

# BackPorchMemories

Creativity made easy.....



Newsletter

September 2008

TEN new boxes delivered today. WooHoo, you all are going to love the next few months! Take a look at the [October Sneak Peek](#), lots of great autumn colors in these kits. I have also listed many upcoming paper lines on the Sneak Peek page. I know you want all the latest supplies and I plan to give it to you – just not all at once, you have to have something to look forward to!

The crisp fall air comes quicker in Alaska! The trees are changing, giving us great photo ops : ) While some of you are still wearing shorts we are already wearing sweats, with snow on the way. I'm not complaining, at least it already feels like football weather. Speaking of football...how 'bout them Cowboys?



## Meet Brandi {September Guest Designer}

I am Brandi Pitts (aka drewsmama). I live in a small town in East Texas—pretty much in the middle of nowhere! I am a 31 year old stay at home mom to a very active 2 year old, Drew Elizabeth. I have been married to Jason for 12 years. Before becoming a mom, I taught elementary/middle school for 7 years.

I am completely obsessed with all things scrappy and have a total weakness for alphabets (Gotta use that college degree! LOL!). I don't really think I have a set style. I seem to scrap whatever and however my mood is at the time. I do tend to distress the edges of most everything including my photographs. I scrap mostly 8.5" x 11" and 8" x 8" pages with a few other random sizes thrown in.

I am so excited to be the Guest Designer this month and I hope to inspire you all!



## Photo Mojo {Framing Technique} by Michelle Swartzinski

One of the easiest ways to take a creative photograph is to compose your subject with a frame around it.

Framing is a very simple trick that will help make your pictures look more professional. Use tree branches, bushes, part of a building or even a person to frame your subject and give the photo a 3-D look.

Here are a couple of my examples using the framing technique. For the first picture I used a willow tree to frame my subject. In the second picture I used the play structure as a frame. The last picture I had him hide in a bush and peek out.

This is a very fun technique. Try it out yourself and share your pictures in 'Photo Mojo' on the message board!



## Spice Up Your Journaling By Michelle St.Clair

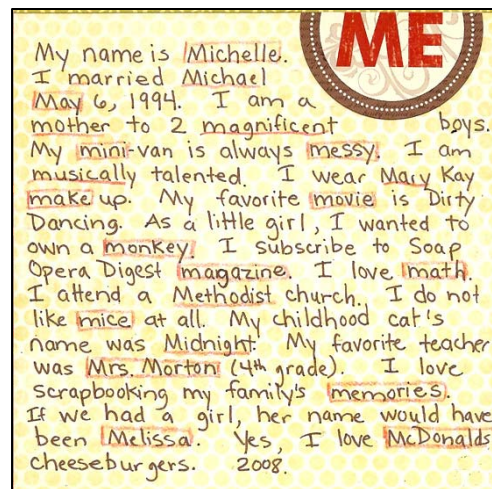
Do you find yourself doing the same old thing for your journaling? If so, here are some ideas to spice up your journaling.

- Change the font or color for words in the journaling. I changed the font and the color to red for just the dates in my "Our Story" layout.
- Chalk over words.
- Outline or underline words with pen or colored pencil. I outlined and underlined a few words in my "Me" layout.
- Use journaling stamps. Back Porch Memories has had some great journaling stamps in the past year.
- Use journaling strips.
- Journal or edit your photo to include text directly on your photo.
- Stamp your journaling.
- And one of my new favorite tricks – Get your spouse or child to do the journaling.



*{See more of Michelle's examples on the next page}*





## Layouts in 15 Minutes {or Less}

by Jana Eubank



### 10 Minutes

For the base of my layout I used the Scenic Route White Grid patterned paper. I created a block of patterned paper for the center of my layout using a 4 X 10.5" strip of the star paper and a 6 X 10.5" strip of the black polka dot paper. Overlap them slightly to hide the seam.

Next I mounted my focal photo on the Bazzill Bling Glamour cardstock. I mounted my supporting photo on Bazzill Parakeet cardstock. My journal block is a Maya Road Sheer journaling piece. I added a Scenic Route bracket and "Happy Birthday" chipboard piece. My son's name was created using Teal Vinyl Thickers from my stash. I outlined them with a black Slick Writer to give them more definition.

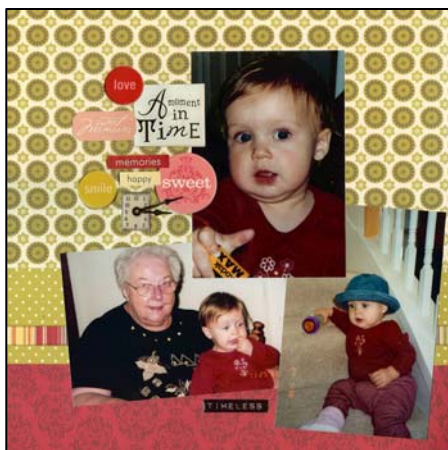
I finished off my 10 minutes by adding a few more Scenic Route chipboard pieces, the photo corners and the three small squares underneath the main photo.

