

BackPorchMemories

Creativity made easy.....



Newsletter
May 2011

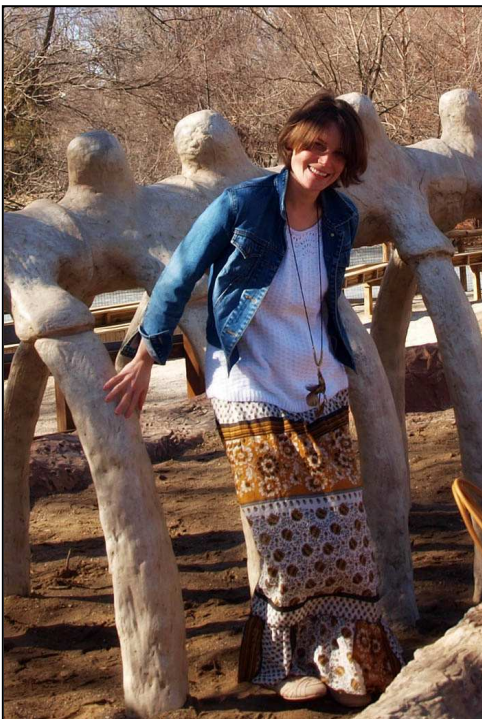
Hello, everyone!

After years (!) of fabulous layouts and projects for Back Porch Memories, Michelle Swartzinski has stepped down from our Design Team after the April kit. Michelle's versatile designs (and photos of her adorable boys!) will truly be missed on our site, although she has assured us she'll still hang around with us on our message board as it's her "home." ☺

With Michelle leaving, we've asked our January guest designer, Karry Weaver, to step up to the plate. We are thrilled to have her! Karry's work and outgoing personality on our message board absolutely impressed us months ago and we're sure you're going to love her, too. Welcome to the team, Karry!

You know, writing this greeting has made me stop and think. I am so thankful for my loyal customers and designers. Without you all, I would not be able to continue to create the kits and community you all love so much. Thank you all for your support!

Grateful for you all,
Paula



Meet Sabrina {May Guest Designer}

Hi there! My name is Sabrina Alery and I am so thrilled to be a little part of Back Porch Memories for the month of May! I live in a spooky old farmhouse in the middle of nowhere, Iowa (but close to the Bridges of Madison County if you're familiar) with my handsome, hard-working husband, our 3 wonderful and non-stop toddlers, my MIL (who is a huge help to us) 3 rat terriers and a pig. Scrapbooking has been a huge sanity saver for me ever since I tried to make a unique baby book for my daughter - long before I knew there was this whole other world of scrapbooking - 4 years ago. Now it's become a full-blown obsession! When I'm not playing with paper, I love to sew clothing and home accessories, try out new recipes and spend time in the great outdoors. You can see more of my layouts, DIY projects and life in general on my blog, [Honor Roll](#). Thanks for having me this month!!

Layouts in 15 Minutes {or Less}

by Deb Harter



10 Minutes

Use a sheet of vanilla Bazzill as the background. Leave about 1/4" edge around entire page of cardstock showing. Cut a 11.5 x 3" strip of Lily Bee Teacup. Ink with black ink, and adhere it to the left side of the page. Cut a 6 x 8" piece of Lily Bee Pretty Fabric. Ink with black ink, and adhere to top right of page. Cut a 4 x 8" piece of Lily Bee Postcard (back side). Ink with black ink, and adhere to bottom right of page. Cut a scallop border from Postcard (front side – stripe). Ink with black ink, and adhere across seam of right side papers. Adhere crepe paper border along vertical seam of papers as shown. Adhere ribbon across top of scallop border. Mat a 4 x 6" photo with vanilla cardstock, and adhere near the center of the page, overlapping the crepe paper border. Add flowers to lower left corner of photo. Add title to lower right corner of

page. Add journaling card below scallop border.

15 Minutes

Add ruler border sticker from Medley embellishment add on just to the left of the crepe paper border. Add some stitches to the top right corner of the photo. Add some fun word stickers on the left side of the picture and the "memories" sticker (from the embellishment add on).



Scrapbook Shortcuts {Using Twine for Texture & Interest}

by Alissa Trowbridge

Have you noticed the cool white and colored twine that's been popping up on cards, layouts and projects in our hobby lately? It's called "baker's twine" and it's HOT!

I love this product because it's so incredibly easy to incorporate into my projects. It's not a tricky technique or expensive, but it makes an impact.

Here, I tied the orange/white twine in the Medley kit around my focal point photo. I love how it draws you in a bit more! I also tied a small bow of it on my accent tag for even more texture.

I hope you'll try playing with some of this fabulous twine. You, too, will fall in love with it!

Photo Mojo {Pop Photo Effects}

by Karry Weaver

Feeling artsy and want to scrap some pictures that are truly unique and too much fun?! I have a great photo tip for creating some super fun pop art type photos that are easily customized into any color you can dream of! It's so simple anyone can do it (even me!) using free Picasa software (downloadable off the internet).

It's so easy, just follow these 4 easy steps:

- 1) Open your picture in Picasa and crop it down to the desired size.
- 2) Click the "Tuning" tab and then slide both the "Highlights" and the "Shadows" sliders all the way over to the right.
- 3) Click the "Effects" tab then click the "Tint" feature. Then this is the fun part....click the rainbow box of colors and slide your mouse around until you find your perfect colors!
- 4) Save and Print.

Here are my pictures, before and after:



Want to be a Guest Designer?

Have you ever wanted to see what it's like to be on a design team? Well, here's your chance! Each month, we open up a spot on our Design Team to one lucky guest. All you have to do is create a layout based on the exclusive sketch by Becky Fleck (posted in our forum under "contests"). The contest is always due on the 10th of every month, with the winner being announced around the 15th.

Guests are given full designer privileges for the month they design with us. You'll receive a kit to design with compliments of Back Porch Memories. Plus you get access to our private Design Team forum, where we discuss all the behind the scenes stuff – what products are coming out in the next kit, what to put in our newsletter, who is working on the sketches for the month, etc. It's really fun!

Don't be shy – submit your layout to our contest and maybe YOU will be our next guest designer! Good luck!

Hand Stitching on Scrapbook Pages

by Sabrina {May Guest Designer}

Hand stitching has become a big trend in scrapbooking and is a great way to add a little extra texture and character to your pages. It takes a little extra time and may not be for every page but it is definitely a technique you should try out! One way I like to incorporate stitching is by using it as an outline. Here's a look at the process:



1. Trace the shape you want to stitch onto your page using pencil.
2. Using a needle or pin, pierce the paper at about 1/8 inch intervals.
3. Thread your needle with 2-3 strands of embroidery thread and use a back stitch – bring the thread up from the back of the paper and make a small backward stitch. Next bring the needle through the hole in front and stitch backward again. You will end up with a solid line of stitching on both the front and back of your paper.
4. You will have a solid outline of the image when finished. Embellish as you like and admire!



Mixed Up Chipboard Mini Book

by Danielle Price

This month I decided to use some of my scrap pieces of chipboard to make a mini-album. I was lucky enough to have some with scalloped edges in my stash. Be creative with yours and use a variety of sizes.



1. Trace and cut out your cardstock.



2. Adhere your cardstock to your chipboard. I sanded my edges to ruff it up a bit.

3. Attach your photos and patterned paper & add embellishments. Here's a closer look at my pages:



4. Attach your pages together with metal rings and add ribbon to them. Happy scrapping!

