



Every year at this time, I take stock of my blessings and reflect on what the year has brought. This year is no exception.

Among the things I'm always thankful for (family, friends and the joy they bring us), I'm also thankful for you, the loyal Back Porch Memories members. It's because of your enthusiasm and love for the kits that I keep doing them each month! I appreciate you!

What are you thankful for this year? Luckily, both November kits are full of paper and other goodies to scrap these thoughts! The Solo, with Little Yellow Bicycle's "Hello Fall" will have you scrapping not only your fall photos, but also the colors work well with a variety of themes. The Medley has both "Summer's End" by Fancy Pants and "Apple Cheddar" by Jillibean Soup, both of which evoke fall with their beautiful color schemes. Try mixing them in with the third paper line in that kit, too ("Memoir"). Whether you scrap your fall photos, family memories or a Top Ten list of what you're thankful for this year, the kits this month are sure to help make your projects go just a little smoother.

Have a great Thanksgiving!

Paula



Meet Jayne {November Guest Designer}

Hello! My name is Jayne Smiley and I have been married for 22 years to the man I met on a blind date! We have 2 children; a daughter 19 and a son 17. I am a middle school art teacher and have been teaching for longer than I care to say. We live in a small farming community in Northwest Ohio where I grew up. I haven't strayed far from my roots, but I love to travel.

I was introduced to scrapbooking in about 2005, but didn't begin scrapping until 2007. I put off starting because I knew that once I did start, it would be all or nothing! Well, it is all! I love the patterned papers, the embellishments, the letter stickers, the tools and everything else associated with it! I love everything about scrapbooking. I have always loved creating or making things. Currently, scrapping is my obsession and therapy.

I am so shocked and excited to be the November Guest Designer. Thank you for giving me this opportunity.



Layouts in 15 Minutes {or Less}

by Margy Eastman

This month I used the Fancy Pants papers from the medley kit. I LOVE big graphic designs but struggle to use them. The “Fall Frames” paper was so cool, so I forced myself to come up with a design for it. It’s faster to use the paper “as is”, but I promise the fussy cutting only takes a few minutes. I used my Cricut for the alphabet – it’s “Connected” from the “Lyrical Letters” cartridge. So here are your quick layouts!

10 Minutes



Ingredients

- Fancy Pants Cider and Fall Frames papers
- Brown Bazzill cardstock
- Fancy Pants chipboard piece
- Stamped journaling spot

15 Minutes

Added Ingredients:

- More Fancy Pants chipboard pieces
- Ink for edges
- Pop dots for the journaling spot

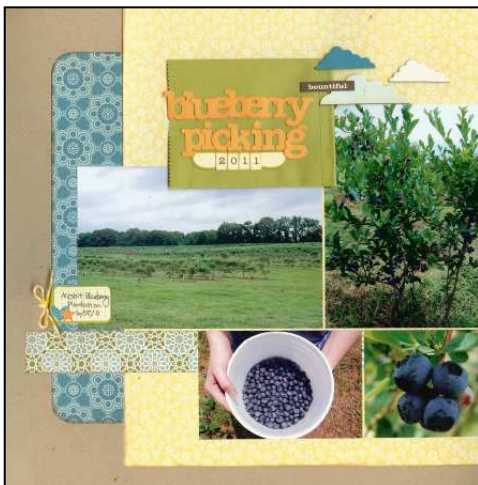


This collection of papers is perfect for Alaska – fall papers with winter colors. How appropriate!



Scrapbook Shortcuts {Covering Photo Flaws}

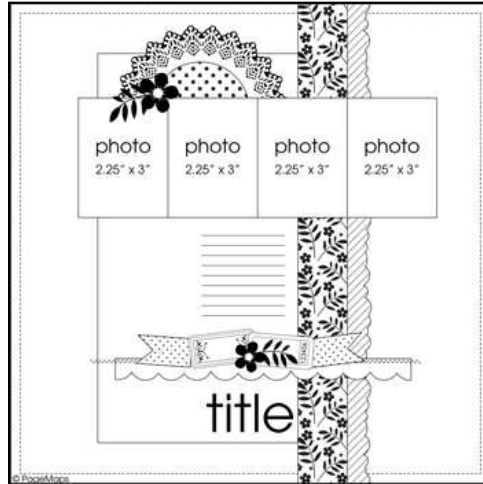
by Alissa Trowbridge



To save time, I love to just print my photos “as-is” from my camera, rather than spending time to edit or clean them up in Photoshop. This worked particularly well with the outdoor photos I used on my layout. The problem was the photo on the far left had a small bit of my camera strap in the frame. Oops. I still wanted to use the photo since it helped tell the story. So I just covered up the offending element with the sticker tag from Jillibean Soup. Easy!

