

# BackPorchMemories

*Creativity made easy...*



Newsletter

December 2011

Wow, it's hard to believe 2011 has come and is (almost) gone!

What were your favorite memories from this year? After you put away all the holiday décor and find places for all the new goodies Santa put under your tree, why not get out your scrap stuff and make a "best of 2011" page? If you got this month's Solo Kit with the Simple Stories line, it will probably come together faster than you think. Although the neutral papers and mix-and-match options in the Medley Kit would work great for this, too. Another option is to print one favorite photo from each month of the year. That way all of your favorites from 2011 will be on one page!

However you decide to ring out 2011 and welcome 2012, I thank you for spending the year with us at Back Porch Memories.

Here's to another great year!

Paula



## Meet Raechelle {December Guest Designer}



Hello! My name is Raechelle Bellus and I am thrilled to be the guest designer for Back Porch Memories this month. ☺

I am married and a mom/fulltime step-mom to 6 children, ages 12-22. I work part time at Michael's. I have been scrapping for almost 10 years now and I enjoy creating all types of projects. I have been fortunate to have been on dozens of design teams during these years, as well as having multiple projects published.

I describe my style as girly with a touch of shabby and fun.

I also enjoy reading, watching football, working puzzles and hanging out with my family.

## Layouts in 15 Minutes {or Less}

by Margy Eastman

I used the December Solo kit for this quick layout. The larger photo is 4x6, and the smaller photo is a cropped 3x4 inch picture. I loved working with the Year-o-graphy papers. They're so versatile and the colors are classic – perfect for a layout about a visit with my grandma.



### 10 Minutes

#### Supplies:

Brown Bazzill cardstock  
Blossom Bazzill cardstock  
Orange/grid patterned paper  
Life Snippets patterned paper (round sentiments)  
Live Life patterned paper (brown dot)  
American Crafts Gracious – green ribbon  
Year-o-graphy stickers  
Stroll Thickers  
Tim Holtz Tiny Attacher

This came together really quickly, especially using “standard” photos and doing the journaling on the computer. A 2” punch fit the “Remember” circle perfectly.

### 15 Minutes

#### Supplies:

Bazzill Sweet Poppies  
American Crafts Gracious – brown satin ribbon  
More Year-o-graphy stickers

I love the little flowers! I inked the edges of the patterned paper blocks and reattached the “Remember” circle with foam squares. I used glue dots to hold down the brown ribbon and added more staples and stickers.

I thought I would need to print the larger photo in black and white, but these papers went well with the overwhelmingly colorful family picture. I hope you enjoy your Solo kit too!



**{December Sketch}**  
 selected from [www.pagemaps.com](http://www.pagemaps.com)



**December Sketch**



**Margy Eastman**



**Danielle Calhoun**



**Raechelle {Guest Designer}**



**Scrapbook Shortcuts {Easy Gift Wrap}**

by Alissa Trowbridge

Sometimes it's nice to step beyond the page and do something else crafty with my supplies. Here, I wrapped a holiday gift using scraps and goodies (along with some extras from my stash) from the Medley Kit.

This package literally took me minutes to wrap. I just cut the patterned paper to fit and wrapped it around, taping it in the back. Then I tied on some Baker's Twine



and added a few embellishments. It was easy as pie and a fun way to dress up a special gift!

## Snowflake Wreath Ornaments

by Karry Weaver



### Supplies:

3" wreath

9" piece of twine – tied at the ends to make a loop

stapler

glue runner or dots

pop dots

a total of 34 - 1" snowflakes (18 for the bottom color – 16 for the top color)

Stickles and Bling

Use a stapler to adhere the twine loop to your wreath. Don't worry about what it looks like because you're going to cover it with snowflakes. Cover the wreath with snowflakes, it takes nine - 1" flakes with the tips overlapping just a little to cover the bottom layer.



The next layer use small pop dots on the back of those flakes to adhere them. It takes 8" to cover the wreath. Stager them above the bottom layer and don't overlap the ends quite as much. For some glittery fun use stickles and bling to finish your wreath off.

For my wreaths I usually use Bazzill Bling. I love the glossy finish. It's fun to play with mixing and matching the colors. It's funny how each pair of colors gives the wreath a whole new personality and feel. These are super simple and once you've made your first one the next ones take just minutes to put together. I'm anxious to try and make a supersized wreath for my front door.



I hope you have as much with your wreaths as I have had making ours. Good luck and happy crafting!

## Scrapbook Challenge {Make Room for a Long Title}

by Danielle Calhoun



Do you ever start your page with your title? I will often start my page, then look for a place to put my title. On this page, I challenged myself to do things a little differently and decided to create a long title that I could build the rest of my layout around. The eyes are drawn to the long title, and I added my journaling right underneath so it would flow together.

I always love the look of pages with long titles! Challenge yourself to create your next page with a long title as well!

*Editor's Note: Look for a challenge that goes along with Danielle's article in January on our message board!*

