

How has your summer been so far? I've been very busy! I just returned from a wonderful visit to see my grandchildren. Of course, trips like that are never long enough! I've returned home right in the midst of summer CHA, so now I'm in the middle of searching for great things to put in your kits these next few months ☺

Something I get asked a lot... what *is* CHA? Well, CHA stands for Craft and Hobby Association. It's a tradeshow held twice a year where craft manufacturers (including scrapbooking related ones) gather to show off their newest product lines. The summer show usually has a lot of goodies related to fall, Christmas and winter. I've even seen a Valentine collection sneak peek already!

CHA isn't open to consumers. It's not like one giant local scrapbook store where you can shop and pay for things as you go. No, this is for scrapbook store business owners (like myself), designers and other industry people. It's not open to the general public and you can't actually purchase anything on the show floor to take home with you that day. All of the orders are placed at the show (or immediately before/after) for product to be shipped at a later date. Make sense?

All in all, it's a lot of fun for me to see the new product coming out! More importantly, I get to pick out the true standouts to be included in upcoming kits. What does this mean for you? I do all of the work, mixing, matching and coordinating so that you can just sit down to scrap. Yay!

I'm looking forward to sending some great kits your way!

Paula



Meet Our July Guest Designer



My name is Donna Coughlin and first and foremost, I am a mother of five fabulous children ages 12 through 32, and two gorgeous granddaughters. I can't forget my wonderful husband, who is always supportive of my scrapbook hobby (obsession). I've always been interested in art since childhood and was always doing something creative. I tried all kinds of art hobbies but none of them quite fulfilled my needs. Then after our Disney vacation in 2002, I wanted to have my photos displayed in a unique way, so with a pair of decorative scissors and some stickers I started my scrapbooking hobby. Ever since then, I've been in love with scrapbooking. The awesome thing about scrapbooking is it is always evolving and that is great because I love buying and trying new products and techniques! Since 2006 I have been on various design teams for stores and manufacturers, and currently am a member of Momenta's D-Lite team. I am so honored to be a guest here at Back Porch Memories, the kits are so well put together and the girls on the forum are so friendly. I do have a life beyond scrapbooking and working full time. I love Disney and traveling, I collect old tins and kitchen items when I get a chance to go to antique stores, and enjoy spending time with my beautiful granddaughters.

Layouts in 15 Minutes {or Less}

by Margy Eastman

If you're like me, there's precious little time during the summer to scrap...lots of photos to take, but little time to get them onto pages. One of the many reasons I love summer in Alaska is the beautiful lighting. I can't tell you how hard it is to get decent winter photos when the sun hardly creeps from the horizon. But this far north, the sun is up all day but we never reach "high noon"...thus few harsh shadows. A photographer's dream!

This layout really did take 15 minutes and is perfect for a summer portrait with a little white space. I saved time by using the computer for my journaling and my title. The fonts on this layout can all be found on the Internet. The two in the title came with a typography class I took from Cathy Zielske at Big Picture Classes. They're two of my new favorites...that girl knows her fonts.

So grab a 4x6 and some lovely patterned paper and whip this baby up!



15 Minutes

Ingredients:

Cardstock – Bazzill, Vanilla Cream

Patterned Paper – Pink Paislee Prairie Hill:

Kite Strings, Spool, Country Meadow

Stickers – Prairie Hill Elements Stickers

Chipboard – My Mind's Eye Nostalgia (I put a Prairie Hill sticker on the yellow chipboard)

Fonts –

Title is SNF Sketchy and Rokkitt.

Journaling is VTPortableRemington

30 Minutes

Additional Ingredients:

Patterned Paper – the grid is the backside of Spool

Buttons – Queen and Company

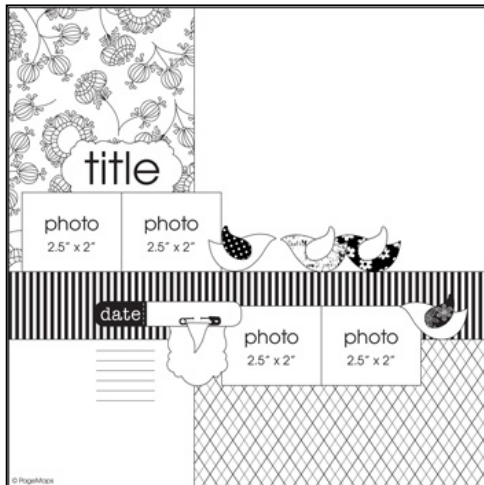
Pen – Sakura

Ink – Clearsnap Chalk in brown



{July Sketch}

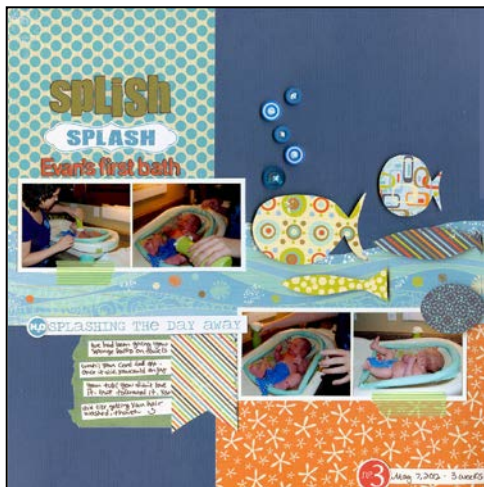
selected from www.pagemaps.com



July Sketch



Danielle Price



Alissa Trowbridge



Donna {July Guest Designer}



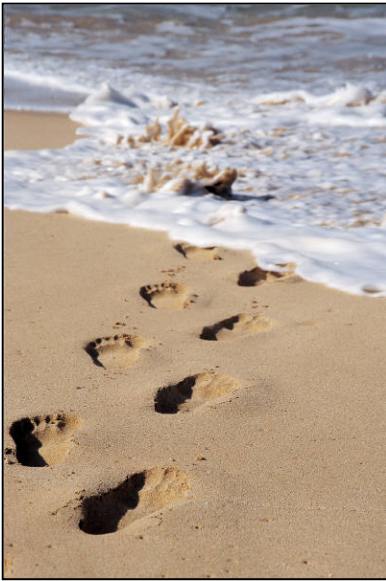
July Design Team Projects

Don't forget! With our gallery going down, our Design Team cannot upload their projects to our gallery. We have added their layouts, cards and other projects to our home page on the website.

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

Summer Photography Ideas

by Danielle Calhoun



Summer is going strong all over the country. For us scrapbookers, the first step in putting together our pages is our photos! There are some amazing photo opportunities during the summer months.....Here are a few I like...

1.) The beach, the pool....turn that action setting on and have some fun! There are so many activities to catch through that lens. Swimming, diving, jumping, snorkeling, sports, and a million other activities that take place at the beach & the pool that are fun to capture!

2.) Day to day activities....don't forget to pull that camera out for the summer activities like picnics, BBQs, farms, parks, museums, or playing in the backyard.

3.) Night activities....don't put your camera away at night. There are so many fun photo opportunities to capture. Beach parties, night gatherings, fireworks, sunsets or making s'mores!

4.) Traveling...I know this one is a no brainer. Of course you take your camera along on vacations. Take photos of the big and small. Come home from vacation with 1000's of photos!

Enjoy your summer, and keep clicking away on your camera! That is the beginning of your creative process!



Scrapbook Shortcuts {Easy Photo Matting}

by Alissa Trowbridge

The trick I'm about to share with you today is so simple and produces a great look. I can't believe I haven't shared it with you already!

Matting photos isn't super time consuming in the grand scheme of scrapping a page, but it does take a bit of fiddling to get them just right. Something I started doing was printing my photos with a white border already around them. Then my pictures are ready to add to my page immediately!

There are several ways to do this. If you print your photos at home, manipulate your photo so that it's smaller than the photo paper. Additionally, you can print several photos on one piece of photo paper and then just cut around them after they're printed, leaving the white border as you crop. There are also several photo processing places that will leave a white border for you. You either just need to ask them to do it or check the box when you order them online. I think the white border photos gives pages a classic look and feel. Plus, it's easy and fun to scrap them!



Acrylic Block Photo Display

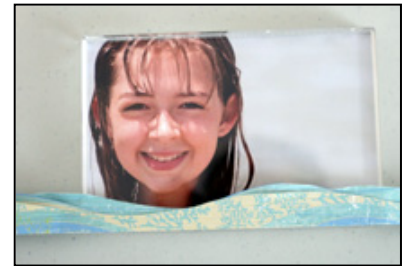
by Danielle Price

This month I decided to deck out one of my stamp blocks. It is one that I never use and have seen of few of these around and wanted to try it. This is how I did it:



Gather all of your supplies. The size of block I used was a 4 x 6. And I made sure that I used a photo with a blank space in it. That way I would be able to layer on the embellishments without covering up someone's face.

Attaching the photo to the back of the block can be tricky. Unless you have a large Xyron machine and can run your whole photo through it to attach it, your can do some tricks. First I laid the photo down and set the block on top of it without attaching it. That was so I could start attaching my embellishments. I cut out the wave patterned paper and attached it on top of the block. After I did that, I was able to put some adhesive on the backside of the block behind the waves to attach the photo. That way the adhesive stays hidden. It doesn't show in this photo, but I added the large umbrella embellishment to the top and then added more adhesive behind it to help secure the photo.



After I added all the embellishments to the top of the block, I wrapped the green striped tape around the edges. It hung off the edge a little which worked out great because I folded it down to further help secure the photo to the block.

Here is the finished product. I put it on a little stand to make it more decorative.



Have fun making your own! Happy scrapping!