Editor’s Note: This is the left page of a two-page spread. You can see the whole page [here](#).

{November Sketch}
selected from www.pagemaps.com



November Sketch



Alissa Trowbridge



Jayne {November Guest Designer}



Karry Weaver

Framed Button Art

by Jaynne Smiley {November Guest Designer}



This project is so easy to make and is something unique. I purchased a picture frame measuring 8x10 on the outside, but the opening inside is 5x7. My frame has a mat that is raised—it has a space between the mat and glass and the back of the frame.

Cut a piece of white cardstock, use whatever you want, that fits the 8x10 opening. I used my Cricut to cut the monogram “S”. I fit in the 5x7 opening. I actually cut three S’s because I wanted a sturdier base for the buttons. Glue the S’s one on top of each other.

I raided my button stash and laid the buttons on top of the monogram. I tried to fit my buttons on as best I could to cover the S, since the buttons are all different sizes. Some of the smaller buttons can fill in the holes and even be layered on top of bigger buttons. I laid the buttons out on the letter first before I glued them down. I just used quick drying tacky glue.



The next step is to center and glue your monogram to the background. I chose white on white so that where a button didn’t cover the cut out letter it would blend in with the background and not be so noticeable. If there was a difference in the cut out, it would show where the button didn’t cover completely.

Next, put your monogram in the frame and you are finished!

Editor’s Note: We think this project would make a great, inexpensive Christmas gift! Thanks for sharing your project with us, Jaynne.

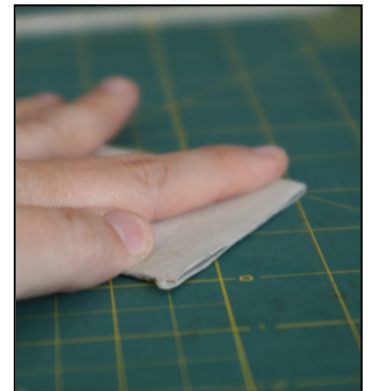
From Trash To Treasure {Gift Card Holder from Toilet Paper Roll}

by Danielle Price

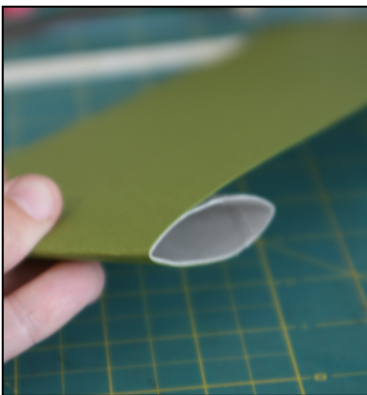
Here is an easy project you can use for birthday or holiday gifts. Just in time for Christmas. It is a fun gift card holder made out of a toilet paper roll. Yes, you read that right. So if you plan on making them for Christmas, start saving up. Your friend will love them!



Gather all your supplies. Make sure the first layer that is wrapped around the roll is cardstock. I have found that it is stronger and holds better.



Flatten the roll with your hand. If you have a bone folder, run it along the edges after you have flattened it. It will cause the roll to flatter.



Measure the width of the roll. Believe it or not, they are all a little different in width. Cut a piece that is the width (mine was 4 1/8") by 6". Adhere the cardstock to the roll using **STRONG** adhesive and tightly wrap it around.

Because there is a seam after wrapping the cardstock around the roll, trim a piece of patterned paper about 3/4" to 1" by the width of your roll and cover the seam. Start adding your embellishments. I used one of the journaling pockets from the embellishment add-ons from the Solo Kit.



This is the finished product. I added a flower and wrapped some jute around the whole roll. I then added a gift card.

****Note:** Every roll is different. Some are wider than others and fit gift cards perfectly. Some do not, like the one I made in the example. A solution to this so that your gift will not fall out is to wrap a note around your gift card that will fit perfectly inside, making the card secure.

Thanksgiving Blessings Mini Book

by Karry Weaver

I'm always hesitant to make mini albums because they just seem like they would take a lot of time...which I don't have much of! This month when I saw the kit and add-on though, I just knew I had to make one. The count your blessing journaling set is the perfect accent for a Thanksgiving mini! This was absolutely the easiest mini I have ever made. From beginning to end it took me less than an hour. That's including the time it took to cut the pendants.

My five blessings are 1) Jesus Christ, 2) Love, 3) Family, and 4) Our friends, and 5) God's hand in our lives.



If anyone would like the .svg file for the scalloped pendant just PM me your email address through the Message Board and I will be more than happy to send it to you! It was cut with Sure Cuts a Lot software with my Cricut.

