



March is supposed to come in like a lion and out like a lamb. I just want to know, though. Is it SPRING yet?!

Whether you're starting to see the signs of spring in your neck of the woods or not, at least I can say our March kits will get you in the mood for warmer days and sunny skies. With the gorgeous florals and classy patterns in the Solo kit, Echo Park's "For the Record" line will surely fit the bill for a variety of occasions. Our designers scrapped everything from heritage photos, a Christening and everyday family photos with this kit. A very versatile paper line indeed.

The Medley is busting with spring colors and patterns – "Stella & Rose" by My Mind's Eye, Little Yellow Bicycle's "Twig," and Pebble's "Happy Go Lucky" (which is even more darling in person)! Of course, I love how many of the elements in these kits mix and match, too. Our designers did a great job showing you just how to do this!

Speaking of our designers, be sure to check out all of their work in our online gallery by clicking [here](#). You're sure to be inspired!

Happy Spring!
Paula



Meet Amy {March Guest Designer}



Hi! My name is Amy Kilgore. I have been married to my best friend for 20 years and am a SAHM to 3 boys, 19, 16, and 9. We currently live in the D.C. area, but before moving here I worked for a large scrapbook chain store. I loved being in the middle of all that paper every day and seeing all the new items before they hit the floor. Unfortunately working so much didn't give me much time to scrap. So, now as a SAHM I have plenty of time to do what I love! I have been scrapbooking to some extent my entire life! I received a "Scrapbook" for my 8th birthday and diligently put newspaper articles, photos, stickers, flowers from boys, etc. in there up through High School. After my second son was born I became totally addicted to what we now refer to as scrapbooking and have loved every moment of it! Scrapbooking for me is not just a way to preserve our memories, but it's also my creative outlet!

Thank you so much Back Porch Memories for inviting me to be your March Guest Designer! Happy Scrapping!

Layouts in 15 Minutes {or Less}

by Deb Harter



10 Minutes

Cut an 8x5” piece of Carefree, a 2x10” piece of Chirpy, a 1x12” piece of Cheery, and a 11” scallop border of Cheery. Ink edges as desired. Adhere 4x6” photo to dark brown cardstock and cut a 1/8” mat around photo. Layer papers and photo as shown. Adhere “Just Be” sticker to dark brown cardstock and cut around the edges. Use pop dots to attach title to top left corner of photo. Add journaling sticker to lower right corner of photo. Add flower stickers around journaling sticker and buttons to flower centers. Add ribbon flower below title. Add scallop sticker just below photo.

15 Minutes

Add butterfly and cloud stickers to page as shown. Put stickpins in ribbon flower. Add “say cheese” and “cutie pie” stickers to lower right part of page.



Scrapbook Shortcuts {Packing for a Crop}

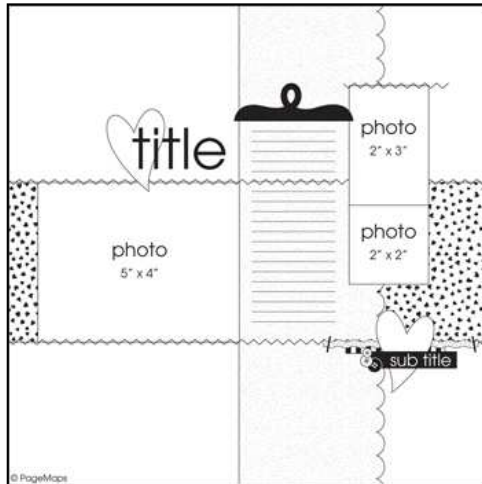
by Alissa Trowbridge

Rather than showing you a quick and easy tip or trick this month, I’m going to share with you my top three hints on packing for your next crop. Hopefully these hints will help you get more done (and pack less) for your next crop.

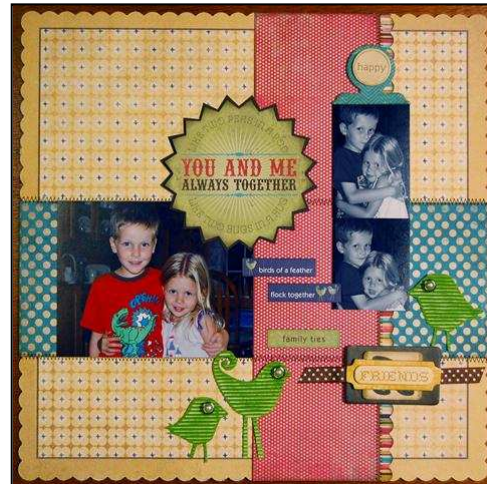
1. Create “page kits” to take with you. Gather the photos you want to scrap, matching papers, embellishments, cardstock and anything else you might want to add to the page (loose buttons, jewels, etc.) and put it in a zip top baggie or other organizer. Make up more than you think you need – you can always save whatever you don’t get done for your next crop! BPM kits are great for taking to crops!
2. Pack an essential tool tote. Don’t bring every tool you own, but just the basics and things you use often. Don’t forget extra adhesive! Remember, scrappers are nice – we often share our tools so if you forget something, just ask if anyone else brought what you forgot. If you attend a lot of crops, you may even consider getting duplicate tools and basics. One set for your crop bag and one set for home.
3. Coordinate with friends to reduce duplicates. My friends and I will often plan who should bring their Big Shot, Cricut or laptop so that we don’t have 4-5 of these taking up space on our cropping table. Then we just share among ourselves.

