



I'M SORRY!! I needed to say that this month...

The November Sneak Peek and this newsletter are terribly late, but I also must say THANK YOU for being so patient during this exciting time for us. As most of you know, our oldest daughter got married 5 days ago. This past month has been a whirlwind for me with all of the preparations, they paid off though – everything went beautifully. In fact, Jennifer told me it was exactly what she had dreamed. And you know, when the bride is happy everyone is happy!

The Design Team has done another fabulous job, be sure to check out this month's gallery of ideas for inspiration. The Layout Instructions are posted now (that was something else that was late this month), just click on the 'Members' link and use the password that was affixed to your bag to access them.

There were so many new and beautiful papers that came out at Memory Trends it has been difficult to choose the kit contents for December and January; and already we are gearing up for Winter CHA! This is a crazy industry and I am enjoying the ride – thanks for being a part of it with me.



Paula



Getting to Know Jennifer...

Michelle O'Keefe

Tell us a little about yourself and where you live, family, how long scrapping.

I'm a SAHM of 3, married to my college sweetheart. We live in Kentucky & I've been scrapbooking for more than 15 years now the way we know it, but I've scrapbooked my entire life in one way or another!

What are your favorite subjects to scrap?

My kids are my favorite subjects to scrapbook because they are the main focus of all my photography.

What are your favorite foods?

Um, I absolutely love pop tarts...I admit that I'm a junk food junkie!



What is it like where you live? Have you always lived there?

I've lived in Kentucky my entire life & would never want to live anywhere else! I love the beautiful changes of seasons in Kentucky & just the all around beauty of the green grass!

What is a typical day like for you?

A typical day in the summer consists of waking up pretty late with the kids & going to the pool all afternoon (well, what's left of the afternoon). I'm a major night owl & stay up till around 3 or 4 in the morning when I can. During the school months, we get back on the regular schedule of getting up around 7am & starting the day. I've just started the first school year of all my kids being at school for the entire day. I'm still adjusting to the new routine of not having having our baby home with me all day anymore (well, the baby is 6 years old now and in kindergarten, LOL). I usually scrapbook in the afternoon for a little bit or mostly after the kids have all gone to bed at night & all the family routine stuff is finished for the day.

Can you tell us anything about your scrapping process? Do you draw or use sketches when you scrap? How do you decide on colors and so forth?

I've never been able to use a pre-made sketch when I scrapbook, but I do sketch ideas that I have in my head into a notebook. When I start to scrapbook I jot down a concept for my layout & build from there. I usually have an idea or a story that I want to scrapbook about & I find a photograph to go with my idea...then I figure out my idea for the page & what papers or colors that I want to use to convey my idea. My layouts have a life of their own once I start working on them & I find it exciting to see where they go as I work on them....as it's usually not how I originally pictured them to be in the end!



Sewing Technique Tami Floyd

I happened upon this technique by Tracey Odachowski. She challenged us to recreate it and I couldn't resist. I thought it was something neat and wanted to share it all with you.

1. Start with the cardstock and patterned paper of your choosing. I chose to use basic cream cardstock for both of my scalloped borders layering patterned paper in between.

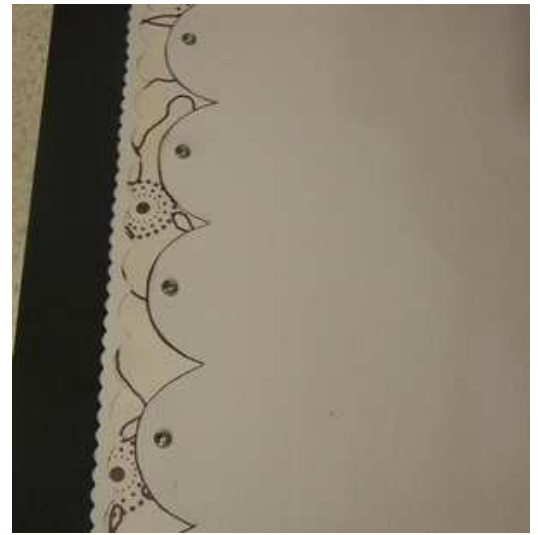


2. On the cardstock, trim 1", then make a scalloped border. I also cut 1 1/2" from the opposing side making the cardstock smaller. I traced a piece of Bazzill scalloped paper, but you can use the small, 2 1/2" circle on the Colluzle if you have it. At the base of each circle punch a hole and set an eyelet.

