

Is it hard for you to come up with paper crafting ideas for your special guy? With Father's Day fast approaching, this is something with which a lot of us struggle. I thought I'd throw out a few suggestions.

When decorating your "dude" cards, pages and projects, think about using:

- stars
- gears
- distressed or weathered chipboard pieces
- ephemera like ticket stubs, newsprint, etc.
- brads, eyelets or other metal pieces
- twine in place of "girlie" ribbons
- basic shapes like squares, circles, or triangles

And of course, you'll want to start with a good foundation using masculine patterned papers. I particularly like:

- plaids
- stripes
- dots
- stars
- graphic patterns
- graph or ruled papers
- distressed (ink or sanded) cardstock

And what to create for dad? How about:

- hand made card(s)
- altered photo frame
- mini book
- altered desk set
- coaster set
- framed scrapbook page

See? That wasn't so hard, was it? You'll have that special gift made up in a jiffy. Don't forget to share it with us in our gallery!

Pass along my "Happy Father's Day" greeting to the dad(s) in your life!

Paula

Meet Staci {May Guest Designer}



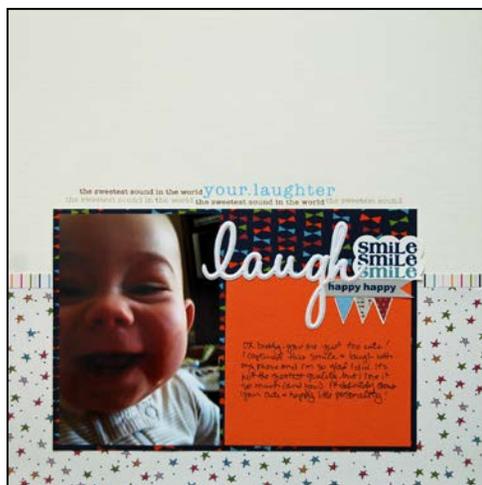
Hi everyone! My name is Staci Taylor, and I have been scrapbooking for about 9 years now - since I was pregnant with my first child. Three children later, I'm still scrapping away, though I did take a break after my last child was born two years ago. I missed it terribly, and I'm thrilled to be back in it - I think it's important for all of us to carve away that "me" time! I live with my two sons, my daughter and my husband of 10 years in Maryland, and I work part-time as a School Psychologist.

I have been blessed with some fantastic design opportunities in this industry and have designed for a couple of manufacturers and kit clubs in the past. I have also been published in several different magazines. I am thrilled to be the May Guest Designer for Back Porch Memories. You can learn more about me on my blog: creatingmyeveryday.blogspot.com



Scrapbook Shortcuts {Straight Out of the Package}

by Alissa Trowbridge



By now you have probably figured out that I'm a lazy scrapper, no? Well, I admit that I am! I have a newly minted one-year-old who is on the move, so there's not a lot of time to play with tools and techniques most of the time (although I still love to do that when I can). I play "chase the toddler" instead!

Anyway, when I saw the Artisan Words package in this month's Solo Kit, I thought they would be so fun to paint, ink or mist. But when it came down to using them on this layout, I couldn't quickly find a paint, ink or mist that went with my page. Oh, plus most of my goodies are in storage while we wait to close on our new house. Sigh! What's a scrapper to do? Well, I tested what the "laugh" phrase would look like white, right out of the package, and I thought it might work! So I used it "as is." And it really stands out against the navy and orange. I like it!

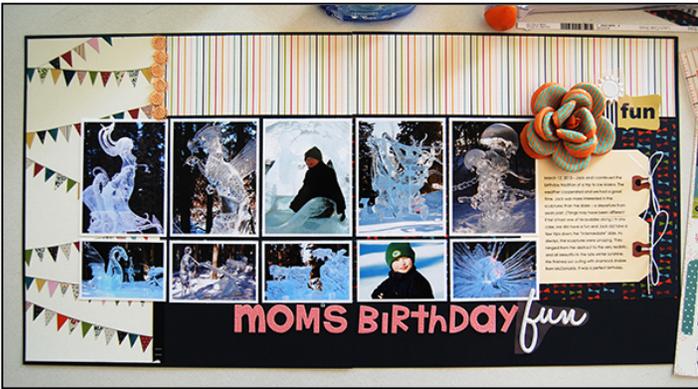
So yes, I believe the "Artisan Words" product by Pink Paislee would be a ton of fun to distress and alter. But, you don't have to! Don't be afraid to use products straight out of the package. That naked chipboard looks awesome after a coat of paint, but it looks cool without it, too.

Anyone else out there a lazy scrapper like me?

Layouts in 15 Minutes {or Less}

by Margy Eastman

This month's solo kit screams "spring" with the cute blossoms and kite tails. Here in Alaska, spring also means ICE...ice sculptures that is! Every March we head to Ice Alaska for the ice carving championships. Now that Jack is older, I can actually take a few photos of something besides the slides. And what to do with all those photos? A simple two-pager you can easily complete in minutes. The papers in the solo kit are perfect for summer/beach themed layouts, but the backsides are versatile enough to use on a snow-covered late winter page.



