



This time of year is full of festive fun. I hope you've made a list of those family traditions you're going to repeat this holiday season. And maybe there are a few new ones you'd like to start, too!

This year, I'm hoping to start a new holiday tradition by creating a few handmade gifts to put under the tree. These don't have to be extravagant or time consuming, but just something handmade and from the heart.

Even though I love the idea of crafting gifts, I often struggle when creating something for the guys on my list. Fortunately, this month's kits can help! Both kits this month include colors and papers that can go "masculine." I'm thinking a mini book about my husband with the Basic Grey Pyrus papers in the Solo. And maybe a masculine card set with the papers from October Afternoon's Seaside in the Medley. Some other ideas for the guys in your life: a scratch paper holder for his desk, an altered frame with a picture of the kids inside for his dresser, or maybe a scrapbook page the kids help put together about why he's great to later include in the family album. All of these would make a wonderful addition to his pile of gifts under the tree!

Do you have ideas you'd like to share of what you've handmade for the guys on our gift-giving list? Paper crafted or not, we'd love to hear them! Share your ideas on our [Message Board](#).

Here's to a wonderful holiday season,
Paula



Christmas Gift Idea {7Gypsies Artist Printers Tray}

by Deb Harter



If you are looking for something handmade and simple to create for a Christmas gift for that special someone, the 7gypsies Artist Printers Tray is perfect!

All you need to do to create the look of mine is just cut some patterned paper to fit inside each section (which measure approximately 2 3/4" x 3 3/4"). I added four of my favorite photos to the lower right corner sections, but you could use as few or as many photos as you like! I added a few little treasures that represent my life – like the needle and thread with the thimble and measuring tape, as well as some chipboard pieces to some of the other sections. I embellished the outer edges with some flowers and chipboard pieces, and I created a cute little banner to drape across it.

It looks fantastic hanging on my wall! I won't be giving mine away, but I think I might just make another one to give as a gift!

More About Lesley {November Guest Designer}



Lesley Langdon is no stranger to Back Porch Memories. Along with being an active member on our message board, she has been selected as our guest designer for a second time. Congratulations, Lesley!

Instead of including her scrappy biography again this time around, we thought it would be fun to turn the table and ask her a few questions.

It's great to have you back with us, Lesley!

It's great to be back with you guys as the November Guest Designer! I got to work with the Medley kit and I love it! I created such different looking projects that the 3 different paper lines and embellishments provided.

How did you get your start scrapbooking?

Years ago, I met a girl who stamped and scrapbooked, and she brought me into her world and showed me her creative work. I got so excited, I never looked back!

What are your top three favorite (other than basics) "must have" tools you have a hard time scrapping without?

I love my Spellbinders Nestabilities, my Silhouette Die Cut Machine, and Ranger's Cut n' Dry Foam.

When do you usually scrap? Do you like to scrap by yourself or with others?

I like to scrap alone at night, when everyone is sleeping. It's quiet and peaceful and I get a lot done. I do like getting together with friends too and making cards with my scraps!

Do you put your finished layouts immediately in albums or have some other kind of system?

I stack them and stack them and stack them. Then one day, when the stack is leaning and falling over, I put them into albums.

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

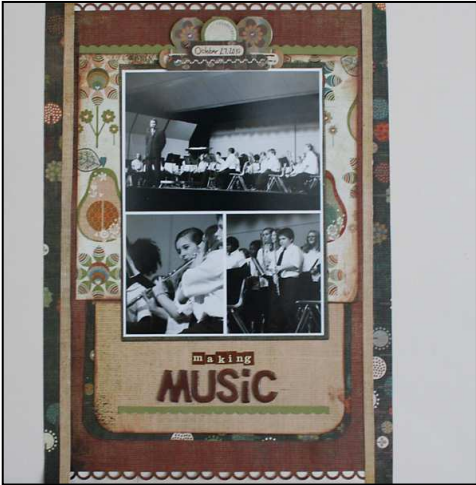
I scrap about both. I have a lot of non-event photos, so I guess I would say 70% every day moments. Lately I've been trying to scrap more BOY and HUSBAND pages and maybe some about me too!

Thanks, Lesley! It was fun getting to know you a little more! We love your style and hope everyone will take a peek at our [November Design Team Gallery](#) to check out your work with the kit!



Layouts in 15 Minutes {or Less}

by Tami Floyd



10 Minutes

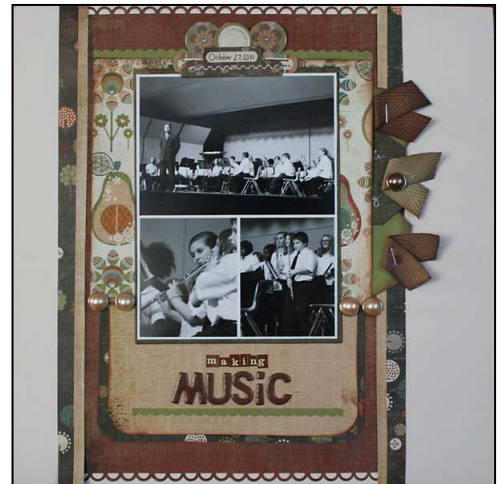
Use a vanilla piece of Bazzill for the base. Cut a 7¼x12” piece of Basic Grey Cordata. Border punch top and bottom edges and then glue with burgundy side up and off centered to the left. Cut (2)¼x12” pieces of Snow Pear (pink side) and adhere pieces on the left and right sides of the Cordata. Cut (2)½x12” pieces of Cordata (brown tree side) and adhere next to the previous two pieces. Cut 7x6” piece of Snow Pear and adhere atop of the burgundy pp gluing only three sides to make a pocket. Cut 6½x3½” piece of Cordata (brown tree side), round bottom corners, and glue below the Snow Pear piece centering it. Cut 6¼x3¼” piece of pink Snow Pear. Round bottom corners and glue atop the previous piece. Mat a photo on the brown side of BG Chinese White. I actually used only one photo that measures 4¾x 6½ which I made in to a collage in PSE. So you

