



The Craft and Hobby Association (CHA) show ended earlier this month, and what a show it was. I'm excited for all of the new products that are coming your way in the very near future!

You can expect so many of your favorite brands (plus a few new ones) in upcoming kits. I'm talking about Basic Grey, The Girl's Paperie, Fancy Pants, Little Yellow Bicycle, Maya Road, Crate Paper, Echo Park and many, many more.

This month's kits are sure to get you excited to scrap, too! The Solo's Basic Grey Hopscotch is delightful. I didn't realize how many photos I had been holding onto waiting for the perfect shades of peach and blues. Hopscotch definitely fits the bill. The Medley is, as usual, very versatile featuring October Afternoon, We R Memory Keepers and My Mind's Eye paper lines. Try mixing and matching the cardstock and embellishments from these kits together – so many of the goodies cross over from kit to kit.

The Design Team has done another phenomenal job creating with this month's kits! Check out their work in our online gallery by clicking [here](#). I promise you'll walk away ready to create!

Until next month,
Paula



Meet Laurajeon {February Guest Designer}

Hi all, my name is Laura, but most of my friends call me Laurajeon.

I live in Jacksonville, NC with my husband, Bill and our two children, Danielle (14) and Kaleb (9) and our crazy cat, Oreo. My husband is currently active duty with the USMC, but he will be retiring on June 1st, so hopefully we will stay put and not have to move again.

I am a SAHM, which I do love, but I'm in the progress of looking for a pt job, since both of my kids are in school all day. I never miss a night of Survivor and am patiently awaiting the release of the Next movie of the Twilight Saga, "Breaking Dawn"!



I started scrapping about 9 years ago, when a neighbor showed me her scrapbook album and well, I fell in love instantly and never looked back. I think that some of my strengths are that my style is always changing and that I love to try new techniques and ideas.

I am so excited and honored to be the February Guest Designer for Back Porch Memories.

Layouts in 15 Minutes {or Less}

by Deb Harter



10 Minutes

Use the blue/white dot paper for the background. Cut a 4x12” piece of floral paper and distress edges. Adhere to page just below the center. Adhere scallop border sticker just below floral paper. Mat three wallet size photos with white cardstock and adhere to floral paper, starting on the left side of the page. Cut a few arrows from patterned paper and adhere to the right of the photos with pop dots. Add title below arrows, file tab above arrows, and canvas sticker above photos. Use a paper piercer to punch holes around the page and a black pen to add faux stitching.

15 Minutes

Punch three butterflies and paint wings with some stickles. Add three pearls/rhinestones for the body of each butterfly. Position two on the dot paper above the arrows, and one just to the lower right of the arrows. Adhere one metal flower near the file tab, and another one by the title.



Scrapbook Shortcuts {Quick Paint}

by Alissa Trowbridge



“Quick paint” doesn’t sound possible, does it? Using paint on your projects really can be quick, if you follow a few simple guidelines.

First, don’t squirt paint out onto a palette or other surface. It’s much faster to just take the lid off the tube and dip your brush right inside (be sure to shake the paint well first). Next, use just one *thin* coat of paint. It will dry super fast the thinner it is. If you must add another coat, be sure the first layer is dry first. If you were a little heavy handed with the paint, you can hit it with a quick burst of heat from your heat gun.

On the left side of my “1st Easter” layout, I quickly brushed the Jilly Bean Soup letters with a bit of yellow paint from my stash. This literally took about 30 seconds to do and it dried almost as fast.

I love the custom look! To see the other half of this two-page layout, click [here](#).

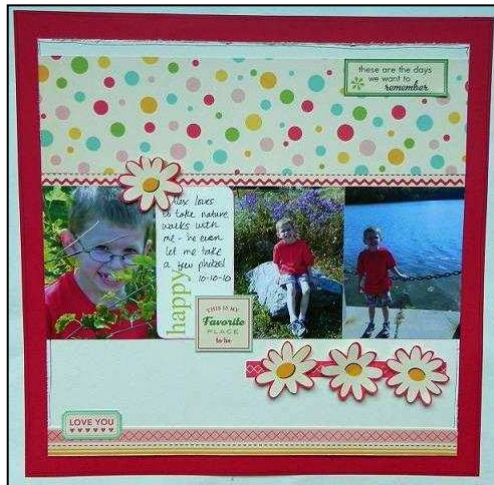
{February Sketch}
selected from www.pagemaps.com



