



How's your summer going? I hope you're having fun and staying cool!

Speaking of staying cool, the July kits are just that – cool! The July Medley Kit features three paper lines that are perfect for scrapping your summertime memories. Simple Stories “Under the Stars,” We R Memory Keepers “Jet Set,” and Fancy Pants “Everyday Circus” are some of my favorite lines to come out in a long time! Not only are the colors and patterns super versatile, but also the themed sides of the papers and goodies are perfect for camping, outdoors and all of those vacation photos.

The Solo Kit features the hit paper line by Fancy Pants called “Meology.” This paper line has been selling like crazy and I'm so excited I was able to get it for a kit! The colors and patterns are so juicy and rich. I can see this line looking great with your pool photos, but also everyday ones as well. One of our designers even used it to scrap some baby photos of her son. See? A versatile line for sure!

Enjoy the rest of your summer! I can't believe the next time I write this letter, many of you will be back to school (or close to it) already. Make the most of the rest of the warm days!

Until next month,
Paula



Welcome, Karen {July Guest Designer}



I am a SAHM living in Virginia for now! Was married to the military for over 20 years and am finally back home! I have 6 kids, 1 hardworking hubby, and a small zoo that keep me a little crazy (wouldn't want it any other way). I have been scrapping since my oldest was born, so 21+ years! My first love is mini albums but I tend to work in 12x12 when doing page layouts. I don't think I have a distinctive style because I am always developing my work, but I'd say it leans to the shabby side! I love learning new things! I am a nurse/teacher by profession but am only teaching and nursing my own little team these days! Thanks again for the opportunity!

Layout in 15 Minutes {or Less}

by Danielle Price

This layout comes together quickly thanks to the block styling of the design. This leaves you with a bit more time to embellish the layout and add some fun little details.



Prep:

1. Use a 3 x 4 photo.
2. Use checkered patterned paper from the Simple Stories line for the background of your layout.
3. Cut the Kraft cardstock to measure 6 1/2 x 12.
4. Cut one of each of the striped patterned paper and the floral patterned paper from the Simple Stories line to measure 1 3/4 x 6 1/2.
5. Cut 2 strips of green cardstock and put a patterned edge on each. They need to be 6 1/2 in length.
6. Punch out four 1 1/2 circles.
7. Choose your two journaling squares.

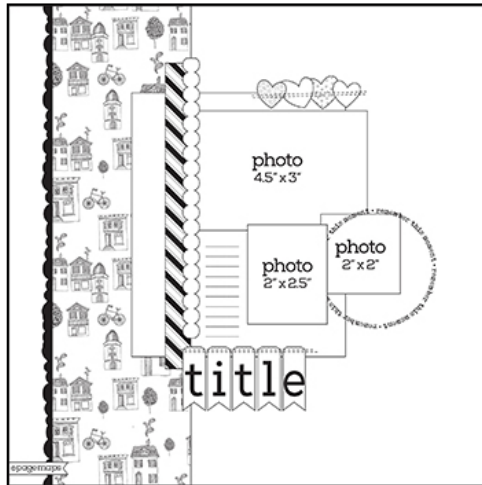
Assemble:

1. Attach the Kraft cardstock slightly off center on the background paper.
2. Place both small patterned papers on the top and the bottom of the cardstock.
3. Add the green patterned edged strips of cardstock.
4. Add your photo, both journaling squares, and punched out circles.
5. Tuck two pieces of ribbon to the lower left and add your embellishments. Choose to add as much or as little as your want. The embellishments are a mix from the Medley Kit.



{July Sketch}

selected from www.pagemaps.com



July Sketch



Alissa Trowbridge



Danielle Price



Karen {Guest Designer}



Back Porch Memories and Social Media

If you haven't already, be sure to follow us on our [blog](#) and like us on [our Facebook page](#). On both, you'll find kit updates, links to our monthly Guest Designer contest, kit sneaks, etc.

See you online!

Designer Details {Memorabilia}

by Danielle Calhoun



I often forget this detail in scrapbooking - memorabilia. Back in my early days of scrapbooking (late 90s!), I used to save everything & put it in my books. As the years went by and the worry about putting non-acid free products in our albums became more known, I stopped adding these items. Lately I've been trying to add memorabilia to my pages. A few tips I have for adding items to your pages without adding the actual item.

I'm thinking along the lines of certificates, diplomas, children's artwork....really the list could go on and on. There are 2 ways that I have done this.

1. Scan the item and print at a smaller ratio. In my example to the right, I printed the finisher

certificates from our race at a 25% ratio.

2. Take a photo of your item and print the size you would like.

If you don't normally add things like this to your pages, challenge yourself in the upcoming months! I've really enjoyed adding more memorabilia to my pages.



Scrapbook Shortcuts {Keep a Card Stash & Make it Twice}

by Alissa Trowbridge



I love to make cards. I've always enjoyed using up the last bits of the patterned paper on my desk after a layout is completed to whip up a quick card. Then I always, always have one ready to go when I need one!

My first tip this month is to keep a stash of cards handy and ready to give. Be sure you cover the often used themes like birthday, thank you and any holidays you like to celebrate with cards.

I occasionally go through my box of cards and note which themes I'm low on... and then I try to fill the void with the next few cards I create. In this case, I realized I didn't have a single sympathy card in my stash.

My next tip is to create a card you love twice. I really liked how this sympathy card turned out using the Simple Stories line in the Medley Kit. Since I was so low on sympathy cards, I went ahead and actually made the exact same card again. It was a quick way to double the number of cards in that category, especially since I find sympathy cards hard to create.

Now I'm stocked up and won't have to run to the store last minute when I need a card!

The Gift's Inside

by Karen {July Guest Designer}



For this project, I used one of the journal cards to create a quick card. The card is cute on its own, but the real surprise is inside!

I thought the cute piece of Fancy Pants flair in my kit would make a fun refrigerator magnet. I stuck a magnet under a burlap tag inside my card and the other half on the back of the flair. This held the flair in place without needing any glue. The flair can then be removed by my recipient and used on the refrigerator or anything metal.

What a fun and easy way to give a gift!

