

Father's Day is right around the corner. Many paper crafters feel like it's hard to hand craft a gift for the men in their lives. Do you feel this way? It's easy to craft something flowery for mom... but what to do for dad?

A handmade card is always appropriate! As for bigger gifts, consider altering a frame in masculine paper for dad's desk (as Margy did with this month's Solo Kit). Or, make him a mini book of your favorite pictures of him with the kids. Another idea is to make him a scrapbook page (having the kids help!) listing all the reasons why he's a great dad. It can be included in the family's album afterwards, which will surely be a treasure in the years to come.

Perhaps you have your own ideas of what to create for dad. Share them with us on our message board!

Until next month,
Paula



Questions & Answers with our Design Team

We thought it would be fun to get to know our Design Team a bit better. Here's what they had to say.

Amount of time it usually takes for you to complete a layout, from start to finish.

I usually watch TV while scrapping, so I measure by that. Usually a movie or two one-hour shows. -*Danielle P.*

Usually no less than an hour, but more likely it takes me 2-3 hours. -*Alissa*

Probably 2-3 hours. I'd like to say I "savor the process," but in reality, I'm just slow ☺ -*Margy*

I usually complete a layout in 40-45 minutes from start to finish. -*Danielle C.*

I am such a slowpoke scrapper! With a kit, an hour, from scratch 2 hours. -*Karry*

Typically 2 hours, but even if I were on a roll it would take me at least an hour. -*Paula*

How many layouts do you usually make a month?

I used to scrap so much more than I do now. Now I just scrap what I do for the site. Sigh... I need to get cracking! -*Danielle P.*

I scrap anywhere from 3-5 layouts a month. But I make a ton of cards. At least 9 each month! -*Alissa*

3-5 most months, though I've done as many as 30 (LOAD Challenge - I certainly didn't maintain this pace on my own!) -*Margy*

I usually complete 8-10 layouts a month. -*Danielle C.*

Usually around 15 or so, give or take. -*Karry*

Usually only 1-2 layouts, unfortunately. -*Paula*

What's your favorite drink to sip while you scrap?

Diet Coke, Diet Coke, Diet Coke. Oh did I say Diet Coke??? -*Danielle P.*

In the winter, coffee or hot tea. I also like to drink iced tea or lemonade when it's warm outside! -*Alissa*

Depends on when I'm scrapping... Coffee before noon, Diet Pepsi before dinner, and chardonnay in the evening. -*Margy*

I usually sip on water when I scrap (if anything!) -*Danielle C.*

I must have coffee. It doesn't matter what time of day or night I scrap...I always have a cup of coffee on my table! -*Karry*

Mostly just ice water with lemon, but I LOVE Coke (the real thing, no diet) and wish I could drink it all the time! -*Paula*

Layouts in 15 Minutes {or Less}

by Margy Eastman

This month's Solo kit was perfect for a set of "boy" pages about my little guy and his bicycle. Spring is not a very colorful season here in Fairbanks. Don't get me wrong – the snow is gone, the sun is up, and it's generally above freezing. So the conspicuous lack of beauty is fine with me! What better way to brighten the neutral background of our lawns? Vividly colored patterned paper, of course!



15 Minutes

Ingredients:

Bazzill Basics glow and watermelon cardstock
Lilly Bee Double Dutch patterned papers – hopscotch, key lime pie
Lilly Bee Double Dutch journaling cards
Lilly Bee Double Dutch mixed cardstock stickers
Lilly Bee Double Dutch alpha stickers
LYB corrugated red alpha
My Mind's Eye Lost and Found buttons
EK Success border punch

The base of this page came together quickly using a larger photo that's 8.5x6 and two 4x6 pictures. I had intended to use all borderless photos, but I'm kind of glad I didn't set up the printer correctly.

30 Minutes

Additional Ingredients:

Lilly Bee Double Dutch patterned paper – croquet
More buttons
Tim Holtz Tiny Attacher
Sewing machine and red thread

The red lines of stitching really pulled the two sides together, and the light blue gingham filled the gap to the right of my photos without competing with them. And I can't leave buttons naked.

