

How do you store your digital pictures?

In this digital age, so many of us have become lazy about archiving our precious photo memories. We print select photos on demand. Or we only save them to our hard drives. Or we leave them on our memory sticks for years...

Even if we intend on going back and scrapping a certain group of photos, or printing all of the photos from the past year, it often doesn't happen. Life gets in the way and we're too busy to deal with a task that just gets bigger and bigger the more time goes by.

Some suggestions for tackling that photo saving problem include printing as soon as you can. By having hard copies of your photos, at least all is not lost if your digital files disappear. If you're consistent and upload to the same printing service each time, this can also serve as an additional "off site" storage back up plan (i.e. Walgreens, Shutterfly, etc.).

Save your photos to an external hard drive. But be aware that these can fail just like the hard drive on your computer, so don't make it your only back up plan.

Save your photos to DVDs, or what I've been told is even better, flash drives.

Pick at least two of the above and you should be covered in case something were to happen. And then, be sure a second copy is out of your home incase of theft, fire or what have you. Make your back up plan a weekly, monthly or even quarterly task (depending on how many photos you take), and saving your precious memories will never again feel like a daunting task!

Paula



Meet Stephanie {September Guest Designer}

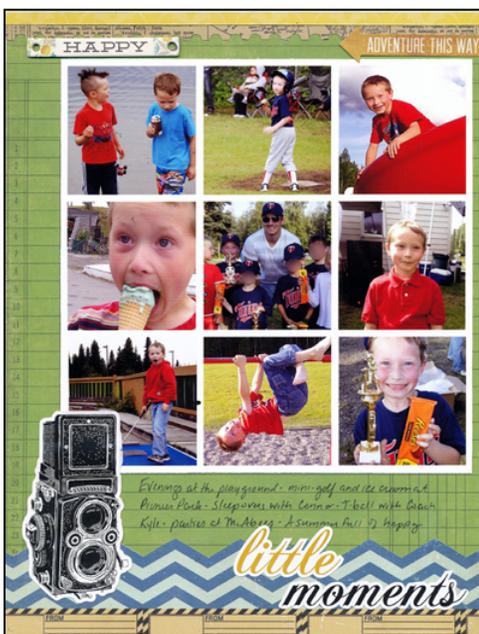
Hi everyone! I am a Christian, a wife, and a SAHM to two beautiful boys. I am cheery and down to earth, but shy if I don't know you too well. I have a love for crafts ever since I was young and was drawn to scrapbooking when I was pregnant with my first. Since then, I have been creating layouts, cards, and other altered arts. The expression and love that people feel when they receive anything handmade from me is priceless and makes it so worth the time to create. My projects typically ranges from cutesy to somewhat vintage and I love to pull something off that people would've never guess to do like mixing in a super childish cute image and making it very elegant. I love my family, friends, and I enjoy being inspired by all of you, so keep on sharing!

Layouts in 15 Minutes {or Less}

by Margy Eastman

Every year around Jack's birthday, I bust out a new album to start capturing another year of memories for my not-so-little-guy. Thanks to my camera phone and organized activities, I have a sweet surplus of photos to scrap. Thanks to Paula, I've certainly got the "stuff" to make tons of fun layouts. But the bulging "Jack at 6" album is lacking the space. I decided I need to consolidate a little. I decided to give these random summer photos a home together in my absolutely favorite format...the grid!

I have a grid template I made in PSE, so dropping the photos in was super quick. I cut them out in a block for the 15-minute version, then cut them apart and took my corner rounder to them for the extended version of the layout.



15 Minutes

Ingredients:

Cardstock – none! I know. Weird.

