



Most of the kids throughout the country are either back in school or will be very shortly. While we collectively send the kids back to school, remember it's a good thing for us as adults to learn something everyday, too!

At Back Porch Memories, we have several different ways for you to expand your paper crafting knowledge. Of course, this very monthly newsletter is filled with plenty of great information to help you get the most out of your kits and learn along the way. Next, our Design Team uses our [message board](#) to post weekly tips, tricks and techniques in our [Tuesday Techniques forum](#). If you haven't been checking out their weekly posts, be sure you go back and read them all! We also see our members and Design Team Members post great questions, links and other wonderful tips on our message board frequently. If you're not checking in at least once a week, you're missing out on tons of *free*, fabulous information!

Whether you have kids at home or not, get yourself settled in for the "school year" at Back Porch Memories and enjoy learning more about your wonderful hobby and craft.

Happy back-to-school!

Paula



Meet Lisa {August Guest Designer}

We're fortunate to have Lisa back with us as our Guest Designer for August! Instead of a regular bit of information about her, we decided to ask her a few questions to get to know her better.



How did you get your start scrapbooking?

Back in 2001, when my daughter was a toddler my husband thought it was a great hobby for me and he literally took me to the scrapbook store and forced me to start this hobby. I'm so thrilled he did!

Wow, how fun is that?! So what would you say are your top three favorite "must have" tools, other than the basics (trimmer, scissors, etc.)?

Border punches, edge distressor, plates for making large circles, but I also love my I-top to create matching brads.

Do you prefer to scrap by yourself or with others?

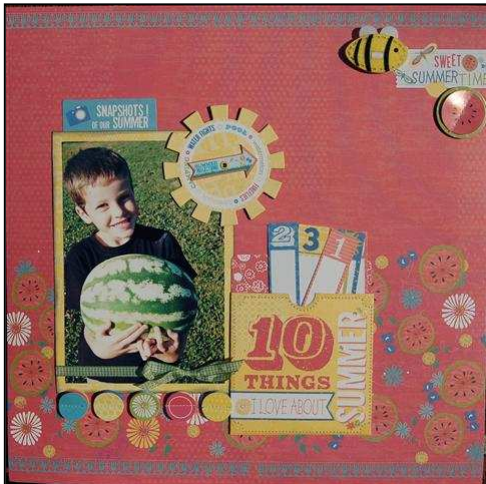
I've only scrapped with others a couple of times (and had a great time) but I would probably say scrap by myself just because that is what I do the most.

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

Both definitely! I love taking pics of everyday stuff but I also take a zillion photos at events too.

Layouts in 15 Minutes {or Less}

by Deb Harter

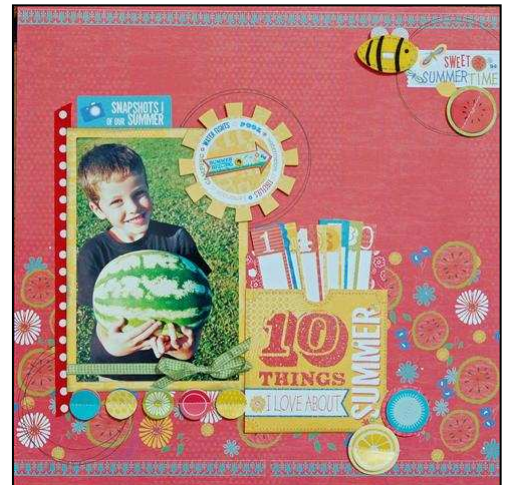


10 Minutes

Use the “Watermelon Hopscotch” as your background. Mat a 4x6” photo with “Hello Sunshine.” Attach the “Snapshots of Summer” card to the top of the photo. Tie the green and white ribbon around the bottom of the photo, and adhere the photo to the left center of the page. Adhere the spinner to the top right of the photo. Place the pocket with journaling tags to the right of the photo, and slightly below it. Arrange the smaller stitched circles in a row along the bottom of the photo. Place the felt bee and the stitched watermelon sticker around the “Sweet Summertime” title.

15 Minutes

Add red ribbon to the left side of the picture. Add two more stitched stickers to the lower right corner of the pocket. With a black pen, doodle/trace some circles around the title, the spinner card, and the lower left corner of the photo.



