



Fall is in the air and you know what that means... Christmas is right around the corner! I know, I know... you're thinking, "Paula! Why are you talking about Christmas in SEPTEMBER?!" Well, I only bring it up because this time of year is a great time to start thinking about any sort of handmade crafty gift you may want to give to your family and friends. Right?

Before the hustle and bustle of the holidays, take some time to brainstorm about those handmade gift ideas. We can help, too! This month's Solo kit would make an adorable perpetual calendar. Or what about creating a mini book for the grandparents with one of the page kits in the Medley? It helps that we've already selected products that coordinate and are ready for you to work your magic!

Let us know what you're thinking of making this year for the holidays by sharing with our community on the message board at www.backporchmemories.com/mboard We'd love to hear what you have planned and would love to share even more of our ideas with you!

Happy creating!
Paula



Meet Tara {September Guest Designer}



Hi! I am Tara O'Rourke...aka kryptonite72 on the message board. I am a home schooling, military wife, and mom of five children, three boys and two girls. We are currently living in Georgia where the military recently reassigned us.

I have been scrapping for ten years now. I was introduced to this wonderful hobby by my older sister. When she first showed me her books, I told her I wasn't interested in something like THAT. A year or so later, I became very interested and jumped in both hands and feet with little supplies. She helped me to get started and from that point on...well let's just say I have had enough supplies to allow a crop at my house and let the girlies did in. I didn't miss a thing! I enjoy scrapping. It helps me to relax and unwind. I have also used my craft to work out some issues I have had within myself. It's a great way to take emotions and get them onto paper and allow yourself to heal.

I am very excited to be the Guest Designer for BPM this month. I cannot wait to get my hands on this kit and hoping I can do it justice. Most of all, I am going to enjoy working with the BPM girls and get some much needed ME time while I create some pages to share with you!

Layouts in 15 Minutes {or Less}

by Deb Harter



10 Minutes

Start with white cardstock as your base. Layer 12" wide strips of patterned paper starting from the bottom up. The bottom layer is about 4" tall. Use a border punch on the blue cardstock and the stripe paper, and stagger your punched design for some visual interest. Next layer is about 1/2" tall, and the top layer is 2" tall. Leave white space at the top. Ink edges if desired. I matted my 4x6 photo with blue cardstock and inked the edges slightly. Cut triangles out of the plaid paper and arrange in a banner across the top left corner. Place buttons between each triangle. Place your title on the bottom right corner of the page with the pearl flowers. Use journaling strips to the left of the picture to balance out the design.

15 Minutes

Make your photo stand out more by making a few quick stitched borders around it with a sewing machine. Then frame a couple of corners with some flowers and add rhinestone centers and you are done!



Scrapbook Shortcuts {Perfect Button Threading}

by Alissa Trowbridge

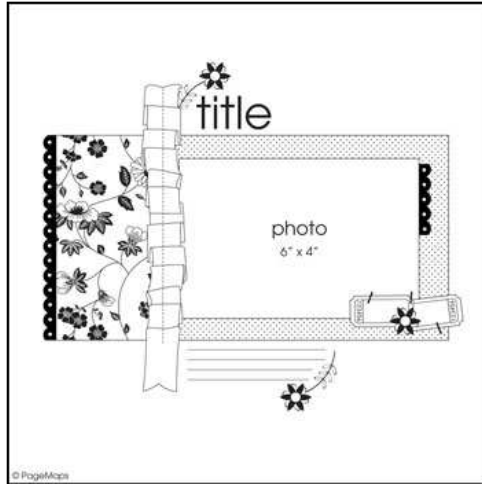


I love the look of threaded buttons on my layouts, but sometimes it's a pain to dig out the perfect color thread (if I even have it)! Plus, knotting and tying the thread is time consuming!

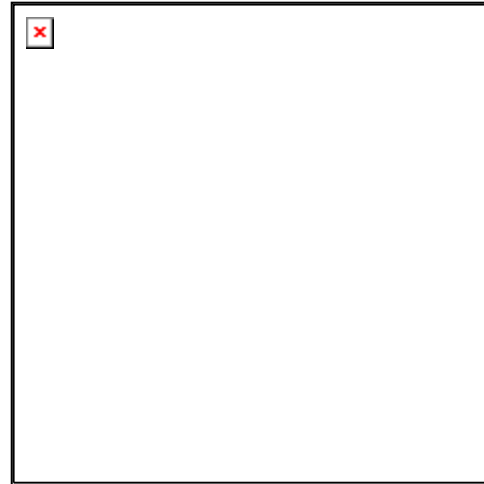
To solve this problem, I "cheat" and thread my buttons with a thinly cut scrap of patterned paper from the layout I'm working on. No need to "tie" the paper to hold it on, just use a glue dot to hold it in place behind the button and adhere to your layout.

Here's a close-up example from my two-page spread this month. Quick, easy, and best of all... my "thread" perfectly coordinates!