Border Punch - Fiskars

Patterned Papers – Echo Park “For the Record 2 – Documented”
(Wallpaper, Floral, Chevrons, Borders)

Stickers – “Documented” Elemental Stickers, My Mind’s Eye “Playful”

Chipboard – My Mind’s Eye “The Sweetest Thing”

30 Minutes

Additional Ingredients:

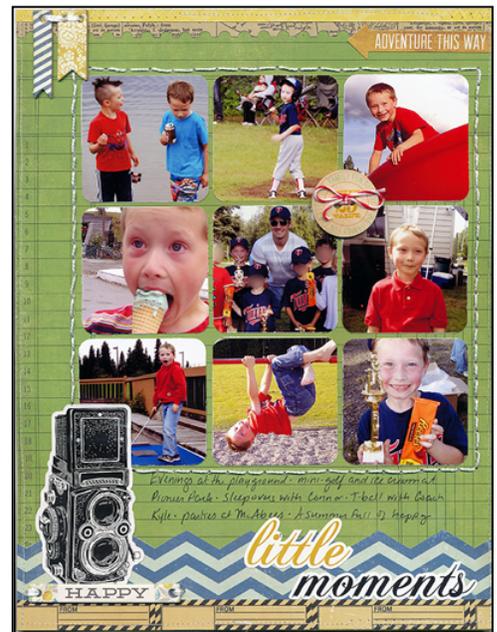
Corner rounder – EK Success

Sewing machine

Wood button - My Mind’s Eye “The Sweetest Thing”

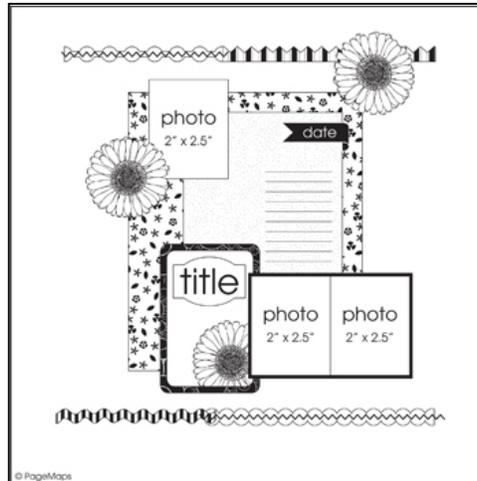
Twine – Jilibean Soup

Floss – DMC

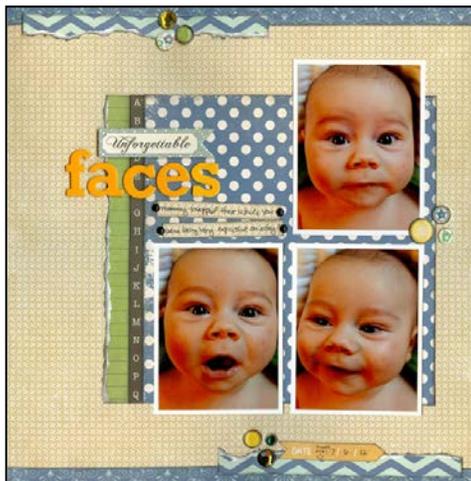


Originally I had just machine stitching around my grid, but it didn't show up well against the green background. I pulled out the embroidery floss to brighten it up. And I swear, but using huge stitches, you can make this in half an hour. So whip up a grid and let's see what you can make!

{September Sketch}
selected from www.pagemaps.com



September Sketch



Alissa Trowbridge



Stephanie {Guest Designer}



September 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.

Fall Photography Ideas

by Danielle Calhoun



Since I wrote a summer photography tips article, I thought a fall one would be good as well!

1) Photograph around sunrise & sunset for the best lighting in the fall. The first and last hours of sun during the day have a brilliant quality of light that can yield fabulous photos. There is something about the "golden light" at these times that is hard not to love!

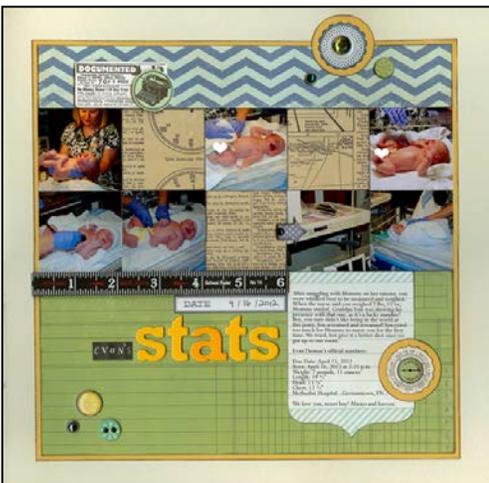
2) Take leafy portraits. Who doesn't love that photo with the kids in a pile of leaves, and leaves flying all over.

