



It's officially fall. Yay! Crunchy leaves, hot cider, football games... these are a few of my favorite fall things. What about you? What are your favorite things about fall?

Another happy thing about fall and winter coming is that I seem to stay indoors and craft a bit more. Plus the days are short (super short here in Alaska) and I don't feel like I'm missing out by staying in the house. There's just something about pulling on a comfy outfit, grabbing a warm drink, and heading into my creative space. It's so relaxing!

Take advantage of this time while the kids are back in school, but the crazy holiday season is still far away. It's nice, right?!

Happy fall scrapping,
Paula



Welcome Sarah {October Guest Designer}

Hello! My name is Sarah and I'm 28 years old. I'm married to the sweetest, most loving, very handy(man) and so incredibly talented man named Josh. We have two absolutely adorable and sassy Havanese sisters, Izzie and Paisley. Izzie is the older one (they are from different litters) and is so sassy. She is our little explorer and always busy. We commonly call her, "Busy Izzie." Paisley is so much like her sister except for one minor detail - she is my cuddly lapdog. She could care less about exploring as long as she has a blanket or a lap. We commonly call her, "Lazy Paisley." No kids. Just furbabies.

I was a chemist turned engineer. I love my job. We live in a peaceful town in Illinois. I love to travel, be creative, hike and enjoy family.

Thank you for having me as your guest designer this month!



Layouts in 15 Minutes {or Less}

by Margy Eastman

This month's Medley kit came with so many elements that are perfect for school-themed pages, but would work just as well with a "travel" layout. There wasn't much left in this portion of the Medley when I was done – I couldn't get enough of those papers! I cut up the "Itinerary" paper to create the title. It's no easy feat to come up with words that have no repeating letters! The design is pretty basic and centers on a single photo and a fair bit of storytelling. The bag that held the embellishments made the perfect journaling block. Really, there's not much left of this kit!



15 Minute Layout

Cardstock – Bazzill Basics “Sugar Cream”

Patterned Paper – Studio Calico “Thataway” – Itinerary, Made It, and Sign Posts

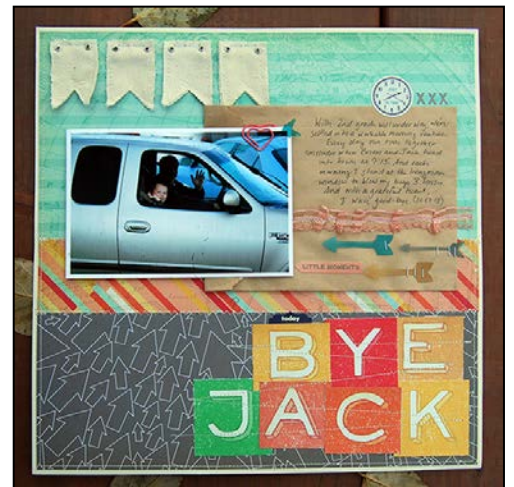
Embellishments – Studio Calico “Thataway” acrylic arrows, Maya Road canvas banner pieces, Webster’s Pages heart paper clip

30 Minute Layout Additional Ingredients

Stickers – Fancy Pants “Collecting Moments” sticker sheet

Alphabet – Studio Calico tiny alphabet

Other – Tim Holtz Tiny Attacher, thread



To create the 30-minute version, I stitched down the blocks of paper and did some decorative stitching over the title to give it a little interest. I added a bit of ribbon and some stickers from the Fancy Pants kit, and I polished it off with a few of the tiny letters from Studio Calico. The journaling talks about how I blow Jack and Brian three kisses as they pull out of the driveway each morning, so I added “xxx.” Get it? And the hoarder in me isn't at all stressed about using up all the x's on the sticker sheet.

{October Sketch}

selected from www.pagemaps.com



October Sketch



Alissa Trowbridge



Rochelle Spears



Sarah {Guest Designer}



December 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 December. Duties include: creating at least three layouts and one project (mini book, altered item, gift set, etc.) with your assigned November kit; creating a page using our monthly sketch for our newsletter; hosting a December challenge; and participating on our message board.

Does this sound like something you'd love to try? Check out the details of our December contest on our message board under "contests." Good luck!

Creating Your Own Background Paper

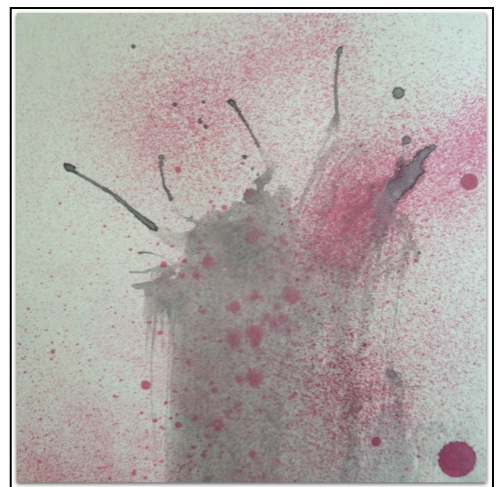
by Rochelle Spears

Have you ever created your own background paper? It's really fun and adds uniqueness to your layout.

Here's a layout (below, left) I created using the Solo Kit - Fancy Pants Happy Go Lucky and my own handmade background paper (finished sheet below, right).



For this background, I started with a Sugar Cream Bazzill paper. I used a stencil from Crafters Workshop and Tim Holtz stamp pad to make the circles. I then used Tattered Angels (grey) mist. I poured some out and used a paint brush to brush the mist onto layout. Then I took the top of the mist container off and tapped the top over my layout to allow droplets to fall freely. While wet, I took a straw and blew on the droplets giving it a runny look. Lastly, I used Maya Mist (Raspberry) and lightly sprayed around the page. I also added droplets the same why I did the Tattered Angels (grey) Mist.



And now I have my own unique background paper! Try it out!

Scrapbook Shortcuts {Two Page Spread Tips}

by Alissa Trowbridge



I know the scrapbooking world has gone away from two page spreads in the sense that they aren't "trendy." But sometimes photos require the space two pages can offer. Or sometimes, like in the case of this page, I had a lot of journaling *and* sweet baby photos I wanted to use.

Although I find one pagers easier to scrap, I have found several ways to make working with two pages much simpler!

Two Become One

I prefer my two page spreads to read like one continuous page. It just happens to be 24x12" instead of 12x12. Does that make sense? So when I sit down to scrap, I go ahead and put those two background pieces of paper together on my desk and work with them together, at the same time. This allows me to see what the finished product will look like when my pages are side by side in the album.

Continue the Flow

When working with a big layout like this, I have found the two pages look like they belong together when part of the chosen pattern paper(s) flow from page to page. Here, I took my own advice very literally, and used the blue-green at the top all the way across, the red all the way across both pages on the bottom, and the same pattern papers flow from both sides in the middle. Even if you only join one element from one page to the other, that is usually enough to draw your eye from side to side.

Stick with a Good Thing

This might sound obvious, but use the same patterned papers, cardstock colors and elements on both pages. It's fine to use something on one side that you don't use on the other (like the twine and little camera on my left side), but generally, a cohesive two-page spread looks best when the same colors and patterns are used on both sides.

Try a Design Rule

Double-page spreads can lose their focus if you're not careful. With so much space to look at, our eyes often have trouble "reading" a busy page. To combat this problem, try a few simple design "rules." Here, I drew attention to a focal point photo (the photo with the twine and pin around it) and used the "design triangle" idea. I used three little red hearts and three pieces of washi tape in general triangle placements to keep your eyes moving across the page. Easy!

I hope these tips help demystify the art of creating a two-page spread!