Scrapbook Shortcuts {Making Themed Embellishments Work for Non-Themed pages}

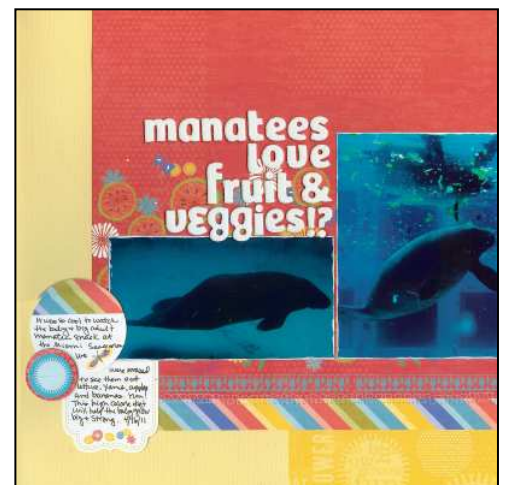
by Alissa Trowbridge



Every once in awhile, I want to use a theme-y product with pictures that don't quite go with the theme. In this case, I wanted to use the cute summer patterned paper and embellishments in the Medley with some photos I had taken of manatees at an aquarium. The paper actually works perfectly with the photos, but one of the journaling spots I received said, “summer fun,” which didn't quite work. So I traced around the curve of the journaling spot on a scrap of the coordinating patterned paper, cut it out, and glued it over the words. Now it works great on my page.

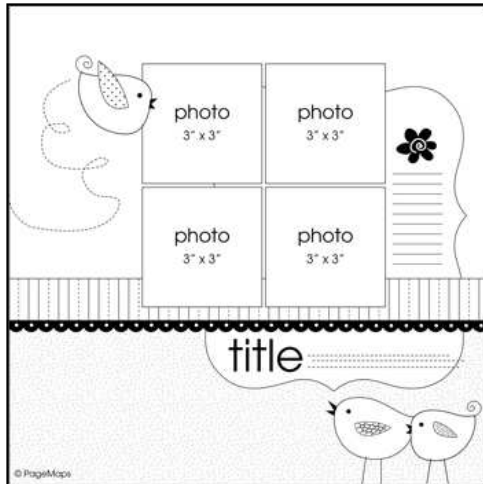
If you find yourself in a similar situation, ask yourself how you can alter a pre-made embellishment to fit your page. Usually, it's something fairly easy to change!

Editor's Note: This is just one side of Alissa's two-page spread. To see the whole layout, check it out in our gallery [here](#).



{August Sketch}

selected from www.pagemaps.com



August Sketch



Deb Harter



Danielle Price



Lisa {August Guest Designer}



Want to be Our Next Guest Designer?

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!

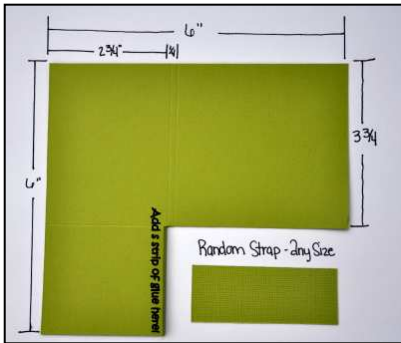
DIY {Back to School Teacher's Gift}

by Karry Weaver

School is starting for many of our kids any day now! I struggle every year with what to do for the kid's teachers. They work so hard and I really want to start the year out showing our appreciation. This year though, the present was a no brainer (we have just had two local Starbucks stores open), the question was just in how to present it.

These gift card holders are the cutest, easiest things in the world. It's just a 6X6 square-cut, scored and folded into a little wallet. The perfect size for a gift card! I tried to find the original blog where I found the directions for these...but it was just too long ago.

Enjoy making these! Be sure to share your work with us in the gallery!



Children's Board Book Mini Album

by Danielle Price

I found an easy, inexpensive way to make a mini-album. Just find an old children's board book and cover it with paper! I found this book at goodwill for 39 cents! Here's how I made mine.



Step 1: Gather all of your supplies.



Step 2: I didn't want as many pages as the book came with, so taking my ruler and an exacto knife, I cut out two of the pages. Depending on the book you choose, you may have to tape it back together after taking out the pages. I just used regular tape.



Step 3: I cut out the cardstock and patterned paper according to the size of the book. So depending on what size of book you choose, you will have different measurements than mine.

Step 4: Use a strong glue and attach the paper to your book. When attaching the cover over the spine, do not glue in the center of your paper. You will need this to be loose so the book can easily open.



Step 5: Start embellishing your album. This is the front of the book and all of the other pages. I used a lot of embellishments from previous kits!



Two more photos next page.



If you make this mini album (or use the board book idea for one), I'd love to see it! Be sure to post your creation in our gallery.