



Well, it's here! The hustle and bustle of December ☺

I hope you take a few moments every day to sit back and enjoy the little things this month brings. Watch the snow fall for a moment. Take a break with a cup of hot chocolate. Turn on some holiday tunes while you drive around running errands. Take it all in, because it seems like it's over in a flash.

Luckily, the kits this month are ALL Christmas themed to help you remember the little (and BIG) things from your celebrations this year. I know our Design Team is always excited when I tell them our December kits are going to be Christmas-related! Be sure to check out their work in our gallery and enjoy the hints, tricks and projects they shared with us in this newsletter while working with their kits.

Until next month (and next year! 2014!),  
Paula



## Welcome, Brenda {December Guest Designer}



Hi my name is Brenda Ragsdale and I am honored to guest design this month for Back Porch Memories.

I am mom to two adult sons, and Nana to two beautiful granddaughters and two adorable grandsons. I currently live in the state of Oregon....hoping to relocate back to the east coast soon.

I love playing with all the wonderful papers and embellishments that are on the market. I prefer creating layouts with the majority of them revolved around my grandchildren, great-nieces/nephews, and my travels. I currently design for Paper Secrets, and co-own Scrap Our

Stash.

When I am not scrapping I love to travel, hang out with friends or family and when the weather permits, I love outdoor festivals, markets and golfing.

Thank you Back Porch Memories for the opportunity to play with your December Kit. I had so much fun creating with it!!!

If you would like to see more of my work, please visit my blog, [Granddiva's Creative Corner](#)

## Layouts in 15 Minutes {or Less}

by Margy Eastman

This month's Solo kit from Fancy Pants had the perfect background paper for a layout about my cute little Christmas tree. I LOVE the little die cuts, and the leftovers are perfect for gift tags. And trust me; my tree-taking photo skills are not great. Smaller prints are better, so this cute paper was perfect for my modest pictures.

The 15-Minute version of this truly does come together quickly. With no measuring or cutting of patterned paper, this baby is a breeze. My disclaimer – I couldn't stitch down the metal plate before enhancing the quick version, so please pardon the jaunty tilt.



### 15 Minute Layout

Cardstock – Bazzill Basics “Lizard”

Patterned Paper – Fancy Pants Merry Little Christmas “North Pole”

Stickers – Merry Little Christmas Sticker Fundamentals

Die cuts – Fancy Pants Merry Little Christmas Ephemera and Photo Frames

Tags – Merry Little Christmas Tags

Metal tag – Tim Holtz

### 30 Minute Layout Additional Ingredients

Rub-On and staples – Tim Holtz

Flair – Merry Little Christmas Flair

Enamel dots – Basic Grey

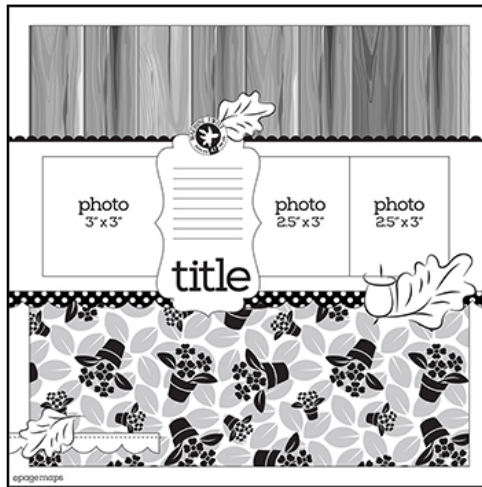
Thread



For the 30-Minute layout I added a few embellishments and a few details. To set apart the printed Christmas trees, I stitched around them with the sewing machine. I added a rub-on in the upper left corner and secured my tag strings with staples. To add dimension I used pop-dots on the frame, trees and Santa. My favorite addition is the little flair Santa.

So print out a few smaller photos and have some holiday fun with the December Solo kit!

**{December Sketch}**  
selected from [www.pagemaps.com](http://www.pagemaps.com)



**December Sketch**



**Alissa Trowbridge**



**Danielle Calhoun**



**Brenda {Guest Designer}**



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Check us out here: <https://www.facebook.com/BackPorchMemories>



## Ribbon and Trim Ideas

by Rochelle Spears

There are so many ways to use ribbon/trim on layouts. Here are a few ideas to help you use your ribbons and trims.



### Create a Border

This is probably the easiest way to use ribbon/trim. Here is a sequin trim running up and down the page along with other papers creating a border.

### Frame a Photo or Embellishment

On this example, the circle die cut piece is framed with a crochet lace trim.



### Create Flowers

The centerpiece on this flower is a wide piece of decorative lace that was twisted tightly and spiraled around to create a flower. Crochet lace trim is used here too to complete the flower.

These are just a few ways to use Ribbon/Trim. Be creative and think outside the box for more creative ideas.

## Scrapbook Shortcuts {Easiest Altered Gift. Ever.}

by Alissa Trowbridge



It's Christmastime and wow. If there ever was a time to take a scrapbook shortcut, it's now! With all the fun parties, baking, decorating and merriment, there really isn't much time left in my month for crafting. I love to make gifts, though! What's a girl to do? Besides starting earlier next year...

I *loved* the darling Christmas tree shaped words on one of the Little Yellow Bicycle patterned papers in the Medley Kit this month. It was in the bottom corner and would have made a cute accent on a scrapbook page. But I also saw potential for it in another way.

I had a big, wide, black frame that I purchased for super cheap in my "gift drawer." I knew it would come in handy for something like this project some day! I simply cut the cute tree shape into a 5x7" rectangle to fit the opening and inserted it under the glass. Bingo! The easiest altered gift. Ever.

Now here's the crazy part... I hemmed and hawed over the card for probably 45 minutes. Ha! Yes, that's right... the matching card took me probably 8 times longer to make than the actual gift. But I love the result of them both and I cannot wait to give them to my mom!

If you're looking for a super fast project that looks like a million bucks when it's finished, look through your papers and see if you have any that work like this one. Get an expensive looking frame from a discount store and you're set.

I'd love to see your version! Post your create to our gallery or our Facebook page for all of us to admire.