



Wow, this month's kits are full of holiday cheer! I hope you enjoy scrapbooking your memories this season with the classic colors of the Fancy Pants "Home for Christmas" line (Solo) or the trio of the Teresa Collins line called "Christmas Cottage," Basic Grey's "Aspen Frost" and the Melissa Francis "Countdown to Christmas" paper (Medley).

Want to see what our Design Team did with their kits? Our gallery is back and our team has put their projects in the Design Team 2012 folder, under "December." You can also find the folder [here](#).

As we wrap up 2012 and usher in 2013, I want you to know how much I appreciate your love of the kits. If it weren't for my fabulous customers, I wouldn't be able to continue to do this year after year. Thank you!

May you have a happy, healthy and prosperous 2013!

Paula



Meet Deanna {December Guest Designer}



Hi! My name is Deanna Deaton and we live in Southeastern Ohio. I've been married to my high school sweetheart and the most understanding man for 34 yrs. We have 3 adult kids...1 son and 2 daughters who have given us the joys of our life....our beautiful grandkids! We have 7 grandkids...3 granddaughters and 4 grandsons ranging from 11 yrs. down to 18 months old.

I spend my time mostly scrapping for them and preserving their memories. We also love to travel and I enjoy scrapping our vacations and reliving the adventures.

I've been scrapping for over 11 years and as most of you know I do enjoy scrappy challenges and I think it can often time result in a different way to scrap your photos. I also enjoy the peace and quiet while I'm scrapping and it tends to be therapy for me as well as a creative outlet. Other interests include biking and walking, which we try to do nearly everyday weather permitting.

I'm so excited to be the Guest Designer for December and thanks so much for the wonderful opportunity!

Layouts in 15 Minutes {or Less}

by Margy Eastman

Christmas is a season full of tradition. And because we cherish these traditions, it's challenging to put a fresh face on them as we preserve their memories year after year. I decided to quit trying. This layout has become a holiday tradition itself. Every December we head to the Santa Claus House here in North Pole so Jack can visit with Santa. Jack brings his list, Santa asks how he's been since last year, and they get down to business. Then I commemorate the event with a layout called "Santa Report." The format is always the same, and this year I recycled the font as well (VT Portable Remington). Jack has four versions of this layout. And in the last three photos of Jack and Santa, Santa hasn't changed either. How cool is that?

The Melissa Frances papers were perfect for this whimsical page. My disclaimer as always...using letter stickers is way faster than cutting with my Cricut.



15 Minute Layout Ingredients

Cardstock – Bazzill Basics

Patterned Paper – Melissa Frances “Holiday Chevron” & “Holiday Notes”

Border Punch – EK Success

Die cut Letters – Lyrical Letters Cricut cartridge

Chipboard – Melissa Frances “Countdown to Christmas”

Diecut – Melissa Frances

Brad – Basic Grey

Other – thread



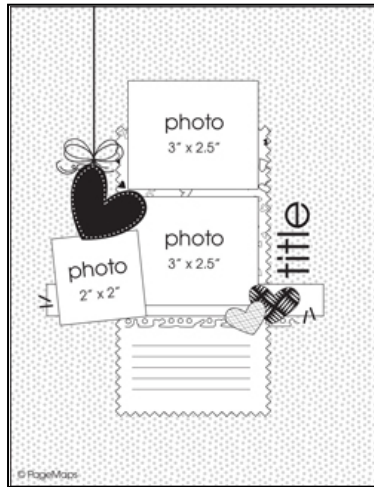
Additional Ingredients for a 30 Minute Layout

Brads, buttons – Basic Grey

Twine – Twinery

Enjoy making and revisiting your own Christmas traditions, and wishing you a Happy New Year!