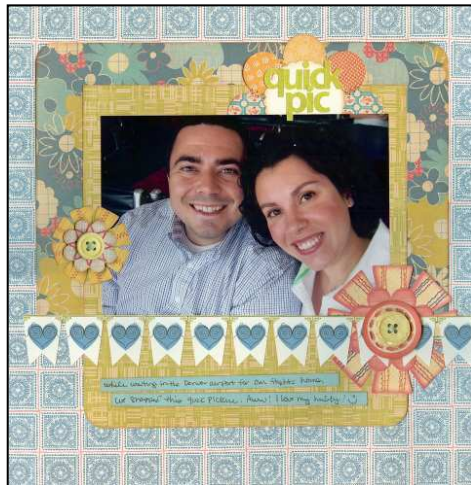
{September Sketch}
selected from www.pagemaps.com



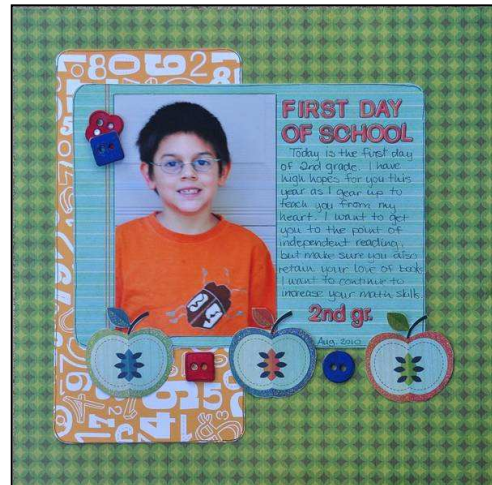
September Sketch



Aleta Wills



Alissa Trowbridge



Tara (September Guest Designer)



November Guest Designer Search

The search is on for our November Guest Designer! Are you interested? Check out the details on our message board, under our “contests” heading. Here you’ll find the full rules of our search, a look at the sketch and a place to ask any questions you may have.

Our contest is open to anyone, as long as they haven’t been a guest designer for us in the last six months. So, what do you have to lose? Get out your favorite papers, those great photos you’ve been meaning to scrap away, and get going!

We can’t wait to see your layouts! Good luck!

Tool Review {Acrylic Paint}

by Michelle Swartzinski



I have *lots* of containers of paint...from a few different manufacturers and love them all...but tend to use Apple Barrel the most because it is cheap and works great (and they have lots of colors...I even like mixing colors to create new colors).

Paint is a great tool to have in your scrappy supplies stash (and fun to use...love getting messy). You can use it to cover foam letters, chipboard, grunge board, stickers, paper and fabric flowers, buttons, clear plastic letters/shapes and even ribbons. I also tend to use paint like I would chalk...around the edges of my layouts, matted pictures and to change the color of paper die cuts.

I was looking through my gallery at BPM and the majority of my layouts include paint...even when you can't tell because I apply it lightly to look like chalk. This layout is an older one but you can 'see' the paint on the clear letters, chipboard frame and around the edges of the page plus smudged on the pattern paper...fun!

I would love to see some examples of how you use paint on your layouts...please share in the gallery at Back Porch Memories!



Using Borders

by Danielle Calhoun

The September Solo kit is packed full of fun borders. There are so many fun ways to use borders. One of my favorite ways to use borders is to layer them. I used these Sassafrass borders and layered them in the photo below, left. You can add a little dimension to your layout by curling up the edges of the border. In addition, to the layered papers, you can add a layer of ribbon as well.



Another one of my favorite ways to use borders is to highlight my title. By adding the borders below the title, it helps to bring attention my title. Almost as to underline my title. It draws your eyes to it. In this particular example (above, right), I added borders below my title, as well as below my date. A layered border & title.

There are so many creative and fun ways to use your borders! Post your border ideas in the forum!

How-To {Easy Button Flowers}

by Aleta Wills

This month, I'm going to step away from the paper and ribbon flowers and show you how to make an adorable flower made completely out of buttons. This is a great way to use all of those random buttons we have collected over the years!

Supplies

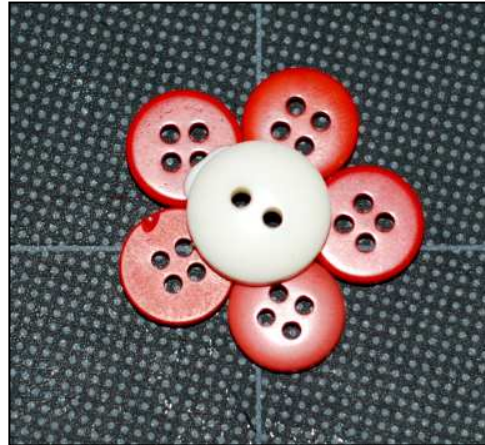
Assorted buttons

Strong-holding liquid glue

1. Choose 6 small buttons. Make sure the buttons are all the same height and arrange them in a circle.



2. Chose one large center button. Apply glue to the back of the large button and place on top of your circle of buttons.



3. Enjoy your cute, easy to make, fun buttons!