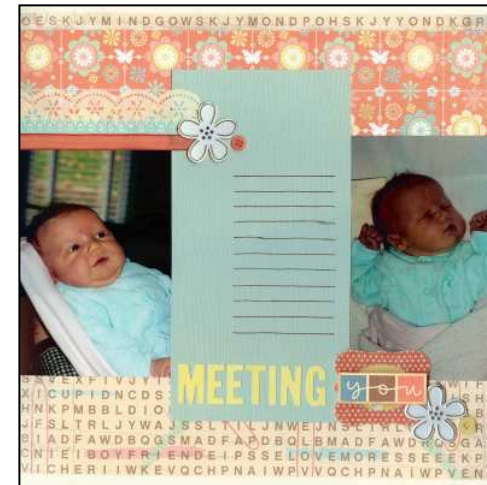
February Sketch



Danielle Price



Michelle Swartzinski



Alissa Trowbridge



April Guest Designer Search

The search is on for our April Guest Designer! Are you interested? Check out the details on our message board, under our "contests" heading. Here you'll find the full rules of our search, a look at the sketch and a place to ask any questions you may have.

Our contest is open to anyone, as long as they haven't been a guest designer for us in the last six months. So, what do you have to lose? Get out your favorite papers, those great photos you've been meaning to scrap anyway, and get going!

We can't wait to see your layout! Good luck!

Tool Review {Embossed Border Punches}

by Michelle Swartzinski



I have tons of border punches and have done reviews on the larger sized EK punches and the Martha Stewart punches in the past and wanted to give a review on the embossed punches.

This is a very easy tool to use and cuts smoothly. The embossing didn't show up on patterned paper very well but worked great on Bazzill Basics cardstock. You can easily line up your borders using the template plate on the base of the punch to line up punched images for a punched edge of any length. I also like that this punch locks closed for better storage and is labeled for easy identification.

Here is a layout I created using the February Medley kit (order yours before they sell out)...you can see I used the punch A LOT for this one!



Be sure to share any layouts you have done using the embossed border punches (or any layouts at all – the gallery is packed full with inspiration).

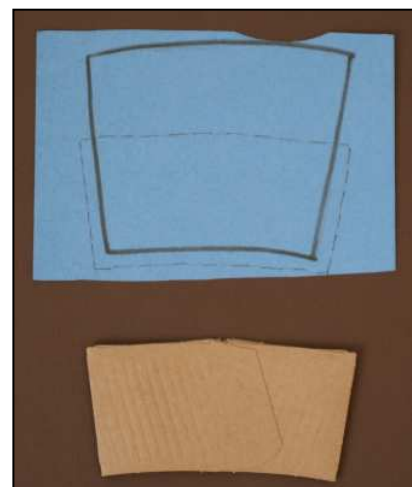


Coffee Sleeve Mini Album

by Danielle Price

This album is made using the coffee cardboard sleeves. I saw this idea on a blog and loved it. I hope you all have fun doing your own version!

1. Trace the cardboard sleeve. Then sketch the page to your desired size. Cut out four pages I also sewed a border around the pages.





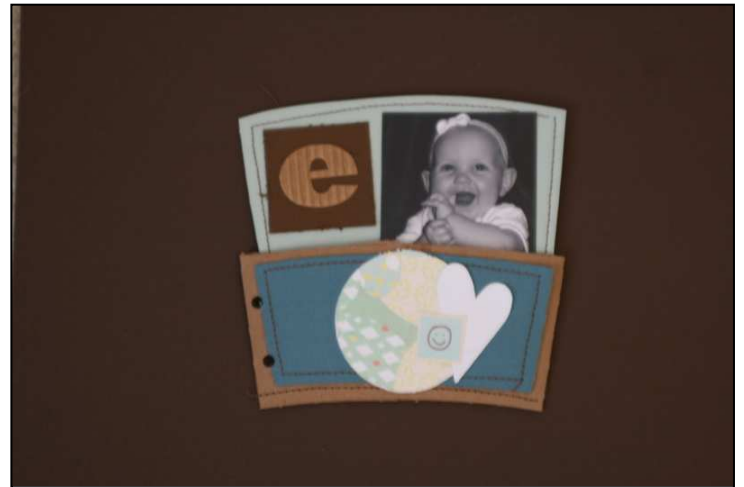
2. Sew the bottom of the cardboard sleeves so the page doesn't fall through the bottom.



3. Embellish the sleeves. I also sewed the cardstock



4. Add photos and embellishments on top of the cardboard sleeves.



5. Punch two holes on the side of the sleeve. Slip in your pages.



6. Insert two rings in the holes and tie ribbon around them.



7. Enjoy your cute mini album!