have an option to print three or one large photo to use on the page. Place your title under the photo. Cut (2) small scalloped strips of the green Saguro cs and place where shown. Use three of the BG tags atop of the photo as shown.

15 Minutes

Cut three tags shapes from the paper in the kit. I used the green cs for two and the brown BG for one. Cut ribbon and staple atop of the tags. I then placed a brad on the center tag. Use tags for your journaling and slide below the Snow Pear paper that you glued for a pocket. Place the four remaining brads as shown.

*I used Olive Vine and Coffee Glimmer Mists on the ribbon to give them color.



Scrapbook Shortcuts {Easy Trendy Ribbon Technique}

by Alissa Trowbridge

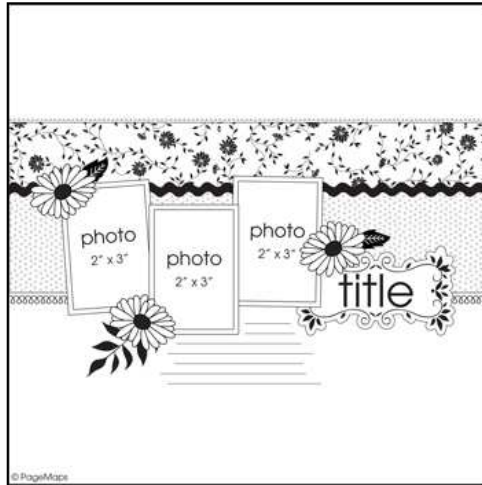


I love ribbon! Using ribbon on your projects is an easy way to add texture, dimension and interest. But sometimes I get tired of tying my ribbon in a bow, knotting it or otherwise running it across a page.

On my card, I decided to use some of the twine in this month’s Solo Kit to tie around the end of a piece of the twill ribbon. Then, I simply used glue dots to adhere the ribbon to my cardstock. I did this same technique on my “Peter Luger’s” layout, which you can see [here](#).

So easy and so cute!

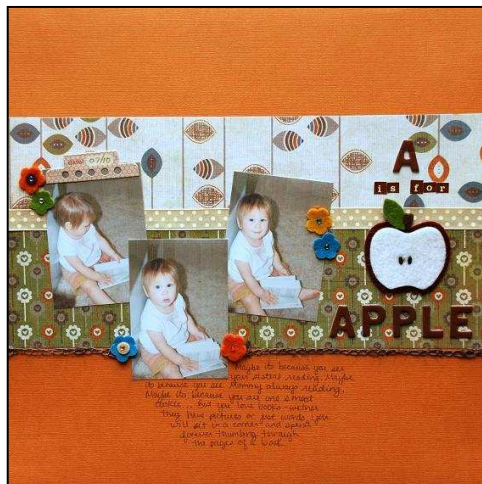
{November Sketch}
selected from www.pagemaps.com



November Sketch



Alissa Trowbridge



Aleta Wills



Lesley (November Guest Designer)



January Guest Designer Search

The search is on for our January 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 anyway, and get going!

We can't wait to see your layout! Good luck!

Top Ten Gifts for the Scrapbooker

by Michelle Swartzinski

Here's my top 10 picks for some gifts to give a scrapper for the holidays. You could even leave this out where your honey will see it and hopefully get the hint to pick up some of these goodies!



10. Tim Holtz Tonic Scissors – love mine
9. Bazzill Basics Stitch Templates and Floss – so easy to use
8. Page Maps Sketch Books – a must have tool for every scrapper
7. Crop-A-Dile II - Big Bite – awesome tool
6. Gypsy – expensive but what a great investment – love mine
5. Martha Stewart or EK Success Border Punches – these are so easy to use
4. Fiskars Trimmer – nice sharp cut
3. Copic Markers – love these and want to collect more
2. Glimmer Mist – collect them all

And the number one gift pick: Back Porch Memories Kits or pre-paid gift subscription!

Wishing you a wonderful holiday!
Michelle

How-To {Christmas Cardinal Bird House}

by Aleta Wills

Supplies: wooden birdhouse, fake cardinal, coordinating patterned paper (I bought a 4.5x9 mat stack)

Paint and brush (optional)

Adhesive

Sand paper or sanding block



Paint edges of birdhouse so you don't see the wood where the paper will meet and be sanded. Let dry.



Start covering the birdhouse with your paper. The hardest part for me was the front with the bird peg and the hole. I just laid the house on the paper and traced, then carefully traced where the peg would be. Cut or punch out peg hole, put your piece of paper on the front and press around the hole to 'emboss' the paper where you want it cut to show the hole.



Finish covering all sides with paper. Sand the edges if desired.



Attach your bird. There should be wire in the feet so you can wrap it around the peg. Now you have your Christmas Cardinal Bird house!

