



Meet Janis {May Guest Designer}



I'm Janis Medina-Maghinay, a scrapbooker from the Philippines. I am married to a very supportive husband JE and a mother to Nat (3yo) and Phil (2yo). I started scrapbooking April 2008 and have never been able to stop. I do mostly 12x12 LOs, but also dabble in cardmaking and altered projects.

I have a penchant for elaborate layouts and intimate journaling. I love bold colors, different textures and embellishments. Clustering, layering and distressing are the usual techniques that I use although I am not afraid to experiment and try other techniques. I feel that I have a lot to learn in this craft.

I am so excited and honored to be Back Porch Memories' Guest Designer for May. BPM is such a warm place to find inspiration, make friends and have fun.

To view more of my work, you can visit my blogsite at

<http://www.thereluctantscrapper.blogspot.com/>.

Layouts in 15 Minutes {or Less}

by Deb Harter

10 Minutes



Use brown cardstock as your base. Cut a circle 8 ½ inches in diameter of the Fancy Pants Delight Potpourri paper. Punch or cut a total of 14 circles 1 7/8 inches in diameter of orange cardstock and adhere them to the back of the large circle of Potpourri paper creating a scallop border around the circle. Adhere your scalloped circle to the center of the brown cardstock. Cut a piece of Fancy Pants Bubbles paper 11 x 3 ½ inches and adhere to the center of your page. Cut a piece of Fancy Pants Spice paper 10 x 2 ¼ inches and adhere to the lower part of the scalloped circle, overlapping the Bubbles paper as shown. Adhere two 3 ½ x 5 pictures to the center of the page, and add your title just above the pictures.

15 Minutes

Take five more minutes to jazz up your page by adding some doodling to accent the orange scallop edge with a dark brown or black pen. Add a decorative cardstock border just below the pictures and a couple of Chatterbox deluxe brads to the lower right corner of the second picture. Add a few Fancy Pants rub-ons to the upper left corner and the lower right corner of the brown cardstock, and you are finished!



Scrapbook Shortcuts

{Journaling: No Handwriting or Computer Required}

by Alissa Trowbridge

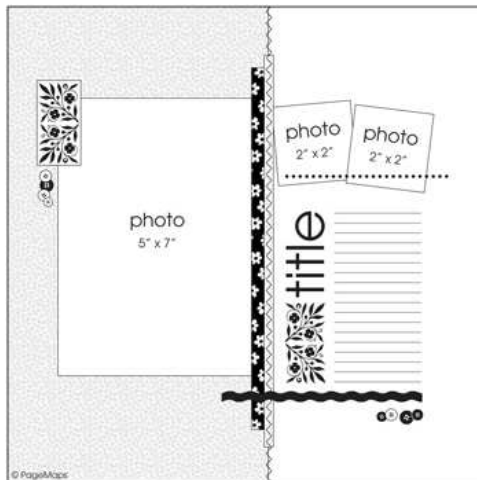


Don't like your handwriting? What about the time it takes to type and print out journaling on your computer? Forget both of these and use the mini letter stickers included in both the Solo (orange) and Medley (black) kits this month instead.

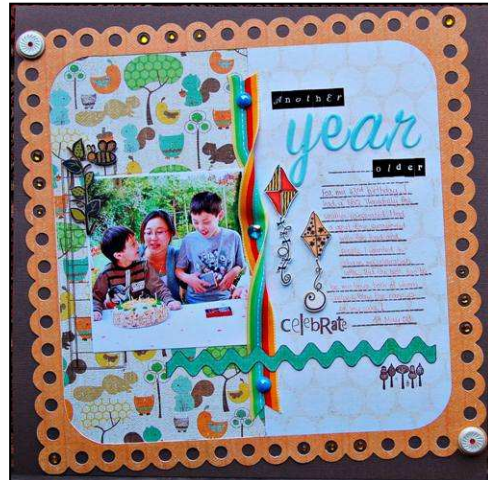
On the layout here, I used the mini letter stickers to journal just a few points about my husband "running for fun." When using this technique, keep in mind you probably won't have punctuation or symbols to use. So you either have to be o.k. with that *or* draw them in with a matching marker. I'm o.k. with the lack of punctuation – I think it adds to the whimsical nature of this technique!

