

Fiskars Design team challenge: A Quick Shot of inspiration...

This download is unlike any we've done in the past, and I hope you enjoy it! With Summer drawing to a close and creative time increasing once again a lot of us find ourselves in need of fresh inspiration.

I contacted five of the design team members and asked them to share with us today. I hope that you enjoy - and find some new crafting ideas!

Designer: Becky Novacek

Finding inspiration around me is one of the things I most enjoy about making things. I adore the feeling I have when I'm experiencing something that visually or otherwise inspires me. So, I spend a fair amount of time before I do a project getting in the right mindset. To do that, I either window shop, read something inspiring, or look at magazines. Magazines are the one thing that I can almost always count on to inspire me. They are so visual and eye catching. Definitely my "go to" visual for inspiration.

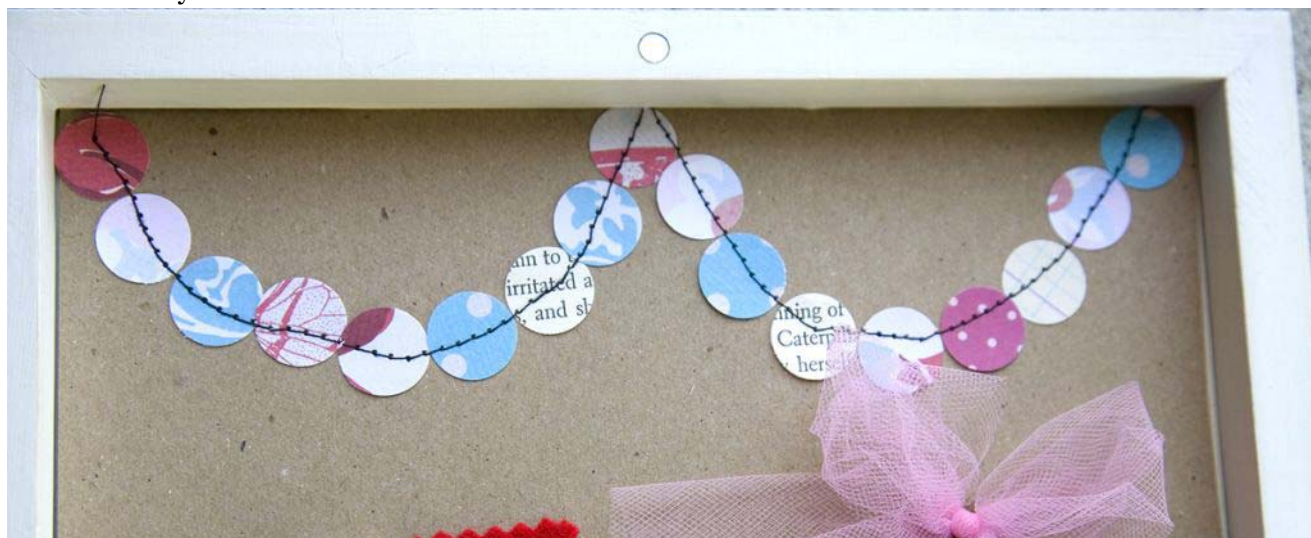


I was sitting at my desk perusing my favorite magazines with a pile of scraps of fabric, paper and tissue in front of me. I saw some wedding favors on a page and it just inspired me to create a shadowbox with the same feeling.

To look at the favors in the magazine, it might be difficult to figure out where it came from! I just think it is a jumpstart and rarely ends up the way I think it will.



One other thing about inspiration that I think about often: I find it immensely gratifying to use up my scraps when I'm making something. It makes any project even better in my mind!



Supplies: Fiskars: Pop-up Circle Punch , Fiskars: Scallop Sentiment Border Punch 01-004596, Fiskars: Pinking Sheers 94457097, Jenni Bowlin Papers, Scraps of fabrics, tissue papers, black cardstock, vintage ledger paper, pink tulle and black thread, 8x8 Melissa Frances Shadowbox

Designer: Katrina Simeck

It's the middle of summer, and your kids are crying "I'm bored!"...you've already run through all the usual activities, and you're out of field trip ideas. Maybe you even resort to letting them have a little more TV time. When you grab the remote, all you find is RERUNS! What can you do now? Take your cue from those summer reruns, and see how repetition can make a summer evening prime time for crafting!

Note cards are a quick craft for all ages, and using repetition helps them come together in no time. Simply gather up your favorite Fiskars tools, some cardstock card bases, and then scraps of patterned paper. Tip: your little ones can help punch shapes while your older kids put the cards together.

Start by creating several simple cards using cardstock and patterned paper. Fiskars Portable 12in Trimmer will help to create several cards in just a few minutes so that you can make the most of your crafting time.



I used Fiskars That's Amore squeeze punch to make this simple "sweet" note card. Rows of repeating hearts create a fun background, while foam dots help the larger heart to stand out. Fiskars Apron Lace border punch helps to dress up the base cardstock. Add a rub-on sentiment, and you're ready to send out a sweet greeting!



For this “hey” notecard, I used repeating rows of “thought bubble” shapes created with Fiskars He Said, She Said squeeze punch. I used foam dots to give one shape a lift, and added my greeting with letter stickers.

Re-runs don't have to be boring...at least not when it comes to crafting!

