



Early summer is filled with all sorts of great memories. It always seems to be this way, but this year has been exceptional!

We recently celebrated our youngest daughter's college graduation. What a milestone! Shortly thereafter, we welcomed our third grandchild into our lives. Wow. What a wonderful start to the summer!

Whether you're celebrating big milestone events like me, or the every day little moments, this month's kits are filled to the brim with papers and goodies to help you document them all. Basic Grey's "Sweet Threads" is the star of our Solo kit. Feminine photos come to mind when you look at the kit, but also consider scrapping spring, summer, or even "love" pages with it. The versatile Medley Kit is very mix-and-matchable. So many of the papers and elements look great with each other. Our Design Team thought so, too. Check out their work with both kits in our gallery [here](#).

Until next month,

Paula



Scrapbook Shortcuts {Mixing & Matching Papers}

by Alissa Trowbridge

I love the look of scrapbook pages where the designer has mixed and matched patterned papers from various manufacturers and paper lines. It usually makes for a fresh looking page! Unfortunately, it can often take me an hour or more to sift through my stash, hold papers up to my photos, pull some that might work, take out others that don't look so good... seriously, it takes me forever.

My solution to this problem is fun and EASY! Grab a Medley kit. I used June's for my example, but *any* Medley kit will do. Take everything out of the individual bags, including the cardstock and embellishments. Lay

it all out on the floor. Do you see some common color patterns? Don't forget to look at the backsides of your patterned papers, too! Pull out at least two patterns that look nice together and maybe a sheet of coordinating cardstock. As you put your page together, choose from among all the embellishments to finish off the look.

For my example, the Cosmo Cricket word paper reminded me of Christmas. I have no idea why, except that it's red! So I then pulled the green circle side of the My Mind's Eye paper in to use with it. I loved how that looked. Then realized the doily Cosmo Cricket paper reminded me a bit of snowflakes. By just using the red, green and blue doilies cut from the paper on my page, it reinforced the Christmas theme.

One of the fun things about the Medley kit is Paula tries to put the kits together where things can cross over from page kit to page kit. Since she's doing a lot of the legwork for us, it makes mixing & matching a snap!

A Little More on Misty {June Guest Designer}



We're honored to have Misty back with us again as our June Guest Designer. Since she has designed for us as a guest before, we thought it would be fun to do a question and answer session with her!

How did you get your start scrapbooking?

When I was pregnant with my first son in 1996, my husband's Aunt kept inviting me to a Creative Memories "Scrapbooking Party." I never went because I not only thought I knew everything already, but I also didn't have the extra \$10 to spare at that time in my life for the cost of simply attending! She offered to pay the \$10 class fee for me if I would just come to it...so I agreed and went. Well, by the end of the class, I was HOOKED. I booked my own class with the consultant, I got enough supplies from her to create the coordinating page for a double page layout, and I even became a consultant within a few short months! I have never looked back...and I love every minute of it! Come to think of it...I never paid hubby's Aunt back the \$10!!

What a great story, Misty! Since we can see you've been scrapping a long time, what would you say are your top 3 favorite "must have" tools, other than the basics?

I LOVE my paper piercer. I use it to set my brads, to poke my stitching holes, and even to curl papers or flower petals. I LOVE my Xacto knife...I do a lot of fussy cutting and I even use it to distress my pages when I can't find my distresser under all of my piles! I love my Gypsy/Cricut. It has gotten a LOT of use and will continue for many years to come!

When do you usually scrap so you can use all of those tools? Do you like to scrap by yourself or with others?

I usually scrap at night after all of the munchkins are snoozing and all is quiet in my world. I have scrapped with others on retreats and such...but I honestly prefer to scrap alone. I am such a socializer that I spend all my time talking rather than scrapping when I am with others! LOL

Are you more of an every day moments kind of scrapper, an event-based scrapper or a bit of both?

Once upon a time I was an Event Scrapper. I thought I HAD to scrap those moments or I was doing an injustice to my kids. NOW though...I scrap more ever day moments than anything. The every day moments are the ones that I will want to remember when I am old and senile! I will want to remember my son's sense of humor and my daughter's love of the color yellow. THOSE are the important things to me.

Wow, great insight! It was fun getting to know you a little bit better. Thanks for joining us this month, Misty!

