

This time of year is always fun, but hectic. Not only do we have Halloween to craft and decorate for, but Thanksgiving and Christmas are right around the corner. These last couple of months of the year are a crafter's dream!

If you like to create projects for the holidays ahead of time, now is the time to get going! Create a single gift for multiple people on your giving list by creating them assembly line-style. You'll be done in a jiffy! Or start that time consuming project now and check that one "doozy" of a project off your list.

Whatever you like to create at this time of year, I hope you're still making time to work on your albums! Even setting an hour aside a week will be sure you keep the scrappy mojo flowing.

Enjoy your holiday creating!

Paula



## Meet Heather {October Guest Designer}

Hi – I'm Heather and I'm thrilled to be the guest designer at Back Porch Memories for October.

I'm originally from Northern Ireland, but now live in Alaska; both truly inspirational places. Dan and I have been married for 16 years. We have a 14 year old son, Nathan, who hates getting his photo taken and a 12 year old daughter, Lauren, who goes into pose mode any time a camera appears. Our family is completed by two Chesapeake Bay Retrievers and three cats.

I've been scrapping for approximately 8 years. I mainly paper scrap but sometimes dabble in digital or hybrid. I love to make pages and cards. My style changes according to my mood. My main style is bold and graphic but I also love to do whimsical and even shabby chic from time to time. My favorite thing to do is mix lots of different manufacturers on my pages, stitch and edit or crop my photos in unusual ways. I hope I can inspire you to have fun with your creations.

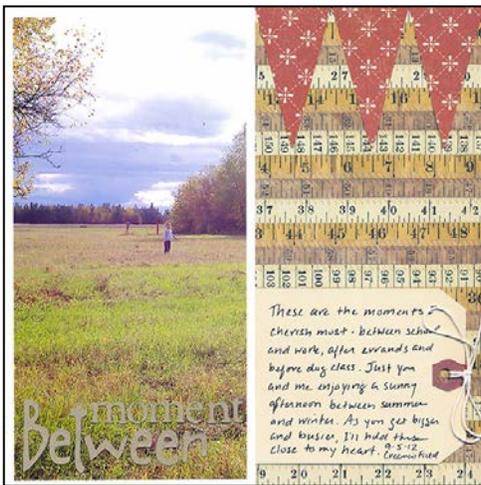


# Layouts in 15 Minutes {or Less}

by Margy Eastman

Last month I participated in the “Big Idea Festival” at Big Picture Classes. I loved the daily prompts, and actually managed to participate in a few challenges. One of the challenges I missed was to use a big photo. Big photos popped up on Ali Edward’s blog as well. The more I saw them, the more I wanted to use one! I have a large format printer, but getting 12x12 photo paper is not easy. So for this layout I went big...and went small. It’s actually 8.5x8.5.” Turns out I have an album on my shelf with those dimensions. Who knew?

I love this photo of my son at Creamer’s Field here in Fairbanks. I didn’t want the title to overpower the photo, so I tried Kraft. It doesn’t show up very well, but I kind of like the subtle effect.



## 15 Minutes

### Ingredients:

Cardstock – Bazzill Kraft

Patterned Paper – Jillibean Soup “Dried Marjoram” and Simple Stories “Homemade Happiness”

Die Cutter – Cricut, “Lyrical Letters” cartridge

Punch – Fiskars

Tag – Back Porch Memories

## 30 Minutes

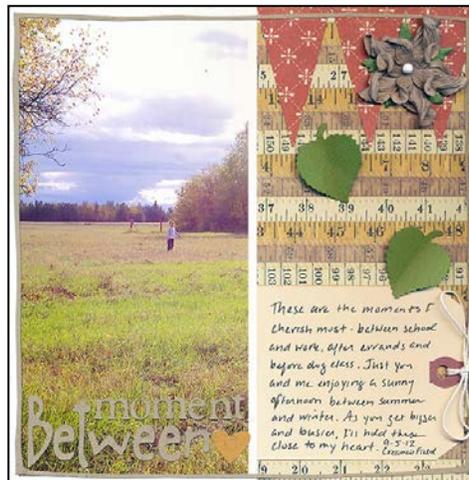
### Additional Ingredients:

Cardstock – Bazzill green

Sticker – Simple Stories

Flower – Bazzill Basics

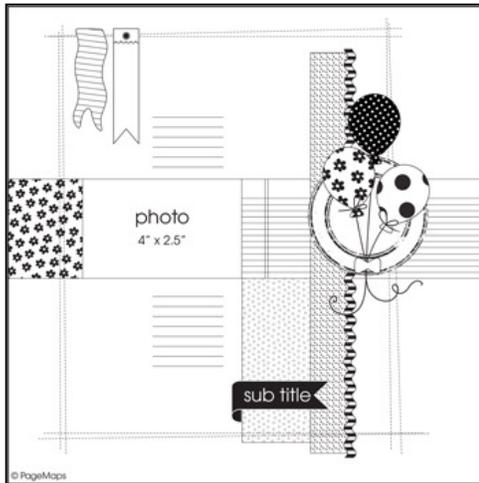
Punch – Fiskars



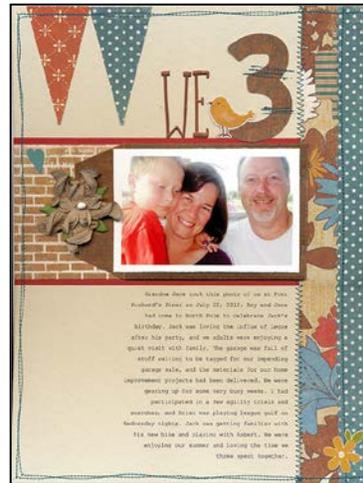
I saw the “outline” overlay on Ali Edward’s blog as well. I love the look, but I don’t have a Silhouette. I made it by drawing the outline on Kraft cardstock with a sharpie, then cutting it out and using the flip side. It was easier than it sounds. And pretty quick. So even if your page is small, you can “Go big or go home!”

# {October Sketch}

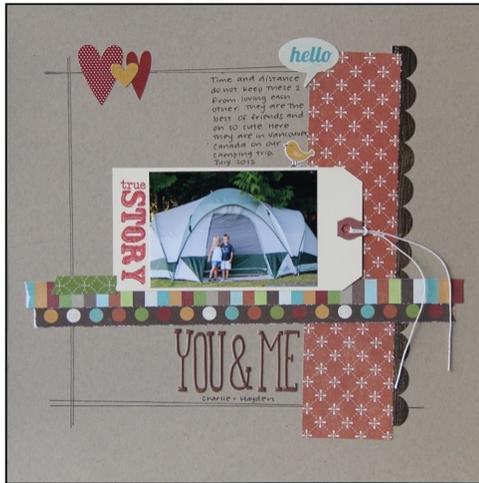
selected from [www.pagemaps.com](http://www.pagemaps.com)



October Sketch



Margy Eastman



Danielle Calhoun



Heather {Guest Designer}



## October 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. You can access it [here](#).

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

## Tags

by Danielle Calhoun



Tags are one of those simple pleasures in scrapbooking. They are so simple, yet so versatile. I love the endless things I can do with tags. Some of my very favorite things to do with tags:

- \* journaling
- \* stamping
- \* use for a small photo
- \* layering piece or embellishment
- \* use for title to help it stand out more

There is a tag included in this month's Medley, and I love that addition. As you can see in my layout, which is also this month's sketch, I used my tag as a layering piece for my cropped photo. There is also a stamp on the tag, "true story." I think tags create nice dimension, along with a

focal point on the page. The great part is that you can use your tags as focal points, but you can also use your tag as a layering piece (non-focal point). I'd love to see your ideas for tags! There are so many great uses!



