

Last month, I covered some packing tips for moving your scrapbooking goodies. This time, I'd like to share my favorite unpacking tips. My biggest unpacking secret is to unpack and set up my new scrapping space last, after the rest of the house is organized. Why? Because it feels like a reward for a job well done! And I actually enjoy unpacking my supplies whereas the rest of the house feels like a big job!

Ok, back to the unpacking! First, evaluate the size and shape of your new space. I like to measure the area I'm going to use and plot it out on graph paper. Then decide what furniture and storage pieces you're going to put back in and plot those as well.

Did something not work for you in your old space? Use this opportunity to "fix" that problem. Maybe you needed more free desk space to spread out. Plan to put more things away behind closed doors and cabinets in your new area. I like to put everything else away in the same drawer, bin or shelf, but only if it worked that way in my old space. This saves me a lot of time and makes my work space instantly feel familiar.

If you're undecided about anything, just put those supplies to the side. I also set aside any decorative items until later as well. Purchase or repurpose containers and items to house the undecided supplies. Even if it's just a temporary fix until you find something you like better!

Finally, hang up and spread out those decorative items to personalize your space. And get crafting!

Happy scrapping,
Paula



Welcome Raechelle {August Guest Designer}



My name is Raechelle (pronounced like Rachel) Bellus. I live in beautiful Spokane Valley, WA with my husband of nearly 15 years. We have a big blended family of 6 beautiful children; five girls ages 13, 17, 18, 22, and 22 as well as a boy who is 23. Our wonderful family is blossoming; we have a daughter-in-law, a son-in-law, a grandson, and our first granddaughter is due to arrive in October. We also have 2 dogs and 4 cats.

I work part time in a lumberyard. It is a physical job, however I do spend a lot of time at a desk doing reports and various paperwork in addition to handling the lumber.

I have been scrapping for about 12 years now. I enjoy creating layouts most often, but do enjoy making cards as well, and an occasional off the page item. I really enjoy mixing patterns, using butterflies, misting and twine, and I always try to use something from my stash for each layout.

I enjoy hanging out with my family, reading and working puzzles. I am excited to work with one of the wonderful August kits!

Layouts in 15 Minutes {or Less}

by Misty Willis

Many people have excuses for not scrapbooking...too expensive...takes too much time...not creative enough...the list goes on and on. Well, the way I see it, everyone should document their family history, and ANYONE can create an appealing album page in 15 minutes.

Here I have 2 photos...one is of my layout with bare minimums. A photo, a title, and a sticker or two for embellishment. There was no major creativity involved in this page. It took me 10 minutes to put this together.



15 Minute Layout

Cardstock – Bazzill Basics “Night Mist”

Patterned Paper – Little Yellow Bicycle

Stickers – Little Yellow Bicycle “Bliss,” Banners, Borders & Journaling

Decorative Mini Papers – Little Yellow Bicycle

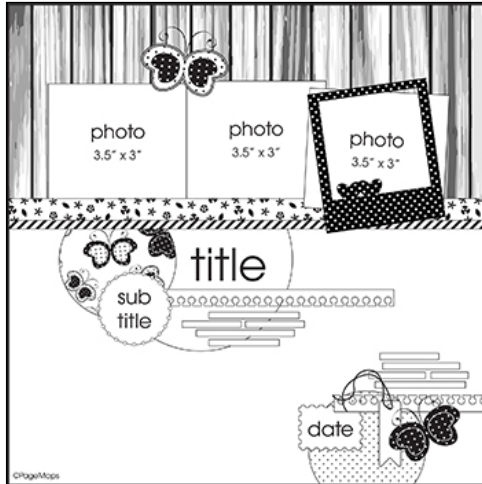
30 Minute Layout

The 30 minute photo shows the same layout with a bit of paint, spritz, journaling, and a few more embellishments for the aesthetic appeal to the album page. It took just a few more minutes to add these things to create this layout and it looks great! I used pre-made embellishments, and it came together quickly.



{August Sketch}

selected from www.pagemaps.com



August Sketch



Danielle Calhoun



Alissa Trowbridge



Raechelle {Guest Designer}



October Guest Designer Contest

Have you ever wanted to see what it's like to design for Back Porch Memories? This is your chance! We're looking for a Guest Designer for the month of October. Duties include: creating at least three layouts and one project (mini book, altered item, gift set, etc.) with your assigned October kit; creating a page using our monthly sketch for our newsletter; hosting an October challenge; and participating on our message board.

Does this sound like something you'd love to try? Check out the details of our October contest on our message board [here](#). Good luck!

Designer Details {Layering Titles}

by Danielle Calhoun

The Solo kit this month has the perfect letters for laying your titles. The Heidi Swapp vintage chic buzz words & Heidi Swapp Alphabet go together perfectly. The mixture of colors (pink/blue) in the alphabet & colors and font in the buzz words make for a perfect combo. Once you decide on your title, spell out your main word with the alphabet. When adding your buzz words, layer over the main word. An easy way to make an eye-catching title!



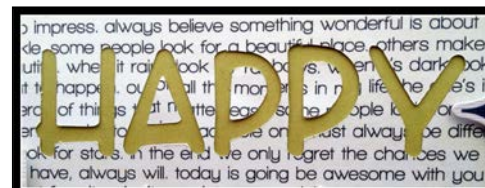
Trend Spotting {Negative Space}

by Rochelle Spears

“Negative Space” has become a latest scrapbook trend. This technique adds a great effect to your layout. It can be done on the background of your paper, tags, journal cards... just to name a few.

To create this effect you will need a die cutting machine or you can use a variety of punches. Once you have the desired piece of paper, measure the area where you want the negative space. Cut or punch the image/letters like you would normally. After you made the cut, be careful removing image/letters. As in my example, you will be using the negative space which is normally tossed aside. You can add a piece of scrap paper to the back to add color.

This technique is a great way to use your scraps. You can also use the image/letters that you cut or punched out on another project. Try it out!



Scrapbook Shortcuts {Pre-Printed Backgrounds}

by Alissa Trowbridge



Do you like to scrap with pre-printed backgrounds? I used to pass over these kinds of papers in a collection because I worried I wouldn't know how to scrap with them. But after I took my first leap scrapping with a pre-printed page, I realized I had been missing out! I love the look of these papers and I especially love how quickly my pages come together when I use them.

My biggest tip is to work with the design. On this background sheet included in the Amy Tangerine portion of this month's Medley Kit, there's a sun and clouds in the corner and a place to write the date on the bottom. The rest of the sheet is blank. To utilize the design best, I decided to place my photos, journaling block and paper strips in the center of the paper. This makes the pre-printed portions look intentional on my page. I then added the skyline rub-on to add further interest.

I love how this page turned out and I was able to put it together super fast!

