

The kits this month sure do put me in a lovey mood! It seems like this time of year the scrapbooking manufacturers go all out with lots of cute Valentine themed lines. I had fun picking out which ones to include in the kits this month!

The fun thing about Valentine's paper is that it can be used for more than just Valentine's Day. Consider scrapping a page about the things your family loves in your hometown. Or your favorite foods. You get the idea! Of course, all of the papers in the kits can be used however you please anyway! Check out the "b" sides (or the reverse side) of the patterned papers. Even those that look very Valentine's Day themed on one side are just a nice basic print on the other. I love that!

For some great ideas on how to use your kits this month, be sure and check out our Design Team gallery here.

Until March,  
Paula



## Welcome, Crystal {February Guest Designer}



Hi, I'm Crystal and I'm so excited and honored to be a guest designer at Back Porch Memories. I live in Iowa with my husband and 2 beautiful daughters. I'm a stay at home mom so during the school year I have a lot of time to focus on my scrapbooking. In my free time I love to run, help at school and bake. I started scrapbooking about 11 years ago my first scrapbook was my wedding book. I also love to work on decorating projects around the house.

I have just started designing sketches too and found that I really enjoy it. I have been lucky enough to be published a few times. You can learn more about me at my blog: <http://crystaljustus.blogspot.com/>

## Layouts in 15 Minutes {or Less}

by Rochelle Spears



This month's Medley Kit has three great Valentine's Day (or love) themed kits. I chose to work with the My Mind's Eye papers and coordinating pieces for this layout. It comes together quickly since I let the large sentiment on the patterned paper become part of my focal point. The rest of the page came together in a snap!

*LOVE is all YOU Need*

Start with a 12x12 piece of patterned paper (white I love you). Trim about 1/4" off all sides.

Center this piece in the middle of the grey 12x12 cardstock.

Take 2 other pieces of patterned paper and cut one 3" x 9" and another 3" x 10". Adhere to left side of layout, layering one on top of the other (blue chevron and chalkboard black).

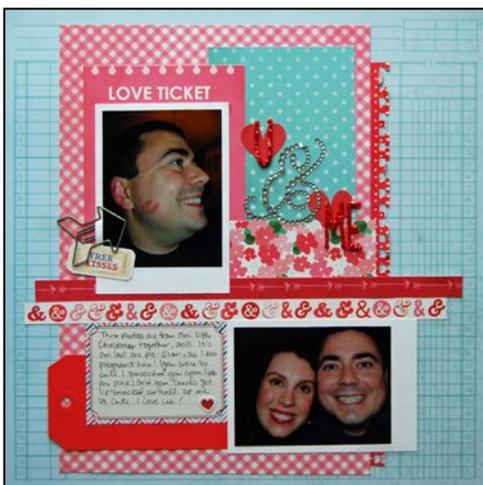
Mat photo as desired and adhere to upper part of layout overlapping patterned paper by an inch or so.

Cut in half a 2" inch square diagonally to create a corner piece for upper right corner (red). Add embellishments – washi tape (along the 3x9" strip of blue chevron patterned paper and across the corner piece of red triangle corner paper). And chipboard hearts and arrow.



## Scrapbook Shortcuts {Pre-Cut Often Used Images}

by Alissa Trowbridge



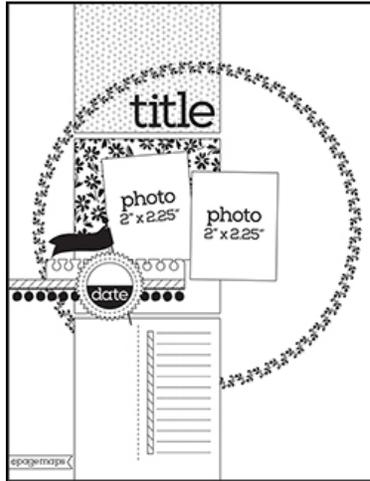
I love my Silhouette Cameo, but it does take me a little extra time to set it up in my space so that I can use the machine. However, I recently realized that I was using a few of the same images over and over on my pages. One being the cute Polaroid frames you see here on my example.

