



Wait a minute. Is it almost the end of the year? Wow. This time of year always flies by! There's so much going on and so much to do! I'm busy. How about you?

One thing I always try to do right about this time every year is to sit down and make a list of everything I want to accomplish before the end of December. I include decorating the house, trimming the tree, making gifts, etc. Then I prioritize. Which of these things can I get done now and which things can wait a bit? And what is just unrealistic? The more I get done at the start of the season, the better off I am, it seems.

Another hint is to plan at least a day (or two afternoons, whatever works for you) to tackle handmade gifts. If I have the time set aside, I'm more likely to actually create them! It also helps me if I've already gathered and purchased any materials I need to make them ahead of time as well. That way those hours are strictly for creating. Plan to do this with a friend or two and make it an event!

Finally, look at the hours in your day and find ways to sneak in some more "work" time. Are you knitting your sister a scarf as a gift? Have a pile of gifts to wrap? Be sure you don't sit down in front of the TV without a project to tackle!

I hope you enjoy the hustle and bustle of this time of year!

- Paula



Welcome Janice {November Guest Designer}



Hi there! I'm The Constant Scrapper, or Janice to my friends and family. I'm very happy to be guest designing with BPM this month. Whenever I get the opportunity to scrapbook, I take it. I love communicating through writing and designing; combine that with my love of stories, and it makes photography and scrapbooking the perfect hobbies for me. I *love* products, techniques and trends, but for me they still come second to the story. I'm a sketch junkie, and my scrapbooks feature lots of vintage photos from my childhood. I started playing with scrapbook supplies in 2004, and since that time my interest has grown quietly into an obsession.

I live in Austin, Texas, where I own and run an IT company with my husband. We do a lot of animal rescue volunteering together, and I run the Media Ministry at my church (webmaster, social media and event photography). I blog about scrapbooking at www.theconstantscrapper.com.

Layout in 15 Minutes {or Less}

by Rochelle Spears

Isn't it great how this layout pops right off the black cardstock! And it's super fast and easy to make.



Here are the quick steps:

1. Cut 9" circle
2. Cut (4) 2 1/2" strips of papers.
3. Adhere circle flush to right of black cardstock.
4. Layer strips of papers over circle, flush to right side
5. Add photo
6. Add cluster of embellishments to the left of the photo
7. Add title



Scrapbook Shortcuts {Mixing Patterns}

by Alissa Trowbridge

This month's Medley Kit features two paper lines (one by Heidi Swapp and the other by Shimelle) that mix and match beautifully. Because I mostly scrap my son these days, I like to use as many feminine sides of my papers as I possibly can when scrapping my nieces or other less "boy" topics!

As you can see here, I put both of these lines together from the Medley on one layout. I pulled out all the papers, looked at the fronts and backs together by laying them out on my desk, and came up with a combo I liked by adding and taking away certain patterns.

To keep the focus on my sweet photo and to make sure the page didn't turn out too busy, I then used just strips of each of the patterns. The result is a very cohesive look that's easy to do. It's hard to mess up mixing patterns if you use them in small doses! If you've ever been afraid to mix and match, try it like this and I bet you'll surprise yourself!

{November Sketch}
selected from www.pagemaps.com



November Sketch



Rochelle Spears



Janice {Guest Designer}



Back Porch Memories and Social Media

If you haven't already, be sure to follow us on our [blog](#) and like us on [our Facebook page](#). On both, you'll find kit updates, links to our monthly Guest Designer contest, kit sneak peeks, etc.

See you online!

Home Décor Tutorial

by Janice {November Guest Designer}

Once I had completed layouts with all the patterned paper in this month's kit, I wanted to use the scraps to create something pretty for our home. Here's how I turned my off cuts into a colorful seasonal wall hanging.

1. My final project will be 8x8 inches, so I started by cutting down a sheet of cardstock to that size. This will be the base for my design.



2. Gather all the patterned paper remnants together.



3. Cut 3-4 1/4-inch strips from each.



4. Apply your adhesive of choice (I used a tape runner) liberally to the base. Begin laying down strips on the diagonal, butting each snugly against the last so there's no cardstock showing through.



5. Fill the whole base with strips. Cut off the excess.



6. Cut out your chosen overlay design from black cardstock, either with a digital die cutter or by hand. Pictured is the positive cut of my design, which I can use for another project. For my project I chose a fall-themed design from the Silhouette store, sized it to 7.25 inches and centered it within an 8-inch square before cutting. I suggest the design you choose should both work well as a silhouette and fill a good bit of your square. That way lots of the patterned paper can show through.

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7. Adhere the silhouette to the patterned paper (I used repositionable adhesive so I can change out the design later). If there are any inner pieces to the design, as there was in mine (under the maple leaf, down the centers of the side leaves and on the acorn), adhere those as well so that the design “makes sense” to the eye.

What I think is so great about this project is that it allows you to use scraps of paper that you love in a completely new way, but it doesn't use very much of it so you still have lots left for making cards, mini albums or cards for your pocket scrapbooks—however you usually put your scraps to work.

I can also see myself using this as a go-to seasonal home decoration. I can either cut out a different silhouette design and lay it over these same strips *or* use scraps from another kit to create a new patterned background as well!

