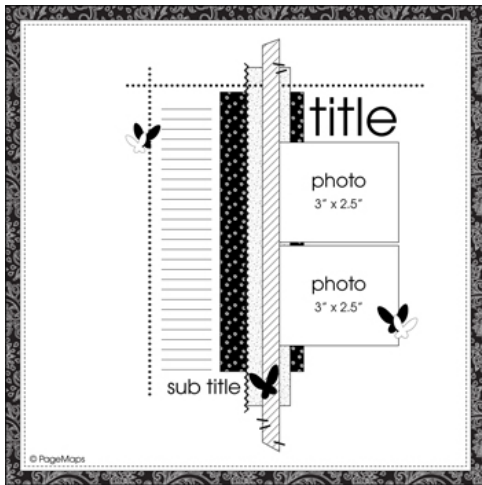
Maya Road pleated green ribbon

This is a great way to use up those scraps. I'm not always comfortable mixing too many patterns, but in this case I found that the single, larger matted photo holds it's own nicely with a potentially busy (but cute) background.

Have fun with your quick layouts!



{January Sketch}
selected from www.pagemaps.com



January Sketch



Danielle Price



Alissa Trowbridge



Berta {January Guest Designer}



January Design Team Projects

With our gallery going down, our Design Team couldn't upload their projects to our gallery as usual. We have added their layouts, cards and other projects to our home page on the website.

To access the January Design Team work, click [here](#).

Once our gallery is up and running again, our Design Team will add their layouts to our gallery as usual.

Cool Technology Tools {Instagram}

by Danielle Calhoun

How many of you use Instagram for your phone photos? If you are not on Instagram yet, check it out! It is a wonderful (FREE!) application for your photos. There are frames, as well as many filters to spruce up your photos. What I love most about Instagram is that I am having fun capturing the day-to-day moments that I would often miss with my large camera.

How do you incorporate Instagram into your scrapbooking? Easy! You can either print your photos at home, through your regular photo developer, or using an application called PostalPix. Using PostalPix is very easy, you can upload your photos directly from your phone, and they are shipped right to your house.

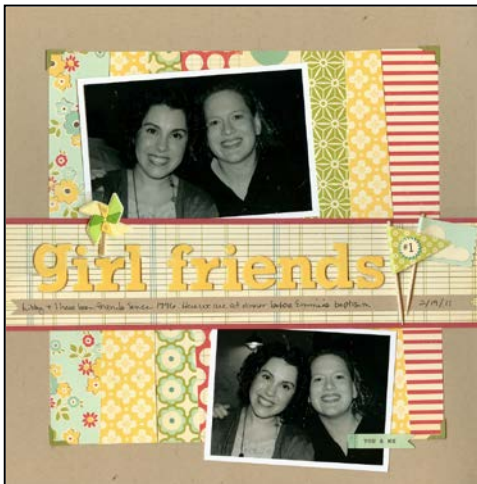
Now you have your photos printed, and you can put them on a layout. I love scrapping with Instagram phone pics for a few reasons. These photos often portray the day-to-day life that gets missed with my big camera. I love the size of these photos. You can fit more photos on one page, or combine them with larger photos.

Any way you decide to scrap these photos, I love the look! If you look at my January layouts in the gallery, you will see how I love to incorporate my Instagram photos on my pages! :)



Scrapbook Shortcuts {Photo Corner Details}

by Karry Weaver



I'm not a big "stuff" kind of person on my layouts. Although I love the look of the layered, dimensional and heavily embellished layouts, they just aren't my style.

However, sometimes a layout is just missing something. Often, it's a little detail or two that can make a big difference, without having to throw a bunch of additional "stuff" on the page.

Here, I finished the layout and then decided to add the little green photo corners on each corner of my patterned paper stripe background. The addition of these really jazzed it up!

I just cut these with my scissors, but there are several other ways to get photo corners for your projects. Lifestyle Crafts has a die, you can buy pre-made ones in basic colors, or there's a Martha Stewart punch on the market that will make photo corners, too. I'm sure there are other products out there, but those are the most common and accessible options.

The next time your layout needs a little something, try adding photo corners either to your photos themselves or the corners of your patterned papers, and see if that adds the detail you were missing!

Quick and Easy Valentine's Day Gifts

by Danielle Price



Here is a fun card you can make using your large googly eyes that are always leftover when you buy a multi-pack. Use a 3 1/2 x 8 1/2 piece of kraft paper and fold in half. Take a 1" inch circle punch and punch in the upper left corner. Glue-dot the eye to the inner part of the card. Punch a heart and add to the middle of the card with a pop-dot. Stamp or use stickers to add "you". Super easy and totally cute!

On this gift, I used a dollar store heart-shape chocolate box. I traced the top onto some pattern paper and glued to the top. I then added embellishments to my hearts content. Inside, I used cupcake papers to hold my treats. Don't fill too full because then the top won't fit back on. You could go the extra mile and add scrapbook paper around the candy to add a special touch.



Use a matchbox to give treats to your sweetheart. Wrap with cardstock or patterned paper and add fun little embellishments to the top. Add your candy inside and don't forget to take out the matches! You can use a small or large matchbox. I used a small in my example but I would recommend using a larger one. It holds more candy!!

Use premade 3 x 4 cards from a 12 x 12 patterned paper and add to the front and back of a conversation hearts box. We see those boxes everywhere so make them special by dressing them up. I just attach to the front and back and tied a ribbon around it. I then added a few embellishments.