### 15 Minutes

Move the three small chipboard squares to the upper left corner of your photo block. Next add a 1" strip of striped patterned paper along the middle seam of the patterned paper photo block. Cut out several circles from the Scenic Route patterned paper and use pop dots to attach to your layout for some fun dimension!

Finally spend the last few minutes adding more outlining and pen work along the outside of the layout, photo block, chipboard photo corners and bracket pieces.





## Scrapbook Shortcuts {Substitute Journaling}

by Alissa Trowbridge

I love to journal, but every once in awhile I have nothing to say! Sometimes it's because the photos speak for themselves. Other times, I have very little information about the photos in front of me.

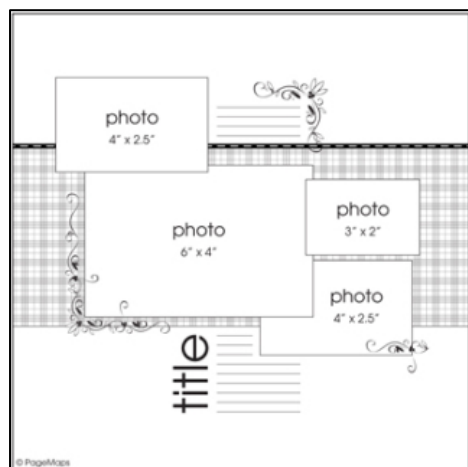
Take, for instance, my layout here. These photos of my cousin, Grace, are adorable! However, my aunt didn't have a whole lot of information to give me about when they were taken, why, what was going on in the pictures, etc. I still wanted to include them in Grace's baby album, though.

Instead of fumbling with my journaling pen, I used some of the great word embellishments included in this month's Solo Kit. I mixed the epoxy stickers (backed with a bit of cardstock so they show up on the patterned paper), chipboard word circles and cardstock word circles. The result is this "A Moment in Time" layout.

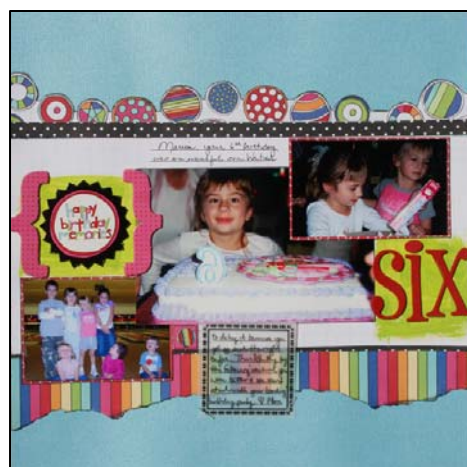


## {September Sketch}

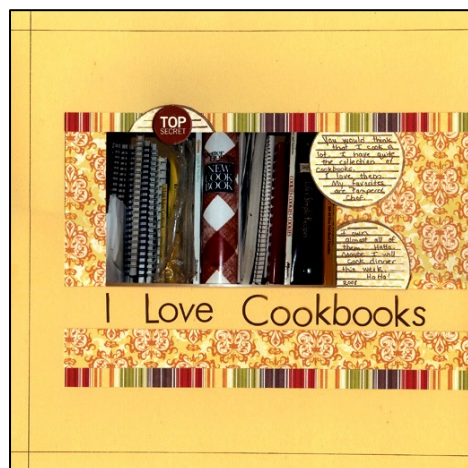
selected from [www.pagemaps.com](http://www.pagemaps.com)



September Sketch



Tami Floyd



Michelle St. Clair



Jana Eubank



# Birthday Mini Album

by Tami Floyd



While this idea is not an original of mine, I must admit when I first saw it made by another gal some time ago I knew I had to try it for myself eventually. You see this mini album is made out of a rather unique recycled or reused product. It's something we all throw away when we are done with the tissue that is wrapped around it.

Have you figured out what that reused item may be? Well, I won't leave you guessing. It's made from toilet paper rolls!! Yes, you heard it right--empty toilet paper rolls. What an ingenious idea for a chipboard mini album!

## Supplies:

- 3-4 empty toilet paper rolls
- Mini pictures to fit on the roll
- Hole punch and (2) book rings
- Any array of patterned paper and cardstock (I used Scenic Route Surprise kit from the Medley collection which was superbly fitting for a mini album as such :D)
- Any type of alphabet (chipboard, stickers, etc.)
- Adhesive—both tape and liquid glue
- Black ink pad and black pen
- Any appropriate rub-ons or stamps suitable for the subject of your mini album (I used a calendar stamp from Imaginisce and Melissa Frances birthday rub-ons)
- Any other type of embellishment suitable for your mini (

1. Start by flattening the toilet rolls. Slice each toilet roll in half at the folded seam. Measure the rolls. Cut desired patterned paper or cardstock to size leaving a ¼" excess. Place a fair amount of liquid glue or strong tape on back of paper and adhere to outside of toilet paper roll.



