



It seems like I know a ton of people packing and moving this summer! Just on our Design Team alone, we have two members who have made (or are about to make) a big move. This is the time of year for moving, I suppose!

Have you had to pack and move your scrapbooking supplies to a new house or space? It can be very daunting! So many of our crafty goodies can be easily damaged in the moving process. If you're faced with an upcoming move, here are my tips to be sure everything arrives as good as new.

Paper is probably my biggest issue when moving. It's pretty worthless bent, torn, wet or dirty! I suggest packing stacks of patterned paper in large zip-top storage bags (like the kind your kit comes in). Then set these bags into paper holders such as those by Cropper Hopper, or even reused Priority Mail boxes. Finally, these can be placed into a larger packing box. I prefer to pack my paper vertically, but I think it would arrive safely stacked as well.

Any liquids such as glue, paint, inks, mists or sprays should be inserted into zip top bags to stop leaks. I then like to wrap these baggies in packing paper for extra protection. If you're planning on putting these items into storage for any amount of time, be warned that heat and/or cold can permanently change the consistency of the product or cause the packaging to leak.

Completed albums should be packed vertically with extra packing paper placed between any "open" places in the box (such as around where a large dimensional embellishment is on page) to prevent dents and bends in the rest of the pages. Use packing paper to fill the box up and keep the albums from shifting.

If you have completed pages that are not in albums yet, I suggest sliding them into page protectors and then into zip top bags. Then pack them like you did your patterned paper and cardstock.

Most embellishments are pretty easy to pack, especially if you keep them in their original packaging. This gives them a little extra protection from damage. I like to pack my embellishments in clear plastic shoeboxes and then place these in a packing box. I've never had any issues doing it this way.

The rest of our supplies can be packed just like the rest of our belongings. Use lots of packing paper to wrap the items and don't over or under fill the box.

Ta-da! Your space is packed up. Now the fun part of unpacking in your *new* space begins soon. I'll cover my unpacking tips in next month's article.

Until then,
Paula



Welcome Back, Deanna {July Guest Designer}



We're honored to have Deanna back as our July Guest Designer! We thought we'd switch things up a little and ask her some fun summertime questions. Here's what she had to say.

What's your favorite summer activity?

I love going to the pool and watching the grandkids play. It's so relaxing and refreshing in the hot summer sun.

What's your favorite flavor of ice cream?

Pecan Praline ice cream with a little Hershey's chocolate crackle topping. Brings back memories of my childhood having dipped ice cream cones at the ice cream shop.

Tell us about your favorite summer childhood memory.

Some of my favorite childhood memories are playing outside which we always did growing up. We lived on a farm so my younger brother and I would go fishing, climb trees, play in the barn and ride bikes.

Thanks, Deanna! It was fun getting to know you a bit better. Thanks for doing a great job with your kit as our Guest Designer! We loved having you.



Scrapbook Shortcuts {Mixing Textures Without the Work}

by Alissa Trowbridge



I love the look that texture brings to my projects. Fabrics, patterned paper with an interesting finish, sparkly, layered embellishments... but I don't want to spend half a day fussing over those items to create the look.

For this card, I added many layers to create more and more interest through texture, but I used all pre-made goodies. It's a simple design, but the texture makes it much more interesting.

My first choice is rather obvious. The burlap fabric flower with a wooden button center provides a huge pop. I added a bit more interest by centering a large pearl in the center of the button.

Then, I added two paper leaves. But these aren't just plain green leaves!

The papers used create even more texture – a subtle stripe and a two-toned floral do the trick.

Finally, the scalloped yellow border and the printed “lace” on the blue flag piece add even more textural interest. The “lace” may be printed on, but it reads to the eye as a layered item.

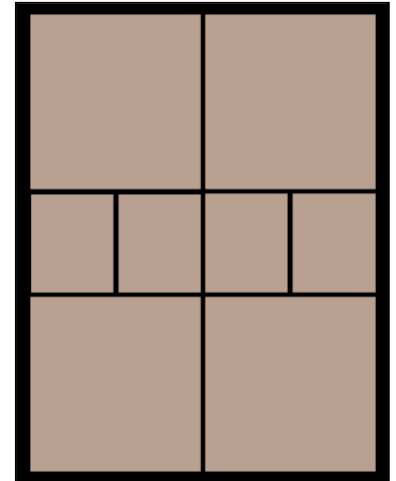
Even though this mix of items is mostly pre-made out of packages of embellishments, the combined look is interesting and prevents my finished card from looking flat. Bonus: it was a snap to create!

