



It's finally warming up! I don't know about you, but I am happy to see the worst of the cold weather on its way out the door. Finally!

With warmer temperatures come lots of great photo opportunities. Don't forget to grab your camera and capture those cherished spring memories like:

- flowers blooming in the yard
- planting the garden
- the kids playing in the sunshine
- you and your family on Mother's Day

Then grab your April Back Porch Memories kit(s) and get busy! Both the Solo Kit and the Medley Kit this month are filled with papers and products that are *perfect* for scrapping the happy spring colors and moments in your life. Need some inspiration to get you started? Check out our April Design Team Gallery [here](#).

And don't forget about the Member Layouts created just for your eyes! Misty Willis did an outstanding job for April, you should not miss these. Find your password inside your kit – she uses up the kit so you can use yours up, too. www.backporchmemories.com/pageplans.htm

Enjoy the sun-filled spring!

Paula



Meet Mandi {April Guest Designer}



I am in my twenties and live in Michigan with my parents, brother and a spoiled dog.

I have been crafting for as long as I can remember but really got into it when I was tween. That is when my dad was getting me more into paper crafting. I am sure he didn't realize what a large stash accumulating over the years. I don't see my room as a scrap room because I do so many crafts. I sew, play with polymer clay, knit crochet, etc. I always call it a craft room. No matter what project I am making you will see an appearance of signature items, twine, pom-poms and washi tape.

Besides crafting, I love to spend time cooking, reading and spending time with my family.

Layouts in 15 Minutes {or Less}

by Margy Eastman

I love the spring colors in this month's Medley kit – and with two more inches of snow on the ground here in Alaska in the last two days, I'm dying for spring! I chose the Carta Bella papers to go with a set of photos of my poor old dog Rocky sporting the "cone of shame." These lovely, classy papers worked nicely with my rather unsophisticated story. Of course, this layout would be even nicer with photos of your kids in their Easter best! But in this case, Rocky's bonnet will do nicely.

I have to add that Paula set me up with the cute veneer dogs. They turned out to be much smaller than I expected, but I'm learning to love them. They are adorable.



15 Minute Layout Ingredients

Cardstock – Bazzill Vanilla Cream and Blossom

Patterned Paper - Carta Bella "So Noted" (Inked Numerals front and back, Always You)

Stickers – Basic Grey "Olivia"

Border punches - Fiskars "Apron Strings" and Fiskars rotary scalloped blade (super fast!)

Ribbon – May Arts

Additional Supplies for 30 Minute Layout

Buttons – Fancy Pants "Park Bench"

Twine – Twinery

Veneers – Studio Calico (I couldn't resist using these!)

Die cut – Back Porch Memories

Bling – Kaiser Craft

Washi tape – Bella Boulevard

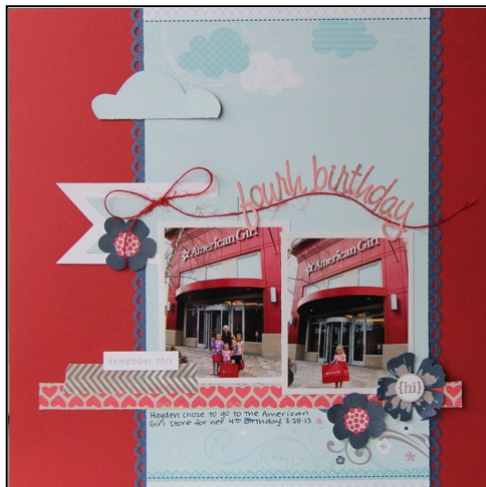
Pen – Sakura (I outlined the letter stickers so they'd stand out more)



{April Sketch}
selected from www.pagemaps.com



April Sketch



Danielle Calhoun



Rochelle Spears



Alissa Trowbridge



Mandi {Guest Designer}

Designer Details {Washi Tape}

by Danielle Calhoun



I just love Washi Tape. There are so many creative ways to use it, and so many fun colors & patterns. There are endless ideas to be creative with Washi Tape, but I will share a few of my favorites.

Washi Borders: The many patterns & colors of Washi Tape make for fun borders. Take your favorite Washi Tape and stick it to a strip of cardstock. Grab your favorite border punch, and voila! You have a border.



Photo Corners: I love the look of washi tape over photo corners. This is such an easy way to add some color or pattern to your page, and give an "old scrapbook" style look to your pages.



Washi Tape layering: You can layer your washi tape along with your patterned papers. It adds a fun dimension to any page!



Washi Tape banner: You may have seen this posted in the forum under "tips & techniques" this month. This is another easy way to add some fun dimension, color & pattern to your project. All you need is your washi tape & twine. Take your washi tape and twine. Take the washi tape & wrap a piece around the twine leaving about 1.5 inches on each side and tape the sides together. Take your scissors & cut the ends of your washi tape into banners. Super easy.

There are endless things you can do with Washi Tape. These are just a few of my favorites! The fun grey patterned Washi Tape in many of my examples is an add-on this month!

Altering Chipboard Alphas

by Rochelle Spears



Even though there are so many different colors and styles of alphas, there is always a time when you need one that you don't have. That's what great about the natural chipboard alphas, such as the Thickers that are including in the April Solo Kit. There are many ways you can alter natural chipboard alphas, such as misting and embossing which I did here:

First I misted my alphas with the colors I wanted. I waited for it to dry and then stamped them with embossing ink. I then sprinkled the alphas with clear embossing powder and used my heat gun for the transformation.

There are so many other creative ways to alter natural chipboard, such as glitter, paper, inks, paints, stamping, just to mention a few. Just let your creativity run wild!



Scrapbook Shortcuts {Pink for Boys}

by Alissa Trowbridge



When I saw this month's Solo Kit, I fell in love with the collection.

Lately I've only been scrapping pictures that are centered around my little boy because they are just so much fun to scrap! Plus, let's be honest... I have a ton of his photos to scrap! But I'm drawn to more feminine colors and patterns, like the pink in the Solo Kit. What's a mom of a boy to do? Use the pink anyway! Just in small doses.

In this layout here, I toned down the pink of the background patterned paper by covering it with some of the more masculine prints and colors. There's still a bit left on the page, but it feels more boyish. I then made the sentiment die cut work on my page by trimming away the rest of the words and just leaving the "ladies" part so that the "call me" part from the background patterned paper worked right into my title.

If you want to see how I used the rest of the kit for my boy pages, check out my work in the April Gallery!