



This month's kits are the perfect pick-me-ups after such a long, cold winter! The Medley's trio of Basic Grey's "Mon Ami," Echo Park's "Summer Bliss" and Fancy Pants' "Be Different" will surely compliment all of your spring and early summer adventures. We particularly love the raindrop side of one of the papers in the Basic Grey portion of the kit – how cute for those "April Showers" photos! And the combo of the large and mini alphabet letters is perfect for mixing and matching.

Moving on to the Solo Kit, it features a happy and colorful collection by Fancy Pants called "As You Wish." The spring green color in this kit looks fabulous with all of those early spring photos where the grass is bright and the buds are just coming out on the trees. We can also see this line being perfect for Easter Egg hunting photos and Easter morning family snap shots as well! The retro foam alphabet in this kit is also a fun addition and a perfect compliment to the papers.

I hope you enjoy the lovely spring weather and have a great time making memories with your family and friends this spring. Don't forget to document your adventures with photos!

Until next month,
Paula



Welcome, Heather {April Guest Designer}



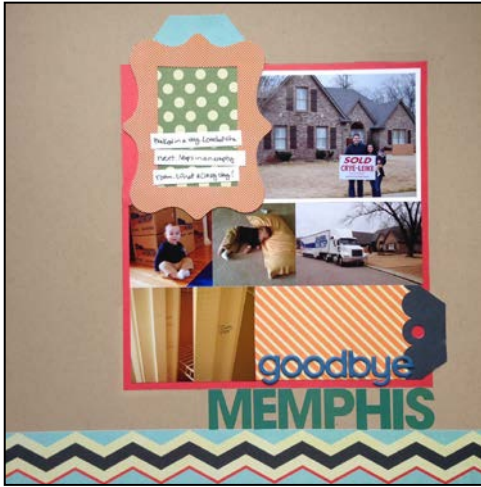
Hi, I'm Heather and I'm thrilled to be the April guest designer at Back Porch Memories. I've been lucky to live in two of the most beautiful spots in the world. I was born in Northern Ireland and now live in Alaska with my husband Dan, son Nathan and daughter Lauren (who are now teenagers - eek!), three cats and two dogs.

I dabble in all sorts of scrapping - paper, digi, cards and canvasses and you can check out my latest creations at www.scrappininak.wordpress.com. I hate to do housework so scrapping is a great distraction! Outside of scrapping I love to read, travel, woodwork, play racquetball and cycle.

Layouts in 15 Minutes {or Less}

by Alissa Trowbridge

This month, I decided to use the Fancy Pants papers in the Medley to create a quick layout about our moving day. I bought the add-on kit to use on my pages so you'll see the tags included in the add-on on my examples here. But if you didn't purchase the add-on, you can easily create your own tags to use on your layout using the kit, your stash, or other tags you have hanging around.



10-Minute Layout

Kraft Cardstock
"Too Cool" Patterned Paper (both sides)
Frame
(2) Fancy Pants Tags
Basic Grey Cardstock Alphabet
Fancy Pants Alphabet
White Cardstock Scraps (from my stash)
Black Journaling Pen

Cut 12" strip zigzag pattern from "Too Cool" paper. Adhere to bottom of Kraft cardstock. Arrange photos on red side of "Too Cool" paper and cut out, leaving about 1/4" mat showing. Note that my top right focal point photo was printed with a white border to save time, but you could also mat your focal point photo using cardstock as well. Remove white string from tags and adhere as shown. Top left tag with photo frame and journaling strips. Arrange letter stickers and chipboard stickers for your title.

15-Minute Layout

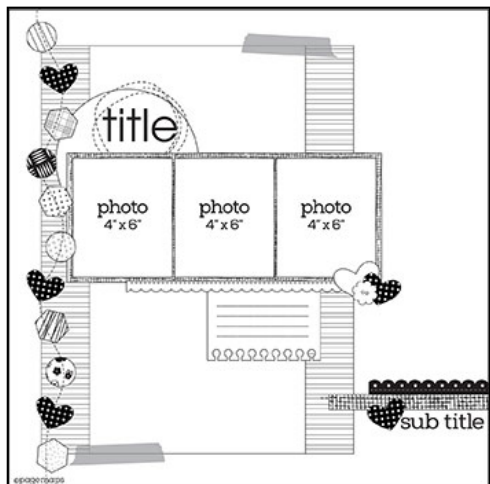
White Mr. Huey Spray Mist
Basic Grey "Mon Ami" Flag
Brown Twine
(1) Additional Fancy Pants Tag
Die Cut "6"



Before following the above instructions, spray Mr. Huey mist along Kraft cardstock in a diagonal pattern from top left to bottom right. Continue creating layout as instructed above. Then cut top of teal portion tag and adhere to left side as shown, reserving the rest of the teal part. Cut green scallop from tag and top this tag at bottom. Tie twine into bows on both bottom tags. Adhere Basic Grey flag as shown, using pop dot. Use remaining teal from tag to add subtitle. Adhere the number "6." Write some additional journaling around the red mat.