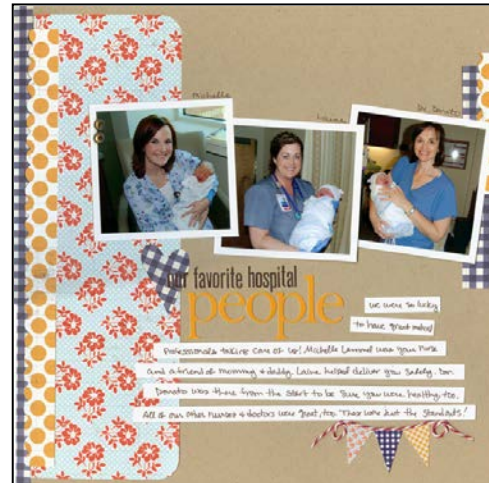


So pull out some playful spring photos and have a ball with Double Dutch and the May Solo kit!

{May Sketch}
selected from www.pagemaps.com



May Sketch



Alissa Trowbridge



Karry Weaver



Danielle Price



May Design Team Projects

With our gallery going down, our Design Team couldn't upload their projects to our gallery as usual. We have added their layouts, cards and other projects to our home page on the website.

Once our gallery is up and running again, our Design Team will add their layouts to our gallery as usual.



Fun & Easy Circle Banner

by Karry Weaver

Banners, Banners, Banners, they are everywhere! I can't get enough of them! When I saw this idea I instantly fell in love. It's unique, easy and so much fun. I can see this banner going anywhere. A mini size for my scrapbook pages (1 inch circles), a medium sized version made with Christmas papers for my Christmas tree (2 inches) and larger as a party decoration or just a fun accent for a child's bedroom. It's such a great

way to use up some of your scraps!

For my 10-foot long banner I cut about 140 - 3 in. circles. About half way through I was really wishing I had a circle punch! I folded them all in half and put a little strip of tape on one side of every circle. It takes seven circles to make a pom-pom. Once you've stuck all seven pieces together lay a heavy strip of adhesive down the center where all the circles join and lay your banner string along that seam. Press the ends together and you're done!



Scrapbook Shortcuts {Faux Sewn Buttons}

by Alissa Trowbridge



This month's tip is something that seems really simple, but it was an ah-ha moment for me several years ago when I first started using buttons on my projects.

Initially, I would actually thread and sew my buttons directly to my pages. They stayed on my projects wonderfully! However, it was time consuming and I often bent my page in the process of pushing the needle through layers of paper.

Now, I thread my buttons with a bit of the thread (or twine, as I did here) and then use a glue dot to not only keep the thread in place in the back (no knotting required), but then to adhere it to the layout.

So easy! Or should I say "sew" easy?!

Frame with Hanging Photos

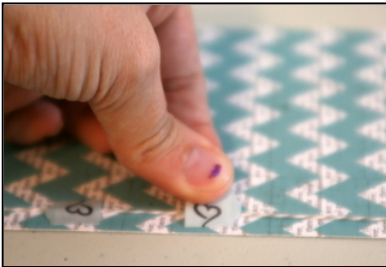
by Danielle Price

I've been wanting to make a frame with photos hanging inside of them for a while. The banner stickers in this month's medley kit inspired me to finally try! Here is how I did it:



I went to goodwill and found a cheap frame. Then I spray-painted it in a creamy color. I let the frame dry overnight and then, using sandpaper, I distressed the edges. I then gathered my supplies so I could begin.

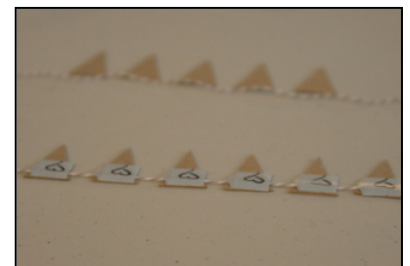
The size of the frame will determine how many photos you can fit in the frame. I just put in one slightly trimmed 4 x 6 that I double matted. I also put the sticker banners onto chipboard to make them stronger.



I used some matching twine from my stash and secured them onto the back of the photo.



Next, I secured the chipboard banner pieces to the matching twine. My photo squares were slightly larger than the banner pieces, so I had to trim them up. I then secured them to the back of the frame. The type of frame you use will determine how you will attach them to the back. Since mine had a double layer to it, I put the photo and the smaller line of banners more forward and then put the longer line of banner further back.



I add a few embellishments to the matted photo piece and attached some ribbon to the top of the frame so that it could be hung on a wall. Here is the finished product and some close up photos.