3) Capture a tree changing time lapse. Try taking a photo of the same tree, from the same spot once every day for the next month. Take the shot around the same time of day if you can. You will see the tree slowly transform in front of your eyes!

4) For us scrapbookers this is almost a no brainer....BUT....farmers markets & pumpkin patches! Fabulous places to take photos in the fall. Who doesn't love the rich color that goes along with the change of seasons. Gorgeous!

5) Fall photography at night. With the fall comes Halloween, along with other activities that may take place at night. If you are taking photos during late dusk, but not fully dark, try taking without the flash. Turn your ISO up higher, or put your camera setting on P mode. So many times the flash can just ruin the true colors of the moment. For comparison sake, take one photo without the flash and one with the flash. It is amazing how different the same colors will look!

Enjoy your fall photography, can't wait to see those photos on paper!



papers on my layout.

Scrapbook Shortcuts {Brads without the Holes}

by Alissa Trowbridge

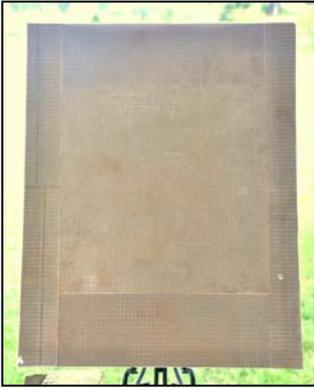
When I want to add a few brads, buttons or gems to my page, I like to lay them all out first before attaching them for good. But without fail, I usually wish one of my brads was a smidge to the left or in a slightly different place, etc. It's really hard to get them in just the right spot when you have to poke a hole through all the papers.

What I started doing was cutting the brad backs off. Yes, seriously! I just snip them off with a pair of jewelry snips (found at Michael's in the jewelry making department). Then I can just glue dot them to my project in the correct position instead of poking them through the

So easy! And as a bonus, I never accidentally mangle or wrinkle my papers by inserting a brad anymore.

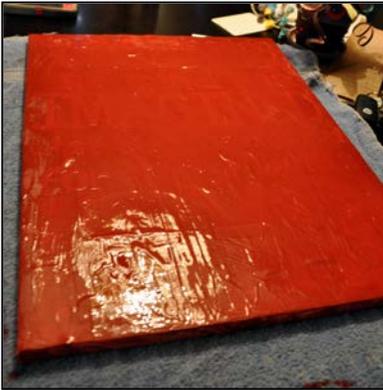
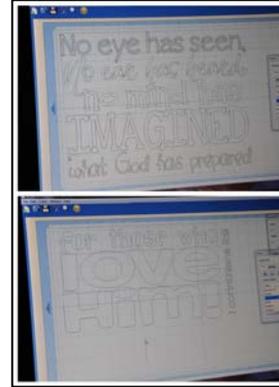
Poster Project

by Karry Weaver



First I dug through my stash and found three sheets of paper that were rather matchy matchy (I wish I had 3 of the same sheet...but oh well!) and mod-podged them onto my canvas. A layer underneath and a nice thick layer on top too - and let it dry over night.

The next morning I pieced together my scripture that I wanted to cut.



Cut the vinyl and put it on the canvas. Then covered the entire canvas with a good thick layer of acrylic paint. (The good expensive stuff, I think I paid \$.70 for the bottle at Hobby Lobby. HA)! And then the hard part...waiting for it to dry!

Then, one by one I peeled all the letters off. An exacto knife was very helpful...although it was tricky finding just the right depth to poke. Not too deep to prick the paper, but deep enough to get a good hold of the vinyl. Of course my girls all wanted to help. I pried up the edges and they took turns peeling. It pulls up very easily...and its even more fun than peeling Elmer's glue of the palm of your hand. I found that the rough edges where the edges of the paper met, was a tricky spot, lots of paint seeped in those edges. Next time I will take more care to get smoother edges. But a great tip here: use a wet q-tip to simply rub the excess paint of the areas where it leaked. I couldn't believe how easily the paint rubbed right back off.

For this project I used eight fonts. From top to bottom: Skinny Jeans Hollow, Inspiration, Mandingo, KG Be Still and Know, LD Flutter, Andrea Karime, Howser, and Teen is the one sideways.

I was rather tickled with our completed canvas! It was a fun, fun project! I can't wait to do it again.