15 Minute Layout Ingredients

Cardstock – Bazzill Basics Nightmist

Patterned Paper – Bazzill Basics “Lucy’s Crab Shack” - Snack Shack, Kite Tails, and Beach Towel (my favorite)

Stickers – Pink Paislee “Artisan Words,” Bazzill Basics “Lucy’s Crab Shack” stickers, Prima pink canvas alphabet

Ribbon – May Arts navy grosgrain and Webster’s Pages “Orange Sun” trim

Tags – Avery

Staples – Tim Holtz

Flower – Prima “Lady Bird”

Additional Supplies for 30 Minute Layout

Bling – Prima included with the canvas alphabet

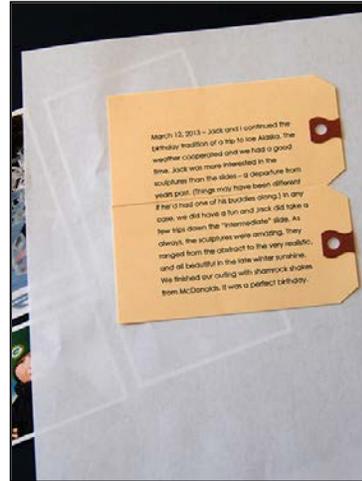


Editor's note: to learn how Margy printed her journaling on the manila tags, see next page for a quick tutorial.

Printing on Tags

by Margy Eastman

Last fall Paula included a manila shipping tag in one of her kits. I loved it so much I went to Office Max and bought myself a box of them. I'm glad they compliment the BPM kits so nicely...because the box holds 100. Stacking them to hold more journaling is really easy. I just created a text box that was 3x4 inches and typed my story. I printed my paragraph on copy paper. I applied repositionable adhesive to the backs of the tags and stuck them to the paper with the help of my patio window. I ran the works back through my printer, and voila! Perfectly positioned text!



Designer Details {It's in the Angle}

by Danielle Calhoun

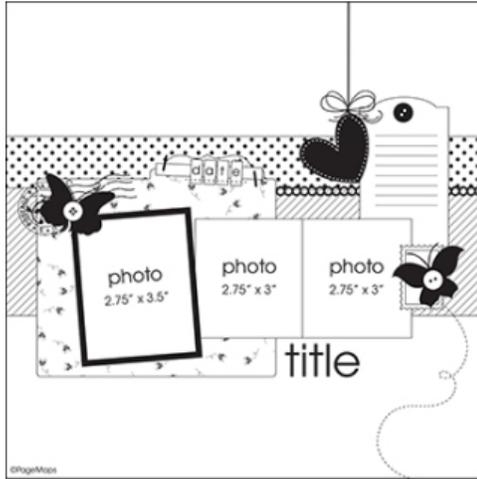


We always hear, "it's the little things that make a difference." This can apply to life, or it can apply to scrapbooking! When you are creating a layout, do you ever make one tiny change and think to yourself, that was it! That one little change made the difference on my page! I do it all the time.

For my designer detail this month, I want to focus on angles. So often my pages are very "square." I don't remember often enough that a small detail like the angle of my papers or photos can change the look of my entire layout. Take this layout from the May Solo kit as an example. I had a similar placement with everything squared evenly across the page. The page just didn't seem right to me. I added the touch of an angle, and that was all I needed. I was happy with the look of my page.

Sometimes it can be the simplest of things that will make the difference on the look of our pages. On your next layout, try adding some angles and see what you think!

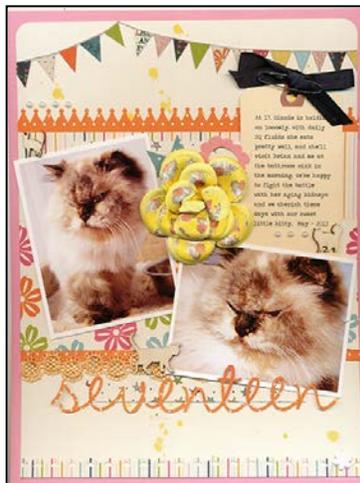
{May Sketch}
selected from www.pagemaps.com



May Sketch



Misty Willis



Margy Eastman



Staci {Guest Designer}



Journal That

by Misty Willis

Journaling is a very important part of scrapbooking. The who~what~when~where is important, but sometimes not necessary. When I teach scrapbooking to a "newbie" I stress to them to journal...even if it is only a few words. You will be glad you did when you are 80 and can't remember yourself! Journaling doesn't have to be boring... Get creative with it! Add some thoughts, some emotions, and even personal feelings.

This month's Trio kit has the Lily Bee word expressions that are perfect for making journaling fun! Make a journal collage ...mix match the words and add in your own hand written ones... GET CREATIVE! In my layout, I used the words provided and only added in a few of my own to make a whole paragraph about these two girls and their bond of friendship.

