



I have some exciting news to share! We're hosting another online crop in May ☺ We know how many of you LOVE our crops and this one is sure not to disappoint. Our Design Team has already begun planning challenges, classes and a few surprises, too.

The main crop weekend is Friday, May 13<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup>. Some of the challenges and classes will then have extended due dates into the next weekend, which we know you really loved last time. So mark those calendars!

And... (this is so fun) our grand prize will be a six-month subscription to Back Porch Memories Kit Club. Yes, you read that correctly! There will be other fabulous prizes, too!

I sincerely hope you'll join us for our online crop and get some scrapping done!

See you online soon,  
Paula



## Meet Ilene {April Guest Designer}



Hi everyone, my name is Ilene Tell and I was so honored to be asked to be a guest designer for Back Porch Memories! I love these kits - they are always packed full of the latest and funnest stuff you can find out there.

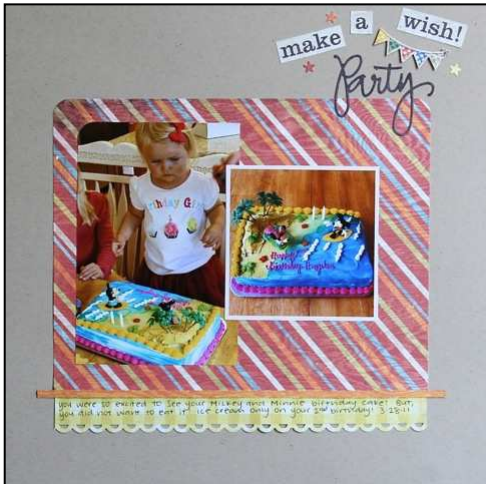
I started scrapbooking after the birth of my daughter more than 6 years ago. I scrapped on and off, until about a year ago when all of a sudden I became pretty obsessed...you know how that goes. I love to play with patterned paper and all of the embellishments. I have been lucky enough to be published in print magazines and ezines and to be on several manufacturer design teams, as well as a feature writer for Scrapstreet. I have my daughter and almost two years ago my son came along, so there are always tons of cute pics to scrap.

I would say my style is somewhat artsy. I love to try new things, to distress and add layers, and lots of details, like hand stitching, and paint, and tons of embellishments. I must confess that I don't scrapbook just to preserve memories....it's my "me" time ☺ I'm looking forward to getting to join such a talented design team for the month!

Check out my blog: <http://whatabunchofscrap.blogspot.com>

## Layouts in 15 Minutes {or Less}

by Danielle Calhoun



### 10 Minutes

I used the April medley for this page. Use the Kraft paper as the background. Choose your background patterned paper. Trim paper to 6 x 9in. Use a corner punch to round just the upper left hand corner. Trim another pattern of paper to 2 x 9in and use a border punch to create a border. Trim one more solid piece of patterned paper to ½ x 10in. Adhere your papers as you can see below, and adhere your photos. Add your title stickers, and embellishments to the upper right hand corner. And you are done in 10 minutes!

### 15 Minutes

If you want to spend 5 more minutes on your page, you can add another detailed embellishment. I used the chipboard banners that were in the medley add-on (you could also cut your own from patterned paper scraps leftover from the Basic Grey papers). I threaded the ribbon through the banners & glued them down! There it is, 15 minutes or less!



## Scrapbook Shortcuts {Dressing Up Premade Chipboard}

by Alissa Trowbridge



I love the pre-decorated chipboard pieces in this month's Solo Kit. They are awfully cute on their own, don't you think? And definitely a quick and easy embellishment. Just peel off the backing and stick them down.

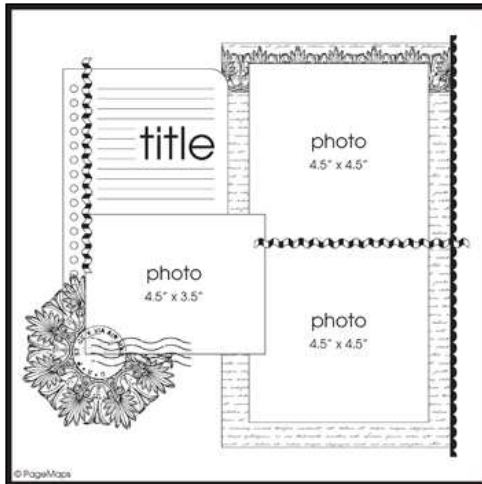
However, sometimes it's fun to dress up premade goodies a bit. On the left side of my "The Fam: Thanksgiving Weekend" layout, I clustered three of the chipboard flowers in the bottom corner. One of which I topped with a cute Prima flower from the kit. The yellow flower got embellished with one of the Jenni Bowlin buttons. And finally, for the pink flower, I peeled off three little chipboard buttons from the sheet and stuck those on like fruit.