{April Sketch}

selected from www.pagemaps.com



April Sketch



Danielle Calhoun



Danielle Price



Heather {Guest Designer}



Back Porch Memories and Social Media

If you haven't already, be sure to follow us on our [blog](#) and like us on [our Facebook page](#). On both, you'll find kit updates, links to our monthly Guest Designer contest, kit sneaks, etc.

See you online!

Designer Details {Making the Most of Your Alphabet}

by Danielle Calhoun

One of the items that I am most excited to see when I open my kit...alphas! I love seeing the different fonts, colors, and sizes and how they work with the patterned papers in the kit. In this month's Solo kit, the American Crafts Thickers are perfect for mixing things up. I love when an alphabet set can be altered for a different look, but using the same set.



In this first layout you can see the word, "Run" was left as the original font from the set. I easily altered the "365" by trimming the numbers with my Cutterbee scissors. I love the idea of having different fonts included in the same title, it always brings a nice variety to the layout. The great thing about the Thickers in this month's solo kit is they will give you 2 fonts in 1 package with a little altering.

In this second example I used the same idea as the first and altered the word, "girl." The Thickers are so easy to alter and give you a completely different font! I also altered the "R" in birthday to change the flow of the word.



In this last example of birthday cards you can see the card on the left has both the altered Thickers as well as the original. I also used the Basic Grey banner alphabet from the solo add-on kit and altered it a few different ways. The card on the left I added colored cardstock behind the alpha to make the numbers pop. The card on the right I let the background show through the letters and threaded baker's twine through to create a banner look.

To conclude the designer details this month, I want to challenge you to look at your alphabet sets in a different way. Imagine the possibilities!

It's all Clear

by Heather Robertson {April Guest Designer}

You can't have missed the return of the popularity of clear embellishments; acrylic letters, vellum, glassine bags and transparencies. Fortunately, I still have some in my stash from last time around. Today, I thought I'd give you some examples of ways to use some of these items.



I have green, pink, white and clear letters in my stash that I love to use in titles or on cards. I love to layer them over sentiments or other backgrounds. It just adds a little interest. This one is patterned paper, covered by a doily, then a sentiment sticker, then the acrylic letters.

There are numerous ways to use vellum; print photos on it, cover a photo with it and cut out a window to highlight the focal point on the photo, create pockets for journaling or photos, stamp on it, emboss it, add rub-ons, stitch on it, fill envelopes with small items. You can also use glassine envelopes in a similar way.

Here I decided to create a stitched vellum sun. First I pierced the vellum with the desired shape and then hand stitched - being careful to hide any tails of thread. Afterwards I realized that I could have stitched it AFTER I added it to the page and wouldn't have had to worry about the thread showing through!



Here are some banners that I created from glassine bags filled with heart shaped confetti

For this card I filled a glassine bag full of chipboard numbers and stitched to the card.



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Here, I have added a rub-on to the vellum banner.

These are some stamped and embossed vellum stars that I created (be careful with the heat gun - I melted a few !)



Of course, there are also many pre-made vellum embellishments available that you can also use but sometimes it's fun to make custom designs and in the colors you need.

Normally I attach them using staples, glue dots or special glue or try and put them underneath something else

Hope this inspires you to pull out the vellum and start playing!



How-To {Simple Circle Banner} by Danielle Price

Banners have been around for a while now, and there are many different ways to make them. Here is a super easy way to make one using a circle punch.

1. Gather all your supplies. You will need a 1" circle punch, two-sided patterned paper, Bakers twine and your choice of adhesive (I used a tape runner and glue-dots).
2. Punch out five circles.



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3. Fold them in half, making sure the patterns alternate.



4. This is the easiest way I have found to attach a banner to a page. Tie a bow at the end of your twine. This will end up being the right side of the banner. Slide your folded circle over the twine and place on the page where you would like the banner to be. Attach one circle at a time and attach them as you go. When you get to where you want to end the banner, tie another bow.



5. And voila! A banner is born!

