



I have some exciting news...

Last month I finally showed you a picture of my sweet little granddaughter. This month I will tell you that she is going to be a big sister about the time she has her first birthday in March! You will be seeing plenty of baby pictures in my layouts for a while. It's quick, but everyone is very excited and looking forward to another tiny blessing.

CHA begins next week! My bags are packed and I am ready to do some major buying for your upcoming kits. Plenty of sneak peeks have been coming out already and it looks like there will be lots of great kits coming your way over the next several months. I know it is very tempting to go out and purchase all of the pretty new paper and embellishments but please keep an eye out for the list of paper lines I purchase for upcoming kits so you will be less likely to duplicate.

In this economy we can all use a little help now and then. I have been looking hard for great deals to pass on to you from manufacturers. You will notice that the August kits have a much higher value than usual, I hope you enjoy the added value and you can feel confident that I will keep looking for great deals. You can stretch your dollar even further by purchasing both monthly kits – shipping remains only \$8, why pay shipping somewhere else?



Meet Lynn {July Guest Designer}



Hello, my name is Lynn Kopas and I currently live in North Attleboro, Mass. I am a fulltime ultrasonographer and work at several busy Ob/Gyn practices. I'm currently living with my phenomenal yellow lab and 2 cats.

I have always loved photography and I recently started scrapbooking about 2.5 years ago. I love photographing kids and when they're around you rarely see me without a camera in my face! My new DSLR has become an obsession and I also have a point and shoot that I carry with me at all times!

I am such a collector ... and scrapbooking supplies are the new addiction - my scraproom is pure evidence!!! I LOVE to organize ... anything!

I love that through scrapbooking and photography I'm able to preserve wonderful memories and to be able to pass them on is a great gift that warms my heart!

Layouts in 15 Minutes {or Less}

by Tami Floyd



10 Minutes

Use yellow cardstock as your base. Next, cut a 6x8" piece of Fruit Punch (red side) tearing the left side all the way down. Glue this paper about 1/4" from top and 1/2" from left on yellow cs. Cut 12x3 1/4" piece of Cotton Candy (blue side). Round top corners. Place blue pp just underneath the red pp and adhere. Cut 8 1/2x5 1/2" piece of Juicy Orange. Border punch the top, if so desired. Glue just above the blue pp. Cut a 5 1/2x1 1/2" piece of Cotton Candy using the green/white dot side. Border punch the top, if so desired, and then adhere just above the Juicy Orange pp somewhat centering it. Mat (3) 2x3 photos on white cs. Adhere photos on to Juicy Orange pp. Cut the swirl from the Banana Split and glue it into place as shown. Cut 3/4x6" piece of Cotton Candy using the green/white dot side. Glue just at the bottom of the blue pp placing it just underneath the

swirl. Cut (2) label shaped pieces from white cardstock. Cut the top off one and the other one cut in half. Adhere them under the photos. Cut the flower from the Banana Split pp and glue atop of the larger label. Cut title from white cardstock and place it on blue pp.

15 Minutes

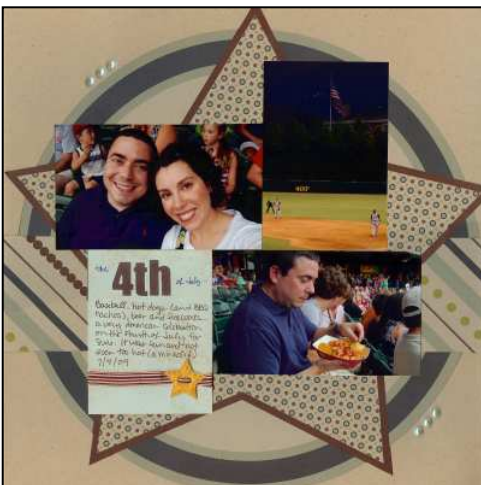
Cut a 1/4" thick half circle ring (arc) from the Cotton Candy paper. Place the arc between the swirl and the top edge of the Juicy Orange pp. Thread three buttons and place them along the circle. Cut out little flowers from the Bo Bunny rub-ons and place them in the right corner as shown. I had one little piece of red cardstock remaining on my desk from which I had used to cut a scallop border. I took the negative piece and glued it just between the blue Cotton Candy and the green/white dot patterned paper.



Scrapbook Shortcuts

{Creative Uses for Shaped Paper}

by Alissa Trowbridge

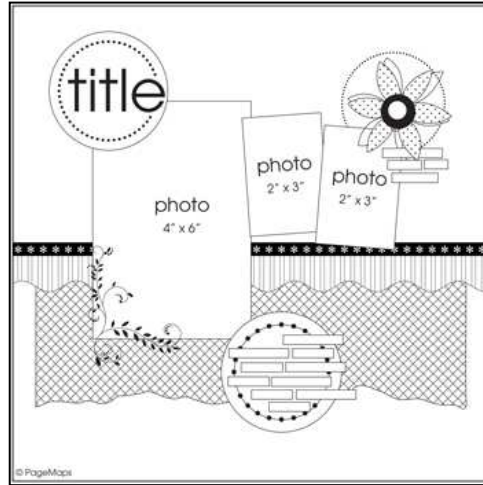


I absolutely loved the star & circle shaped piece of paper included in the Medley kit this month! I could have used it as-is for my background, but I decided to jazz it up a bit. See the stripe strip going across my page, seemingly threaded under the star and circle piece? It's an illusion.