So quick, so easy! I love the added dimension without the added work.

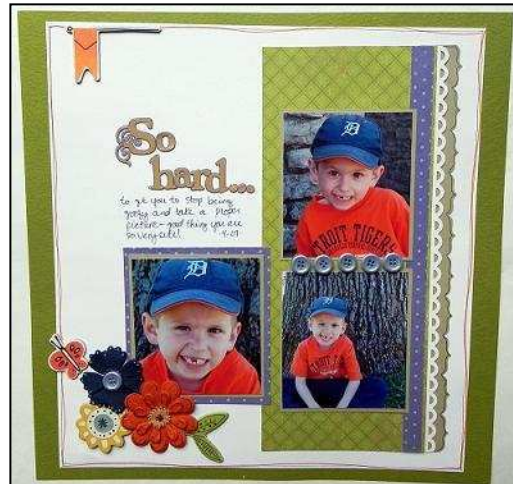
*Editor's Note: To see the rest of Alissa's two-page spread, click [here](#).*

## {April Sketch}

selected from [www.pagemaps.com](http://www.pagemaps.com)



April Sketch



Michelle Swartzinski



Danielle Price



Ilene Tell {April Guest Designer}



## May Online {Virtual} Crop

Mark your calendar! Our next online crop will be held starting on Friday, May 13<sup>th</sup>. The main weekend crop will end Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup>. This main weekend is when most of the activity and fun will be happening, but some of our challenges and classes will have extended due dates through Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup> to give you a little more time to complete them.

There will be lots of prizes (each challenge will have it's own)! Plus, the grand prize is a six-month autoship subscription to Back Porch Memories. Wow!

We hope you'll join us for challenges, chatting and lots and lots of fun!

## Organization Tips

by Michelle Swartzinski



This month I am going to give you some ideas for organizing your buttons, flowers and ribbon using glass jars or containers.

I have found that being able to see my small embellishments makes me more likely to use them. I have glass jars full of buttons, flowers, ribbons and other little items. I have them sorted by color family. The other benefit is the jars look pretty on my shelves.

IKEA sells glass jars/containers at a very low price. I also have some plastic containers from Michael's that were pretty cheap.

I would love to know how you sort/store your buttons, flowers and ribbons...visit the message board [here](#) and share your tips with us!



## Badge Holder Mini Book

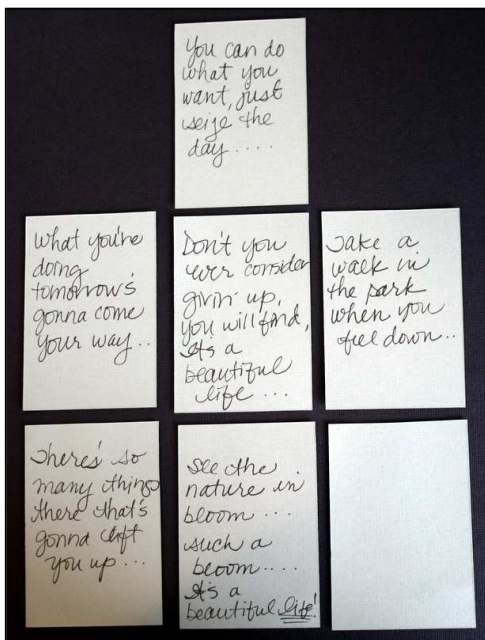
by Danielle Price

The mini-album I did for this month I made out of plastic badge holders. I think I found these at the dollar tree. It came in a package of ten but I only used eight. This was a fun, quick and easy project that doesn't require a whole lot of materials. Great for scraps!

1. I cut eight 2 1/4 x 3 1/4 cardstock pieces.
2. I then added a photo to seven of the cardstock pieces.



*Continues next page...*



3. I wrote the song "What a Beautiful Day" by Ace of Base onto the back of the cardstock pieces.

4. I then placed them into the sleeves. It is a tight fit and you will probably only have room for the cardstock and the photo. I added all the embellishments to the outside of the plastic sleeve. It kind of has a cool effect.



5. For the front I added a small piece of patterned paper and the "what" and "beautiful" stickers to the cardstock. I then placed it into the sleeve. The rest is placed on top of the plastic sleeve.

The jute, buttons and ribbon are from my stash.

*Editor's Note: If you've made this or any of Danielle's other mini books, we'd love to see them! Be sure to post your creations in our gallery.*