2. Place a fair amount of liquid glue or strong tape on back of paper and adhere to outside of toilet paper roll. Fold toilet paper roll in half and glue together by flipping over the ¼" of excess paper as shown. Continue to do this with the remainder of your toilet paper rolls. {see photo next page}



3. Cut tags from desired paper to be inserted in to your rolls. They can be used for journaling, additional pictures, or any type of embellishment.



4. Now continue decorating each side of the rolls with desired papers and pictures making sure to leave room on the correct outer edge for the punched holes. When finished, punch the holes on all of the flattened rolls.

5. Place all rolls together with the two book rings. Insert completed tags into the center of the rolls and VIOLA!! You have yourself a unique little mini album that no one would guess was made from an item we normally throw away!





# Playing with Twinkling H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>s</sub>

by Audrey Tan

Having discovered a pot of Twinkling H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>s</sub> in the Solo kit, I was delighted. I discovered them a while back and I simply enjoyed playing with them. So what are Twinkling H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>s</sub>? Twinkling H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>s</sub> is a watercolour pigment paint in solid cake form, housed in an individual round mini pot. In order to use it, you need to activate the paint by adding a few drops of water onto it (my advice is to use one of those brushes with a refillable water barrel). They can be used on a number of surfaces such as cardstock, chipboard, vellum, canvas, watercolour paper, wood, shrink plastic, clay, unglazed tile and dominos. Colours from Twinkling H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>s</sub> are rich, intense and opaque. They give out a shimmering effect. However, one can reduce the opacity of the colour by thinning with water which in turn, will reduce the sparkling effect as well. Hence, the versatility of the paint! You can choose what effect you want to achieve simply by adding or reducing the amount of water used.

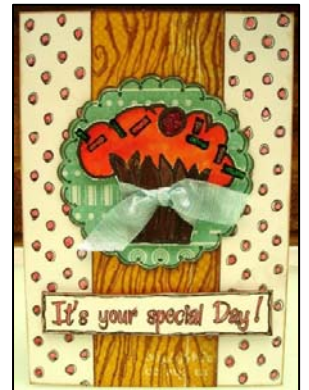
In my first project, I applied Twinkling H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>s</sub> onto the pages of a mini album.



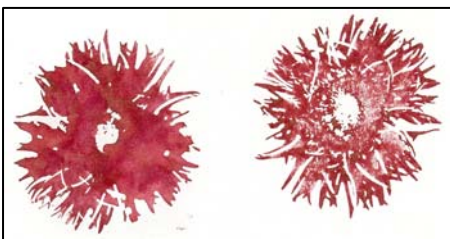
I used Twinkling H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>s</sub> on chipboard. In some areas, you can see the shimmery effect when the paint is used quite thickly. However, in other areas, where it has been watered down slightly, you don't get the shimmery effect. In this instance, I've used Twinkling H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>s</sub> as a base for the pages in a mini album. The entire album can be seen here:

<http://www.backporchmemories.com/gallery2/showphoto.php?photo=4232&cat=748>

In my next project, I used Twinkling H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>s</sub> to paint a stamped image. In this card, the cupcake was stamped and then painted with various Twinkling H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>s</sub> colours. One is advised to use Staz-on inks for stamping of images to avoid the colour running during the colouring in of the image. However, in my case, I used Tsukineko Brilliance dewdrop. If the colour does run, simply outline the image with a black pen once the paint dries!



Incidentally, Twinkling H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>s</sub> can also be applied directly onto a rubber stamp for stamping. Bold stamps make a better choice. Simply paint the desired colour(s) onto the rubber stamp, then stamp immediately. Alternatively, you can allow it to dry and then, spritz with water and stamp, which would give a better image. A word of caution, not all rubber stamps take to the paint so you might have to do a trial and error to see which rubber stamp works best! Acrylic stamps do not take too well to the Twinkling H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>s</sub>.



In the images to the left, the one on the far left was spritzed with water after allowing the Twinkling H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>s</sub> to dry. The image on the right was stamped immediately upon application of the paint. Notice the differences in using different techniques of the paint.

Finally in this last project, I created a background using Twinkling H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>s</sub>. The tag was coloured in green and then splattered (with a toothbrush) a contrasting colour. Alternatively, you can use a sponge to create a pattern.



There are many more uses of twinkling H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>s</sub>. Googling will bring up inspirational projects. Have fun and don't forget to upload your creations in the BPM gallery.