



This month's kits are packed full of happy, fun and usable prints! I often choose the patterned papers based on the patterns on both the fronts *and* the backs and this month was no exception. Be sure to flip each sheet over and check out the "b" side patterns as I think they're really great, too (in both kits)!

One of the fun things about the May Medley Kit is how wonderfully all the papers, embellishments and cardstock colors mix and match between all three lines in the kit. Danielle Price did a great job showcasing this kit's mix and matching options with her mini book she created for this newsletter. Our other designers also made some great examples of this with their layouts and projects (check them out here in our [May Gallery](#)).

The Solo Kit has a "rain" theme on some of the patterned papers, but the reverse sides are super neutral and fun for just about anything. Our designers also had fun "thinking outside the box" with the themed papers and embellishments and used them in some pretty creative ways. Again, check out our gallery to see what they created.

Until next month and the June kits,
Paula



Welcome, Holly {May Guest Designer}



I am Holly King and I am a wife and mother of two. I spend my days home schooling my oldest, volunteering, and coordinating events. In my down time I love to teach distressing & mixed media as well as creating mini albums & scrapbooking our memories.

Layouts in 15 Minutes {or Less}

by Rochelle Spears

This layout here is about a 30-minute layout due to all the preparations. There are a number of pieces that need cutting out. To shorten the time and turn into a 15-minute page, skip the extra cuts (chevrons, ice cream, banner, & strips), if desired.



Cut:

1. 5 1/2 – 3” from THE LEFT SIDE MIDDLE of pink polka dot paper (this will be covered up with the white & plaid paper). You will be using the orange side of the 5 1/2 x 3” cut for layering.
2. Cut plaid paper 8 1/4 x10” and cut white cardstock at 8 3/4 x10 1/4”.
3. Cut out the pink journal card (use the teal side), the green journal card, the sun card and fussy cut the Ice Cream out. You will also need to fussy cut the chevrons from the teal paper and fussy cut the pink banner from pink paper.
4. Make sure you save the orange strip and days of the week strip from the bottom of papers.

Assemble:

1. Start with the polka dot paper as your base page.
2. Add the white cardstock flush to left side of page, centering it in the middle. This should cover the cut you made previously.
3. Add the plaid paper into the white cardstock also flush to left.
4. Adhere photo onto bag and PLACE bag to center of plaid paper.
5. Layer orange paper, teal paper, sunshine card and pink banner pieces under bag as shown. Glue down.
6. Tie twine around photo frame and adhere over photo.
7. Slip green card into bag.
8. Add strips to bottom of page and another embellishments as shown or as desired.

Using Scraps for Pocket Page Scrapbooking

by Holly King {May Guest Designer}



Using pocket page dividers is nothing new. In fact, you can get loads of little cards pre-cut in a variety of patterns to create “simple” pages to help document your life. I, however, am completely overwhelmed by this. All the little cards. All the boxes. It’s just too much. And, not to mention, you’re tied down to all your paper and journaling spots being 3x4 or 4x6! No thanks!

I love keeping track of our family’s special days along with our everydays in this style of album, BUT I like to use scrapbooking kits to do my layouts! I used May’s Medley Kit from Back Porch Memories this month to not only create a handful of beautiful 12x12 layouts, but I also had enough “extra” to make a pocket page documenting our visit to a museum. Simple “scraps” keep the layout interesting to the eye and just the perfect embellishments to make my photos pop! Not only that,

but there is room to put a standard 12x12 layout on the next page that coordinates perfectly thanks to my Back Porch Memories Kit!

I highly recommend mixing it up and using your kit for pocket pages!



Scrapbook Shortcuts {Clustering Cheats}

by Alissa Trowbridge



I love the way a bunch of embellishments look when they’re “clustered” together on a page. Scrapbookers refer to this as “clustering.” It’s usually very dimensional with all of those layers and goodies, too!

For me, though, I prefer to have a bit of a flatter layout when it’s finished. I have nothing against lumpy layouts, but I’ve found my lumpy pages haven’t fared as well over the years as those that are a bit flatter. So I cheat a bit to fake the look!

On this page here, I fussy cut some of the cute phrases and words from one of the Crate Paper patterns and clustered those with a date sticker and small chipboard heart. I then used some foam tape to pop the teal paper up a little for a bit of dimension. The chipboard also gives some more dimensions since it’s not totally flat.

You can “cheat” at clustering by using other flat and less bumpy goodies, too! To give them a bit more pizzazz, try adding glossy accents to one or two, dotting a piece with Stickles or using a bit more foam tape. Your options are endless and your layout won’t need any special treatment once it’s in your album. Yay!

Mash-Up Album with the Medley Kit

by Danielle Price

I know that there is a group of ladies out there that have to use the same brand of paper and embellishments to make a page. And then there are those who are messy and love to mix it up. I am one of those! So I am here to say, don't be afraid to mix things up! Especially with the Medley kits Paula makes for you. Even though there are three different page kits within the big kit bag, they all go together, especially this month!

So here is my biggest tip I can give you: dump them all out! Mix up the papers! Mix up the embellishments! Mix up the ribbon! This is what it looks like when I do it:



For the album, I used an old Maya Road chipboard album that I had in my drawer.



I then just start adding paper and cardstock to the front cover and the inside pages. I also tried to make sure that I was mixing the three different brands on every page.



For extra journaling, I trimmed down some of the patterned paper that was with two of the companies in the Medley kit and punched holes in them and added them in between the pages. I then tried to mix up the embellishments too. The pages are small, so I had a limited space to do this. I also left the journaling blank so that my daughter could write her own memories down of her trip.



I then tied a ribbon around the whole album. Do you see the photo bomber in the background? It's her album!



So I wish you all the luck with mixing your kit together. There really is no rhyme or reason to it, just have fun!! Don't forget to upload your projects! I can't wait to see them. Happy scrapping!!