Because I tend to use the frames for my little 3x4" sized photos a lot, I cut an entire sheet of them the last time I had my machine hooked up. I love to mat my photos using white cardstock since it really makes them stand out, so cutting them all in white was an easy choice.

Wouldn't you know when I started this page, I was really wanting to use the frames again! And yay! I had them pre-cut and ready to go.

This wouldn't be practical for all shapes, but look through your Silhouette files or Cricut cartridges and see if there are a few you use often. Consider cutting a sheet of the shapes in one or various sizes, in neutral colors like white, black or Kraft.

**{February Sketch}**  
selected from [www.pagemaps.com](http://www.pagemaps.com)



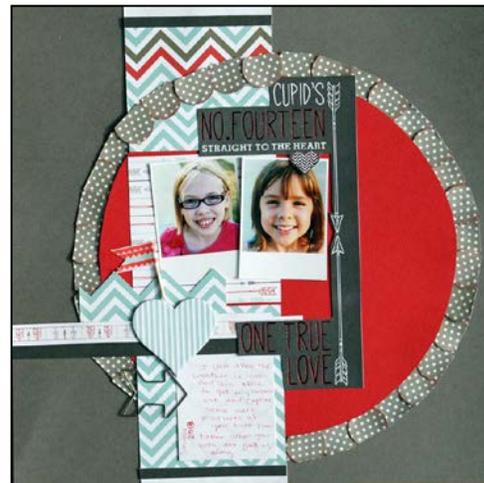
**February Sketch**



**Rochelle Spears**



**Alissa Trowbridge**



**Crystal {Guest Designer}**



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Check us out here: <https://www.facebook.com/BackPorchMemories>

# Valentine's Day Wreath

by Danielle Price

Happy Valentine's Day! Here is a cute little craft you can do for this or any holiday to decorate your home. I actually did something that I found on Pinterest with some modifications here and there.

This is what you will need:

- Patterned paper cut into 2 ¼ x 8 or 9 inch strips: (I did 8 inch but had a hard time keeping them stuck together. It may be easier if you use a longer length).
- 8 inch foam circle
- strong adhesive
- embellishments and ribbon



1: First, cut out your patterned strips and cut triangles out of both ends by folding them over and having the ends meet up. Make sure you don't cut the triangles too far down because when you attach them to the foam circle you will see the foam through the center.

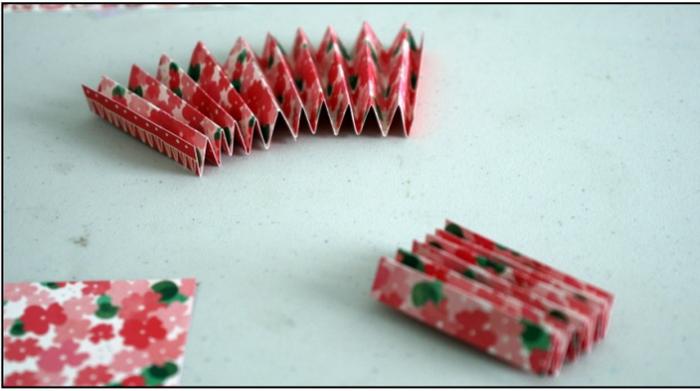
2: Start attaching your strips of patterned paper around the wreath, overlapping them slightly as you go along. I used glue dots and my tape runner adhesive. Use whatever strong stuff you have. As you are attaching them, slightly fold down the points of each strip so you can see the pattern of the other side of the paper.



3: This is what it should look like when all the strips are attached.

4: For my title I took some old chipboard letters and covered them with paper from the kit. I then punch small holes in the tops of each letter and thread bakers twine through them, tying bows at each end. Then I attached them to the wreath with the letters hanging in the middle. You will see this better in the photos below.





5: Next I folded four of my leftover strips into accordians and attached them altogether to make a pinwheel embellishment. I then cut a circle out of cardstock and attached it to the center to hold it all together and added embellishments.

6: I then added it to the lower right of the wreath with strong adhesive. I was slightly heavy, so I used a liquid glue and held it in place until it set.