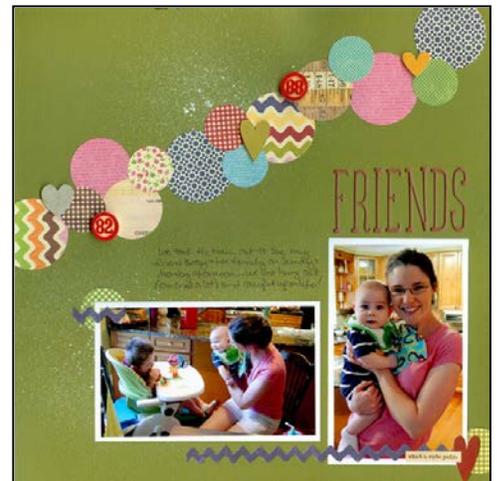
## Scrapbook Shortcuts {Use a Patterned Shape to "Fussy Cut"}

by Alissa Trowbridge

I love the look of fussy cutting on a layout. What is fussy cutting? It's a term used in quilting that means you trim out a design printed on the fabric (or paper in our case). Normally you'll see fussy cutting done around an intricate flower, etc. printed on the paper. It looks great, but is often time consuming!

That's why I get excited to see patterned papers with easy to punch out or cut out shapes. Circles, squares, hearts and stars are my favorites! Why? Because I own punches in all of those shapes. It makes "fussy cutting" them out of the patterned paper super, super easy.

Here, I used the Jillibean Soup paper with all the circles on it for my smaller circles. I punched them out with a 1 1/8" circle punch. I love how this added so many fun patterns to my page! Then, I used my 1 1/2" circle punch to cut the bigger circles from the other sheets of paper.



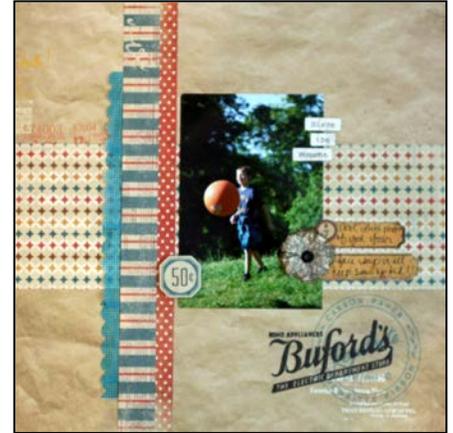
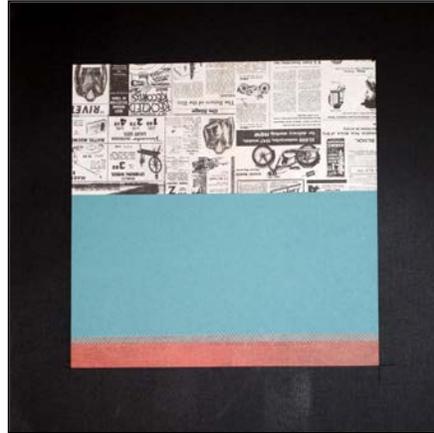
There you have it – my fussy cutting “cheat.”

## Stretching Your Kit

by Danielle Price

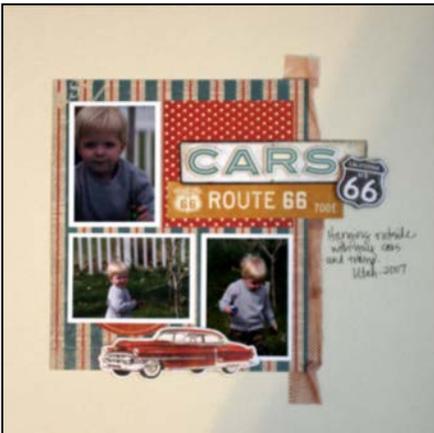
One of my favorite things to do with my scrapbook paper is to get the most out of it. Especially in a kit. That way I can make more pages and stretch them into a two-page layout. Here is an easy way to do it!

Depending on how much you want to save, use your measurements on your paper cutter to trim out a border. I usually do either an inch border or a two-inch border. Start either an inch or two from the bottom and make a cut until an inch or two from the top. Do this on all four sides.



Because of this I was able to use the patterned paper on three other layouts and on the black cardstock I was able to matte two photos.

Another way to stretch your kit is to use your packaging from your embellishments. I was able to make two journaling cards for my layouts.



Also you can cut out shapes in your patterned paper to add as embellishments.

Have fun stretching your kit!