Layouts in 15 Minutes {or Less}

by Margy Eastman

Summer here in Alaska is so short and it absolutely crammed with projects and activities, leaving precious little time for scrapping. And after a month of choosing flooring and bathroom fixtures, my creative juices had run dry. Thankfully, I didn't have to look further than my own Project Life digital templates for inspiration.

The basic design for this page is adapted from the most popular Becky Higgins divided page protector. It's a simple design and really highlights the beautiful patterned papers in the Medley kit. It leaves lots of room for photos, embellishment and journaling. The basic sketch is to the right – look familiar?



15 Minute Layout

Cardstock – Bazzill Basics “Ash” and “Watermelon”

Patterned Paper – October Afternoon “Stamp book,” “Subway Token,” and “Directions” (both sides of each)

Stickers – October Afternoon “Land and Sea” Mini Market alphabet

Artisan Tag – Back Porch Memories

Circle Punch (tag corners) – Martha Stewart

Die Cut Machine – Silhouette (Font Marketing Script)

<http://www.dafont.com/marketing-script.font>

30 Minute Layout

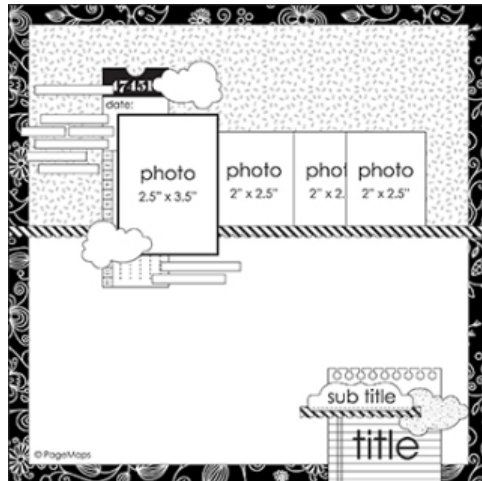
I added just a few small details to complete the layout. The buttons that came with the Medley kit were just too cute not to use, and they stand nicely on their own when backed with a cardstock circle made with my Martha Stewart punch. I also used two Martha Stewart punches to make the cardstock butterflies. See my little family of three on the tag? I adhered the butterflies using my beloved Tim Holtz tiny stapler. The buttons are secured with embroidery floss – thicker and a little faster than thread.



Divided page protectors come in a variety of configurations – check them out and see how they inspire you!

{July Sketch}

selected from www.pagemaps.com



July Sketch



Margy Eastman



Danielle Calhoun



Deanna {Guest Designer}



August Guest Designer Contest

Have you ever wanted to see what it's like to design for Back Porch Memories? This is your chance! We're looking for a Guest Designer for the month of August. Duties include: creating at least three layouts and one project (mini book, altered item, gift set, etc.) with your assigned August kit; creating a page using our monthly sketch for our newsletter; hosting an August challenge; and participating on our message board.

Does this sound like something you'd love to try? Check out the details of our August contest on our message board [here](#). Good luck!

Designer Details {Accordion Flowers}

by Danielle Calhoun

This month's Solo kit came with a large paper embellishment kit that gave endless opportunities for creating your own embellishments. One of the embellishments that you can create are the accordion flowers. These add so much cuteness & dimension to any layout or card.

The kit will come with strips of paper that almost look like they could be used as they are on your page. But if you look closely there are little marks for folding on each strip of paper. Fold these strips like an accordion, and adhere the 2 sides together, and voila! You have a super cute embellishment for any project!

The greatest thing about these flowers is that you can create them with any heavy weight paper. Cut your paper into strips, evenly fold like an accordion, and adhere the ends. Smaller folds will make tighter pinwheels, and larger folds will show more of the pattern on your paper.

Make a variety in different sizes for your next project!



Twine Ideas

by Rochelle Spears

Twine is one of the most popular trends out right now. It can make a page feel complete when added. There are so many different ways to use twine on your layout, but here are five different ways to use twine:

1. Intertwine with an embellishment
2. Add to your embellishments
3. Use to show the flow of a butterfly, balloon or any other airborne embellishment

see next page for more ideas and Rochelle's sample board.

4. Use to make a banner
5. Thread it through a tag

Try one of these twine ideas and see what a difference it makes!