{March Sketch}

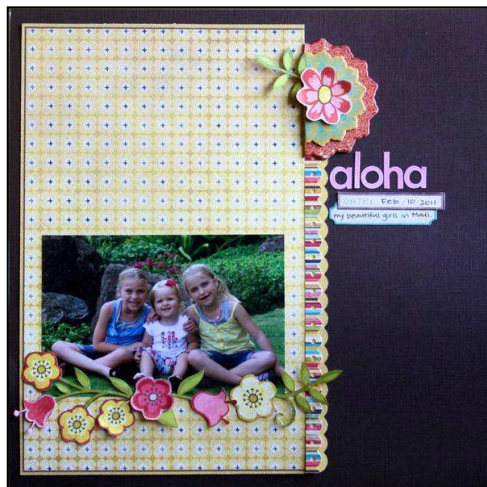
selected from www.pagemaps.com



March Sketch



Deb Harter



Danielle Calhoun



Amy {March Guest Designer}



May Guest Designer Search

The search is on for our May 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!

Organization Tips

by Michelle Swartzinski



This month I am going to give you some ideas for organizing your paper collection (since I know you 'collect' paper like I do)!

Organizing your paper can be a tricky since there are so many different ways to sort your papers...by pattern, color, manufacturer, type or theme. I used to sort my pattern papers in hanging file folders by stripes, polka dots, florals, holidays and also had a couple of theme sections like birthday, pet, etc.

My system now is a lot easier for me...I keep everything sorted by manufacturer. I store my cardstock by color. I use vertical holders made by Cropper Hopper (they are clear so you can see what each folder has inside it). They are inexpensive which is great for the budget. I also have some wooden cubes with slots from Michaels that most of my pattern paper is stored in. I have mine stacked vertical but you could place them horizontal too.

Don't throw out your scraps!

Individual plastic drawers, folders or even plastic baggies are a good way to find what you're looking for quickly. I use an empty Cropper Hopper folder for my scraps. I have one for pattern paper and one for color cardstock. This system works great for me right now.

I would love to know how you sort/store your paper. Visit the message and share your tips with us!



Paper Flower Tutorials

by Amy Kilgore {March Guest Designer}

I don't know about you, but I am ready for some warm breezes, sunshine and flowers! But, since the flowers aren't blooming quite yet here in Northern Virginia I decided to make some myself. I'm going to show you how to make 3 simple flowers that you can then add to any project, layout, or card. The wonderful thing about making your own flowers is that you can customize them to match your project!

Cabbage Rose - Original idea from Julie at Cosmo Cricket's blog.



Step 1: Punch out 3 scalloped circles. You can use un-scalloped if you prefer, but I like the ruffles!



Step 2: Wet each of your circles. Wipe off any excess water.



Step 3: Scrunch up your wet circles. No wrong way to do this, just smunch 'em up! Let them dry, I'm impatient so I used the embossing gun to hurry it up a little!

Step 4: Gently un-scrunch the circles. Undo one almost all the way, another a little less and leave the third almost completely smunched. Then layer your smunched circles, largest to smallest and glue together. Play with the edges until it looks good to you!



Step 5: Embellish! I put a gem brad in the center of this one and added some pink stickles to the edges to give it some glam!

Shabby Chic Flower - Original idea from Tara Anderson at the Crate Paper blog.



Step 1: Cut 5 circles from coordinating papers. Mine were 3 1/2", 3", 2 1/2", 2", & 1 1/2". You can make them bigger or smaller, and you can cut them by hand, use punches, or any circle cutter you have!

Step 2: Wet your circles. I like to dunk them in a bowl (like I did with the Cabbage Roses above), but you can run them under the faucet or use a spray bottle. You want them to be good and wet, and then use a paper towel to dry off any excess water.

Step 3: Now, roll up the edges of your circles. Remember this is a shabby chic flower, you don't want it to be "perfect".



Step 4: After the circles are dry, stack them up from biggest to smallest and adhere them together. You can glue them or I use a stapler.

Step 5: I like glitter on my flowers, so I put Glossy Accents randomly around the edges and sprinkled Diamond Dust on it.





Step 6: Now is my favorite part! Embellishing! You could use a brad, a gem or a button like I did. Anything goes!

Here are two examples I created using these fun flowers. The card uses the Cabbage Rose and the layout features the Shabby Chic flowers. I hope you'll try making a few of these on your own!