{May Sketch}

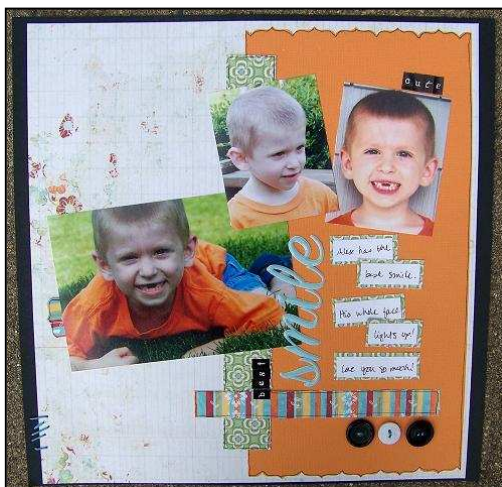
selected from www.pagemaps.com



May Sketch



Audrey Tan



Michelle Swartzinski



Deb Harter



{Seasonal Cards}

by Lisa Turley

Editor's Note: Look what you can do with the Solo! Lisa created these three beautiful cards with her scraps.

We love them!

Photo Mojo {Working with Sunlight}

by Michelle Swartzinski

The direction of sunlight, especially hard sunlight, changes how people look in photographs. Which direction is best? That depends on the effect you're trying to achieve.

Front Lighting

Putting the natural sunlight behind the photographer lights up all the features of the subject. This is a flat light that gives minimum shadows.

Back Lighting

Back lighting occurs when you position your subject facing away from the sun. This places your subject's face in shadow, eliminating squinting and often adding a glow to hair. Use 'fill flash' to lighten your subject's face. When back lighting your subject, get as close as you can to eliminate the background (so the background is out of focus).

Side Lighting

Using side lighting separates your subject from the background and adds a three-dimensional aspect to your photographs. It also produces more texture and shade. When using natural light as side lighting, the best time of the day is just after sunrise or before sunset in the late afternoon. At a 45-degree angle to the side, it's one of the most flattering types of portrait lighting.

Be sure to check out the Photo Mojo section on the message board and share your pictures using front, back or side lighting – would love to see your photographs!



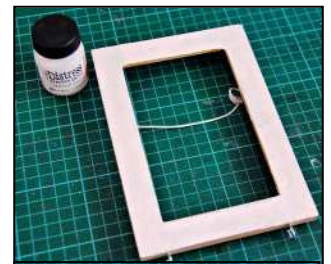
Home Décor – Revamp!

by Audrey Tan

Since embarking (and being thoroughly obsessed) on scrapbooking, I've gone beyond the pages and started decorating items for the home. I came across this three hanging frames (from Ikea) which I had put up 10 years ago when I first moved in. At that time, I wasn't into scrapbooking but was looking at home décor magazines and it was then the rage to create your own pictures to hang on the wall. So these were off-cuts from wallpapers. Fast forward ten years later, I looked at it and realised how dated they were and it was time for a revamp! So that was what I did.



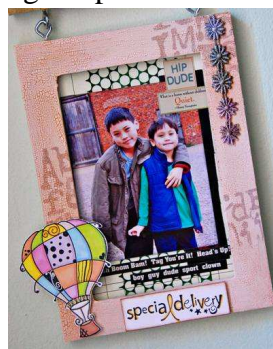
I decided to fill the frames with family photos. Then I worked on the outside. I wanted to keep it simple so I painted them with Tim Holtz's crackle paint. I used tattered rose and shabby shutters. Rather than wait for the paint to dry, I heat blast them with my heat gun and instantly the crackle appeared.



To give some colour to the crackled effect, I applied Tim Holtz's distressed inkpad (vintage photo) onto them, using a cut and dry foam. This was dabbed on randomly to give it a slightly aged look. Once done, I stamped background images on certain areas and added some embellished pieces to finish it.



Here's the result of the three decorated frames including the photos within it:



Here's how it looks on the wall now. It's far more modern and up-to-date!

