

It's that time of year again! Time to start decorating, shopping and baking ☺

Do you find your scrapbooking falls to the wayside during this season? I do. Here are some tips to squeeze some memory keeping time into your busy holiday schedule:

1. Continue to take photos, and lots of them! You can always go back and delete the bad ones later, but you'll kick yourself if you don't have photos to document this most festive time of year!
2. Consider keeping a journal during the month of December so you don't forget the little details. This can be as simple leaving out a pad of paper so you can easily jot down what Christmas-related things your kids did that day or a memory from the past you thought of and want to document later.
3. Keep any mementos in one place so that they're easy to find when you're ready to scrap. I like to put things in a big envelope and add to it as the season goes by. Include things like the photo of your kids with Santa at the mall, ticket stubs from the Nutcracker, etc. Anything you want to keep that might get lost or misplaced should go in this envelope.
4. If you save holiday-related cards from friends and family to scrap, place those in a cute basket or box out in the open. This will encourage the rest of the family to look at them, but will also serve as a safe place to keep them together until you're ready to scrap.
5. Plan a scrappy night, day or weekend for January. This will make sure you have something fun to look forward to when December is over and you have time to scrap again!

Have a happy December!

Paula



Our Gallery is Back!

We are thrilled to announce that our gallery is finally up and accessible after we were hacked last year! Whew. What a mess that was! Thank you for your patience! Our Design Team work has been uploaded for November and the team is working on uploading their designs from the rest of the year as well.

You can now upload layouts for our challenges, contests and just for fun, too! If you have any problems or questions about the gallery, please ask them on our message board or email me at paula@backporchmemories.com

Q & A with Jayne {November Guest Designer}



Jayne was our Guest Designer exactly a year ago! Too funny! We're happy to have her back again. We thought we'd get to know her a bit better by interviewing her! Here's what she had to say.

How long have you been scrapbooking?

I started scrapping about 2 years after I saw a Stampin' Up demonstration. I didn't start then because I knew that when I did start, it would be all or nothing--just like I did all of the hobbies that I did at one time or another! It has been about 4 years since then. I want to preserve my photos and tell the stories behind the pictures; through scrapping I can do that. It is neat to reminisce while building a page around the photos I use. I have enjoyed every minute since I started.

Since you've been scrapping awhile, do you have any favorite tools, other than the basic ones?

My favorite tools? My sewing machine, border punches and my Cricut.

Do you like to scrap alone or with others?

I usually scrap alone, but I do enjoy scrapping with my daughter, (of course!) my favorite aunt and 3 favorite cousins. There is lots of laughter and memories when all 6 of us get together! I get lots of inspiration from one of my cousins--she is an awesome scrapbooker.

Are you more of an events or everyday moments kind of scrapper?

I tend to scrap events more often. But there have been times when I just scrap everyday happenings. Most of the layouts that are everyday events are from when my children were younger. As they have gotten older it has been more of the events--sports, band, choir, musical, plays and graduations. Oh yes, I can't forget college life!



Scrapbook Shortcuts {Border Sticker Extensions}

by Alissa Trowbridge



Have you ever noticed that sometimes border stickers aren't quite long enough to go across a page? This is what happened to me when I worked with the Fancy Pants border stickers in this month's Solo Kit.

I had already cut the striped sticker in half long-ways to use on this page when I realized it was too short to reach from end to end. Rather than reworking my design, I cut each piece in half and "hid" the cut behind the buttons. Now it looks like it goes seamlessly from edge to edge and the buttons hide the gaps.

Easy fix!

Layouts in 15 Minutes {or Less}

by Margy Eastman

My inspiration for this layout was one of the patterned papers in the November solo kit – what’s not to love about patterned circles on a grid background? Enter “Tokens” from Fancy Pants! The rows of punched circles provide a great backdrop for a single photo. And it really only took 15 minutes.

I did the journaling using PSE and the Arial font. I glued my punched circles and marked where the chipboard letters ended. I scanned it, then opened the jpeg in PSE to add the text. When it was time to print, I turned off the background layer (scanned image) and fed my cardstock through the printer. An added bonus? By including the patterned paper circles in my scanned background, I could match the text color to the dark brown in the striped circle.



15 Minutes

Ingredients:

Cardstock – Bazzill Basics

Patterned Paper – Fancy Pants “The Good Life”
(Tokens, Sweet, Fun, Happy, Enjoy)

Cardstock Alpha– Basic Grey Marjolaine

Sewing machine and thread

Punch – Marvy

30 Minutes

Additional Ingredients:

Dimensional Adhesive – Thermoweb

Chipboard Buttons and Layered Sticker – Fancy Pants

Baker’s Twine – Twinery



This would be an easy design to adapt to the other shape punches in your stash...and what a great excuse to add another cute punch to your tool kit!

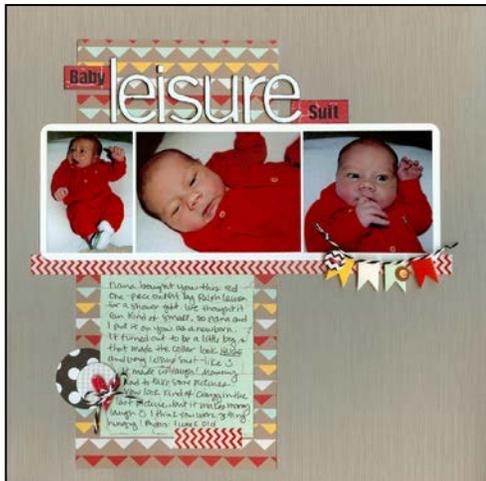
{November Sketch}
selected from www.pagemaps.com



November Sketch



Danielle Price



Alissa Trowbridge



Jayne {Guest Designer}



January Guest Designer Contest

Have you ever wanted to be a guest designer for us? We hold a sketch contest every month and the prize is a one-month spot on our team! Your kit is complimentary for the month and you get to design some great projects and layouts for us ☺

Check out all the details on our message board [here](#).

Healing Through Scrapbooking

by Deb Harter



When an EF-4 tornado completely destroyed my kids' school 8 months ago, I knew that I wanted to document this for them somehow. My son was in kindergarten at the time, and with that being such a huge event in his first year of school, it was important to me to make sure I recorded this memory. I was just never able to find the right scrap papers or words to go with my story.

As soon as I saw the November Solo kit, I knew immediately that this was the perfect kit to finally get this event down on paper. Since our school colors are black and gold, everything coordinated perfectly! I did two layouts that were very heavy on journaling about the tornado with this kit. I used a picture from my son's last day of kindergarten for one page, and on the other page, I used pictures from the first day of the new school year in August. It feels good to finally get this event down on

paper!

Have you ever used scrapbooking to heal or document a tough situation or event? Tell us about it on our message board!