Check out Misty's work with this month's Medley Kit by clicking [here](#). Her username in our gallery is "mommyof5kidz"



Layouts in 15 Minutes {or Less}

by Deb Harter



10 Minutes

Start with kraft cardstock as your base. Cut the red patterned paper to 10x11". Use a border punch down the left side, ink edges, and adhere to the cardstock. Cut the dot paper to 8x10". Ink edges and adhere as shown on top of red paper. Cut the "Summer Heat Wave" title from the patterned paper. Ink edges and adhere to blue cardstock. Arrange pictures as shown on blue cardstock and trim cardstock, leaving a 1/16" border around the edges. Cut a scallop border with the stripe paper and adhere to the left side of the blue cardstock. Adhere all as shown. Add mesh ribbon along left side of page.

15 Minutes

Cut banner from patterned paper and adhere to the top of the page. Add flower to left center of page. Add journaling sticker and date to lower right of page.



Product Review {Paint Dabbers}

by Karry Weaver



With the gorgeous June Solo Basic Grey Sweet Threads kit this month, you get a Tim Holtz Adirondack Paint Dabber. Oh, I was so excited. I have really been wanting to play with one of these.

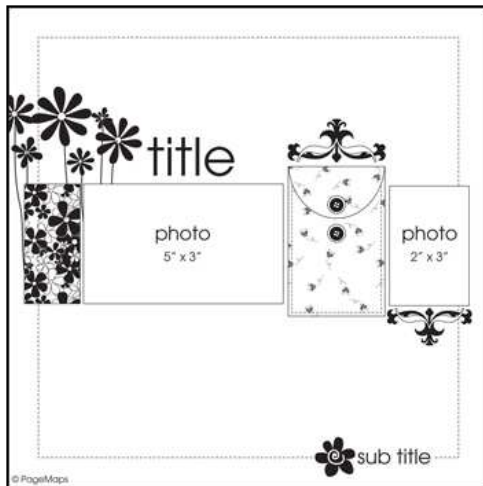
Let me tell you, you will love it. The paint is thick and smooth and the dabber tip is just too handy. No messy brush and you can make nice smooth lines with it. Of course the lid also unscrews for dipping and splattering! The most surprising and most impressive part was just how quickly it dries. I'm used to painting and then having to leave my work over night to finish it! Well, not this time! From paint to finished LO took less than an hour and a half.

I can see myself becoming a paint dabber addict, I can't wait to get my hands on more colors. I hope you love it as much as I have.

Here's one of the pages I did with my paint dabber. I can't wait to see your painted pages!

{June Sketch}

selected from www.pagemaps.com



June Sketch



Danielle Calhoun



Deb Harter



Misty {June Guest Designer}



Photo Mojo {Summer Photography Tips}

by Danielle Calhoun

Summer is here, and this means fun photo opportunities! There are a few things you want to consider before taking your summer photos. I will give you a few tips that I think work great. ☺

1. The best time of day to take summer photos is in the morning or evening. Midday sun is so harsh, and it is very hard to get great photographs.
2. When taking summer photos, be aware of the location of the sun. You want the sun to be behind the photographer, but be careful not to have your subjects staring into the sunlight (though you can create some brilliant silhouettes with the sun behind the subjects). Choose shady areas midday, and watch for partial sunlight on your subjects face.

3. Capture the mood. What does summer mean to your family? Cook outs, swimming, beach, backyard fun, eating ice cream, vacations? Be sure to capture these specific activities that make you remember the senses of summer. Sure, take that close up of your BBQ dinner, the blue skies, the fresh cut grass. You will want to remember it!

4. Is your camera ready? Take the opportunity to be sure that your camera is ready for the day. Are your batteries charged, do you have a backup? A partially charged battery can make a difference in your photographs. For an important event, always start with a fully charged battery.

5. Summer skies. Over the summer, I tend to take a lot of photos that include the blue summer sky. If you are shooting with a DSLR you want to read on.

Look at this photo, below, on the left. Look closely at the sky. Do you see the grey spots? These spots are dust on my sensor. And these spots really only show up when photographing the beautiful blue sky.



After I saw these spots, I knew my sensor needed to be cleaned. I ran a test shot with my camera to see how bad my sensor was. See all of these spots? This should be a solid color. My sensor was DIRTY!!!



And after a 5-minute sensor cleaning, my blue skies are blue again! It is amazing what these simple fixes will do for your photos. Such as, using a fully charged battery, and watching for dust spots in your sky.



If you do find you need your sensor cleaned, and you need some tips, feel free to ask me on our message board!