3. On the edge of your second piece of paper, make a smaller scalloped border which I ended up using my scalloped scissors, but if you own the Basic Grey Notch and Die tool you can use that. I layered a piece of patterned paper in between my two pieces of cardstock.



4. Adhere all the pieces of paper together so that the smaller scalloped bordered paper shows through the bottom edge.



5. Thread the floss through a large needle. Starting from one end, thread from the back of the paper through an eyelet, then into one of the notches made from the small scallop on the patterned paper. Thread back through the eyelet, and repeat. You should be creating a fan pattern with the thread:

(back view)

6. Continue as above, switching eyelets after about 5-6 stitches. When finished it should look like this:



(front view)



7. I then adhered this section to a piece of 12x12 black cardstock. I added embellishments, a photo, and journaling. I hope you try it!

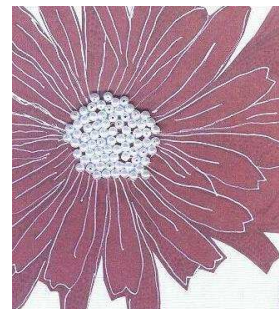
Use your Stash! Got Bling?

Michelle O'Keefe

"Bling Bling" is a 1999 hit hip-hop song by The B.G. The song, and its many follow-ups from the label, popularized a hip hop slang term which refers to expensive jewelry and other accoutrements. The term is thought to be derived from the onomatopoeia of a visual effect used to denote light glistening of metal or jewels.

Well, in scrap-booking 'bling' might be anything sparkly or little and decorative used in quantity on a layout. I know you have some squirreled away. It's time to bring it out & use it up.

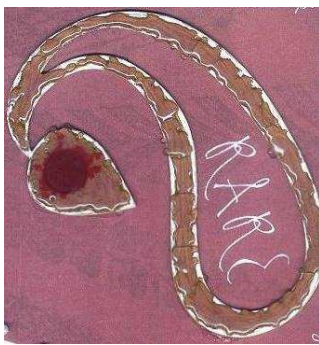
Jewels, we love them, on our fingers, around our neck or wrist, why not on your artwork? You can use some old costume jewelry in a pinch, some little gem brads, stick-on jewel-tones, even ones with little prongs on the back for easy attachment. Think Rhinestones, diamond look-alikes, even an old pair of earrings (make that earring if you lost one). For fun, dress up your silk or paper flowers by highlighting the flower's fold lines with a line of jewels or draw a doodle with a line of stones in a flowing curve. This would be beautiful on any wedding, special occasion, girlie, or even holiday layout.



Beads and I'm talking glass beads and especially those plastic ones. Yes, REALLY! The plastic ones, too, I mean they aren't very sparkly are they? We'll get to those. For the glass beads, do the afore-mentioned flower decorating and use some Diamond Glaze sort of product to adhere them. Use them in the center of flowers or like I did with the little pearls and while you are at it, do a little drawing to outline that flower with pen. Okay, you want to know about the plastic beads and why I think they are Bling. They are very cool because you can make some interesting embellishments yourself. You can melt them. HUH?