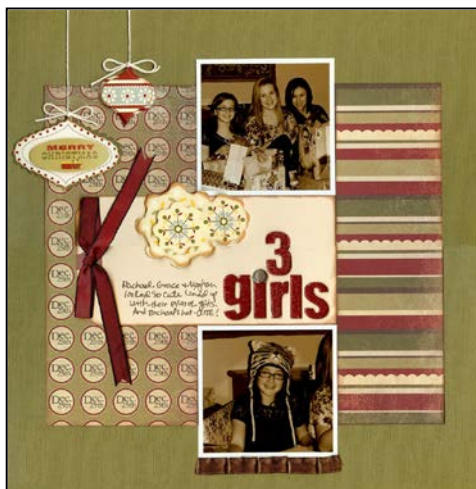
{December Sketch}
selected from www.pagemaps.com



December Sketch



Tami Floyd



Alissa Trowbridge



Deanna {Guest Designer}



February Guest Designer Contest

Have you ever wanted to be a guest designer for us? We hold a sketch contest every month and the prize is a one-month spot on our team! Your kit is complimentary for the month and you get to design some great projects and layouts for us ☺

Check out all the details on our message board!

Scrapbook Shortcuts {Super Stickles}

by Alissa Trowbridge



I love to embellish my pages with little details! But sometimes those little details take lots and lots of time. With an 8 month old son at my feet, extra time is something I don't have right now!

But, have no fear. For you detail girls short on time, try Stickles! Are you thinking, "But gosh, don't those take a long time to dry?" Well, they do take some time to dry, but you can make the drying time work for you!

This layout is of our son visiting Santa for the first time. I thought it needed a little extra sparkle to pick up on the red glitter letters in the title. So, after I was totally done with the page, I took a few minutes and just dotted on some red Stickles. I used them on the tree on the bottom left page, and on the stamped tree and snowflakes on the right. Since my page was finished at this point, I just left it on my desk. The next time I went upstairs, it was dry!

You can try this same technique with any other product that needs some drying time. Glossy Accents, pigment inks, liquid glues, etc.



Back Porch Memories Gallery

Incase you haven't heard, our gallery is back up and running! Thank you for your patience as we debugged all the layouts and projects from a spammer that hit our board last winter.

If you have any issues with using the gallery, please send me a private message on the message board (username: heypaula) or send me an email at Paula@backporchmemories.com.

Thank you!

Button Ornaments

by Danielle Calhoun



These ornaments are so simple to make, yet so cute! Easy enough for kids (my 8 & 9 yr olds loved this project!). The only supplies that you need are Styrofoam balls of any size, pins, and lots of buttons. You can also add various brads if you would like.

Choose your button, and stick your pin through the button holes. Continue until the ball is completely covered in buttons and/or brads. At the end, you can add your ribbon to hang your ornament using pins or a glue gun. Super simple project, yet so cute!

These are the ornaments my girls made!



Christmas Tree Mixed Media Canvas

by Tami Floyd

Supplies:

- * (1) 8x10 canvas
- * Selection of papers you wish to use (I used scraps from Basic Grey Aspen Frost and Teresa Collins in the December Medley)
- * Modge Podge
- * Gesso
- * Paint brushes
- * White & light blue paint
- * Glitter
- * Stickers
- * Stamps
- * Ribbon
- * Any other type of ephemera

1. Start by priming the canvas with gesso, if preferred, and let dry. I always speed up the process by using a blow dryer. I then opted to paint the sides of the canvas with a paint dabber in a color close to that of the paper. Here I used a piece of BG Aspen Frost Cherished Noses – perfect for the background!



2. Take a piece of paper of your choosing and cut it to the size of the canvas. Modge Podge it to the canvas. Dry with blow dryer.

3. Cut various strips of paper then size them form a tree.

4. Glue strips of paper down with Modge Podge. Put a light coat of Modge Podge over tree and entire canvas. Before Modge Podge on tree dries, sprinkle green glitter. Dry canvas.

5. I then used the paper bag that contained the snowman parts in the BG portion of the Medley kit. I tore apart the bag, scrunched it, and then glued the pieces down forming mounds. Cover the pieces with Modge Podge and dry.

6. Now time to have fun sporadically applying the light blue and white paints the with a brush being careful not to cover your tree. I also will take a piece of paper towel and dab or smear the paints just a bit more. Make sure to paint the bottom paper scrunches white to replicate mounds of snow. Dry the canvas.

7. Add ribbon for the topper, word stickers on the tree, and glitter on the snow mounds. I found some small glitter snowflakes in my stash and glued those on. I also used a couple of December's Fancy Pants kit stamps to add some dimension to the background.