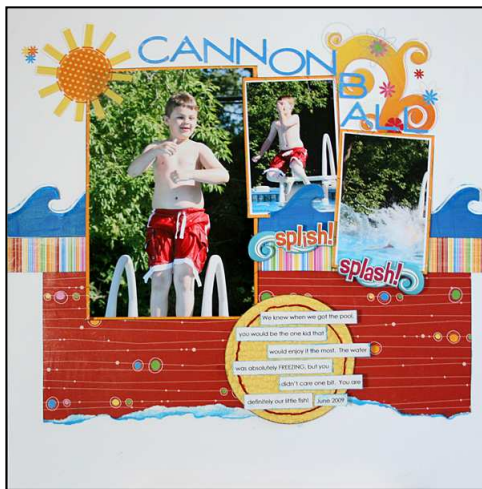
I cut about a 2 1/2" x 12" piece from the stripe. Then I placed it on top of the star/circle piece and marked where I was going to cut. From here, I cut off the sides of star/circle where I wanted the stripe to show. Then I placed the stripe piece underneath so just the sides show. The whole process took maybe 3 minutes!

{July Sketch}

selected from www.pagemaps.com



July Sketch



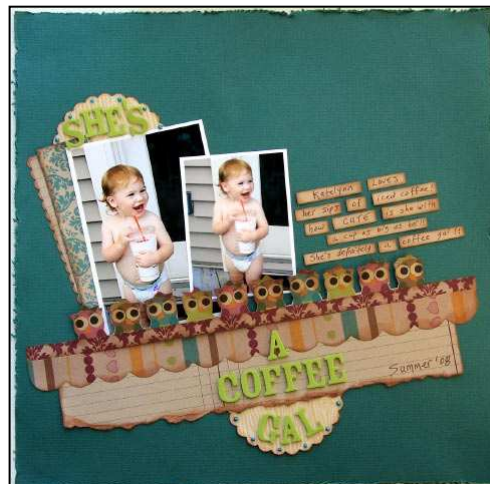
Tami Floyd



Danielle Calhoun



Audrey Tan



Lynn (July Guest Designer)

Photo Mojo

{Common Photo Mistakes & Solutions}

by Michelle Swartzinski

If you are like me, you have probably had a few of the following 'mistakes' show up in your photographs. Hopefully these tips will help you...I know they have helped me!

Mistake: Underexposed photos (dark photos).

Fix: Be sure that you have your window open, and you are using the natural light that is available indoors.

Mistake: Overexposed photos (too bright).

Fix: On sunny days, find a shady space you can use to take your picture. Take advantage of overcast weather! Manually adjusting your shutter speed will also help.

Mistake: Cluttered photos.

Fix: Get closer to your subject to prevent 'cluttering' with unnecessary objects in the photo.

Mistake: Red eye.

Fix: Turn off your camera's flash. If it's too dark to go without a flash, ask your subject to look toward the camera, but not directly at the lens. By taking photos during the day, you'll most likely eliminate the need for a flash. If necessary, bring in additional light sources. Stand farther away from your subject.

Mistake: Blurry photos. Camera shake is the most common reason for blurred pictures. Even the slightest movement will cause unclear photos. Lack of light is a third problem, because it makes it difficult for your camera to focus.

Fix: Avoid shutter lag by pressing the trigger halfway down. When the right moment comes, press all the way down to instantly capture the desired photo. This strategy is great when you're taking pictures of people (especially kids and animals). Use a tripod or brace yourself against a stationary object to hold the camera still. When it's dark, use your camera's Night Scenery mode (which uses a long exposure and no flash) or Night Portrait (which uses a flash and a long exposure) shooting mode.



Technique Tips {Distressing}

by Danielle Calhoun



A quick and easy way to add dimension to your layouts and projects is by distressing. I use a small distressing tool, but you can definitely distress the edges of your pages without the tool. (I have the pink distressing tool by Heidi Swapp) I take the tool to the edges of my paper to create a distressed look, and then use my fingers to fold the paper back more, or tear more, depending on how I want the page to look. If you do not have a distressing tool, you can get a similar look by using your fingernails on the edge of the paper, and creating your own distressed look. You can even add some ink to your distressed edges to give them more dimension.

Luggage Tag

by Audrey Tan

The summer holidays are here! No doubt there will be some jetting off for a holiday, packing luggage and getting ready to enjoy the sizzling weather. However, don't forget the mundane task of labeling the luggage especially if you're traveling via plane. Nothing worse than losing a luggage without any form of identification! I often find myself running out of luggage tags hence I decided to make my own instead. I didn't want it to be the typical luggage tag that you buy commercially so I decided to make mine a little funkier! Here's my finished effort:



Simply cut a rectangular piece according to the size you want. You can even vary the shape of the tag. I wanted to make my tag a little more personal so I added a warholized photo (created on this site: <http://bighugelabs.com/warholizer.php>). I stamped a couple of images and cut them out. Adhere them onto the card. Viola, the front of the tag is done. As for the back of the tag, I played with a background stamp and added an address label (for security reason, I've blacked out my address and replaced with a label).



To ensure that the luggage tag withstand prolonged usage, I laminated it. If you don't have a laminator, you could easily give it a coating using Modge Podge or any sealant glue (ensure it's thoroughly dried before using it). Then punch a hole at the top and attach using fibers or ribbon. That's it! An easy personalized luggage tag.



[You can see upcoming sneak peeks and future paper lines here.](#)