Now we're cooking, and yes you can melt your plastic beads in your oven or with a really hot super power heat gun, but I use the oven. Have you heard of Rockettes? You can buy Rockettes from Little Black Dress Designs, but do you know what they are? They are the little plastic beads from your make & bake sun-catcher kits. Not only that, if you don't have either of those, you can melt some plastic stringing type beads. I really like the clear see-through or the clear glass-like color ones that you can buy in any craft store in a good size bag fairly inexpensively. So what do you do? Line a metal pan or cookie sheet with aluminum foil to protect it and preheat your kitchen oven to 400 degrees Fahrenheit. You take a metal ring or any shape metal item, pile the beads on and heat in the oven for about 15 minutes. You might want to open a window a little since it does smell a little bit. You'll see a nice smooth surface when it is done or you could go for a bumpy surface if you like and remove it a little sooner. These cool fairly quickly out of the oven, but don't touch the items until you know they are cool because metal does get hot.

The finished effect is not a perfect distinct line between the colors, but it is more of a subtle color line and is very shiny and pretty. For fun put a little bit of tacky glue on your chipboard pieces and add the beads. The glue helps keep the beads from rolling around off the chipboard since there is no lip to hold them like a piece of metal does. Take a look at my chipboard flourish. Cute, huh? The round ones are the rims only from metal rimmed paper tags and they were filled with plastic clear beads in a variety of colors.



The 7Gypsies Photo Connector Project. Here's how to make it. This has 2 metal coils, one on each end. Open up one coiled end and make it into a larger closed circle using a pair of pliers to loop and secure the metal wire end. Cover the metal pan with foil, and preheat the oven to 400 degrees Fahrenheit. Lay the photo connector on the pan so it is flat. It is flatter on one side than the other side due to the opposite coiled end (height). Pour some deeper pink or red plastic beads or Rockettes into the center of the larger circle and make sort of a heart shape with those darker beads then pour lighter color pink beads around the heart you made. You don't have to make the heart shape if you don't want to and you certainly don't have to be very precise with it either. Make sure your beads are piled high so that when they melt they might go over the metal wire a little bit to help hold it in place tight. Using more beads is better than less, but for fun later try an experiment with some open areas, too. It does look very cool that way as well because it gives a lacey effect. So bake it about 15 minutes or until very melted and smooth looking. Remove from oven, leave on the pan and within 30 seconds (about) press an inked rubber stamp heart into the still soft center. It will cool quickly so move fast. You want to press into the soft stuff to make an impression with the stamp. Remove the rubber stamp and it is so cute. Take a look at mine. Connect 2 or more photos with the end that is still coiled. Use glue dots to attach the design end to your layout.



I hope you try to make your own fun Bling soon and use up some of those jewels and beads. Have fun with it. I can't wait to see your creations!



Microsoft Word Tip

To fill text with a photo:

In a Microsoft Word document, click on the 'WordArt' icon (on the drawing toolbar).

Choose a font that is only outlined without any fill color.

Type your message and hit enter.

Right click on your new WordArt, choose 'format WordArt'

Under the tab 'Colors and Lines' choose fill effects from the drop down box in the 'color' menu.

Choose the 'Picture' tab and click the button that says 'select picture'.

Find the photo you want from those stored on your computer.

Lets' Learn Photoshop!

Kara Henry

Adding Text to a photo ~ Hybrid scrapbooking (combining digital and paper elements) is so hot right now! It's not as hard as you might think. In this article, I'm going to show you how to add text to a photo. This is great for birthday party invitations, birth announcements and for a fun touch to any scrapbook page.

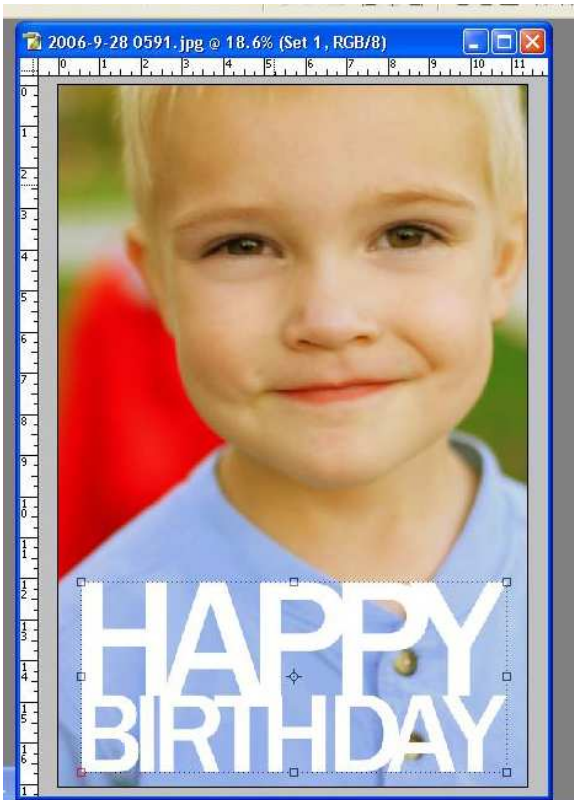
First, open your photo. Next, select the type tool, which looks like this:



Determine your font, size and font color. These can all be edited later, but it's good to start out with general idea.



Click on your photo. A cursor will come up. Type in your text. Click the check on the tool back to commit changes (or you may also hit enter).



Adjust the positioning of your text so it's perfect. Print and enjoy!

COLOR YOUR FIBER

Kathy Carr

So, you're ready to try sewing on your layouts. You have your layout all done except for the stitching . . . the perfect finishing touch. Wait . . . you don't have the color of fiber you need? Not a problem if you have some white or natural colored fiber! You can customize your fiber to match your project. Here are a few ways to color small amounts of fibers.

To dye the fiber with stamp pad reinkers, put about 10 to 15 drops of ink into one cup of boiling water. Steep for about 15 minutes, blot or hang dry. Remember to protect your work surface and clothing when working with dye!

Use a marker by simply rubbing the marker over the fiber until the desired appearance is achieved. This won't completely saturate the fiber and will leave an interesting textured look.

Hold the fiber to an ink pad with a piece of hard plastic (like an old credit card) and pull the fiber through to coat the fiber thoroughly with the ink. You may have to do this a few time for complete coverage. Let the fiber dry about 48 hours before using.

For an interesting twist, you can dye light color fiber (pastels) by brewing a strong cup of tea and soak overnight. Pat dry with a paper towel and let set for several hours before using.

If you desire a dark color, soak fiber in a strong walnut ink mixture and hang it to dry without blotting first.

To create vibrant colors, use Easter egg dye. Dissolve the dye tablet with $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of white vinegar, then add 1 cup boiling water, add the fibers and soak for 20 minutes. Allow them to dry for several hours before using. Experiment by mixing colors and be amazed with the results.

Now it's time for some Kool-Aid. This process is a bit more involved but fun especially if the kids get to help.

Step1: Prepare the fibers by soaking them in warm water for about 5 minutes. Blot dry.

Step 2: Add $\frac{1}{4}$ cup boiling water and $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon white vinegar to each packet of Kool-Aid. Be sure to use glass containers or disposable cups to avoid stains.

Step 3: Allow the fibers to soak in the dye solution for 20 minutes. Remove from the dye and place onto a piece of cling wrap and roll it up into a little ball. Place in microwave on high for two minutes. Let set for two minutes and cook on high for two more minutes. Let cool completely.

Step 4: Unroll the pods and place fibers into a mixture of warm water and a teaspoon of soap for about 15 minutes. Then rinse in warm water.

Step 5: Blot with paper towels and pull apart the fiber bunch (it may be a bit tangled by this point) and let dry on more paper towels. This will take 30 minutes to a few hours.

Experiment with different types of fibers for a variety of unique effects. Have fun! Don't forget to post your completed layouts . . . we'll be dye-ing to see them.



[Check out the November stamp set – click here](#)

Coming in November's kit:
Flair – Autumn Splendor
Bo Bunny – Harvest Spice
Crate Paper - Birdie
Scrapworks – Canvas, Citrus

Daisy D's
Making Memories
Layout instructions
And much more....

[See the November Sneak Peek now! - click here](#)

Available for individual order November 1st, shipping November 15th
Autoship memberships beginning with the November kit are available now.