Supplies: Fiskars he said, she said squeeze punch, Fiskars trimmer, Fiskars round the bend corner squeeze punch, Fiskars That's Amore squeeze punch, Fiskars Apron Lace border punch, other- cardstock, patterned paper, letter stickers

Designer: Kelly Purkey

I couldn't be happier that summer is here, but a busy schedule leaves me little time to craft. When I'm short on time but high on creative juice, I often turn to magazines for quick inspiration. They're always helpful for layout or card designs or color schemes, but flipping through a new catalog gave me a great idea for a new sewing project.



I was really drawn to the large flower details being incorporated into fashion... turning up on different pieces at Gap, J.Crew, and Target. It was something I knew that I could recreate on my own using scraps of fabric and my Fiskars tools.



To start with I used a cheap white tank top to add the flowers to. I used my Fiskars Rotary Trimmer to cut long strips of fabric, then folded them in half and ran a simple stitch sewing them closed. Using a needle and thread, I gathered the fabric together in a circle to create a rosette and sewed them onto the tank. To add more texture, use Fiskars Pinking Fabric Scissors to trim the fabric first before sewing it into a rosette. Add some mini pearls or sequins to the centers of the flowers for delicate detail.



Thanks to quick fashion inspiration and some fabric scraps, I had a fun new tank top to wear out on a hot summer night!

supplies: Fiskars Pinking Shears, Fiskars 45mm Comfort Grip Rotary Trimmer, Fiskars 12-in-1 sewing tool, fabric, mini pearls, tank top

Designer: Lisa Falduto

This summer I have been going crazy trying to keep track of all those essential items in my purse. They seem to float around everywhere and then when I need them they are a mess when I finally find them. I decided that I needed some way to organize these summer essential items and I wanted it to be cute and easy. So I created what I am calling my essential purse pouch.



I started by bonding some felt and fabric together using a heat and bond product and an iron so the fabric was mounted to the felt. I decided to make a paper pattern using my Fiskars Comfort Grip Rotary cutter and my Fiskars 3.5x18.5 inch ruler to measure 5"x8" as my fabric cutting guide. I pinned this on my prepped felt/fabric piece and cut around it using my Fiskars Pinking shears. Then I folded it in thirds and using my sewing machine went around the outside edge while one panel was folded in place to create a pouch.



Next I used my Fiskars 3/16" anywhere hole punch to create 2 holes on the flap of the pouch and then set eyelets in them. I hand stitched the ribbon on the pouch front underneath the holes so you could easily thread it through the eyelets holes to tie it in a bow.

I then used my Fiskars pinking shears to cut a strip of patterned fabric 3/4" wide by 10" long. I cut two smaller pieces that are 1/2"x5". Then I took a needle and thread and quick went along all 3 pieces on the long edge with a basting stitch gathered stitches together to form flowers and tied a knot in each. I popped a button in the center of each using permanent fabric glue (you could also sew them if you wish) and cut a couple of felt leaves with my Fiskars Pinking Shears to glue underneath the flower edges.



Now I have a nice organized place where I can always find my essentials. My pouch contains a hand wipe, stain towelette, band aids, Tylenol and a little sewing kit. No more lost items that are hard to find tumbling around in my purse.

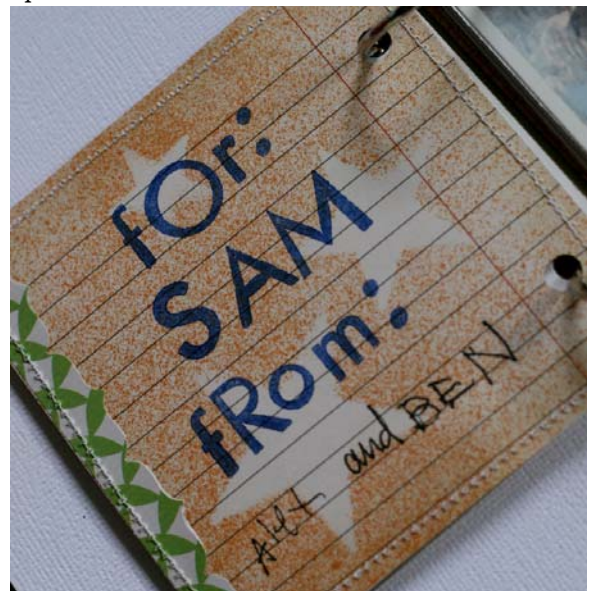
supplies: Fiskars pinking Shears, Fiskars 12-in-1 sewing tool, Fiskars 3/16" anywhere hole punch, Fiskars Comfort Grip Rotary cutter, Fiskars 3.5x18.5 inch ruler, fabric, ribbon, thread, permanent fabric glue, felt, buttons, eyelets

Designer: Lisa Truesdell

My favorite thing to do when I'm stuck in a rut is to take a field trip. Getting out and seeing new things always inspires me to take on a new project. I love window shopping at stores like Anthropologie or Pottery Barn when I'm alone – I always come away with new color combos or ideas for mixing materials. When I can't get out alone, taking the kids to do something fun can also be a jolt of inspiration. For this project, we headed to the zoo. My older boys (6 & 8) took along their camera and an assignment from me – we needed pictures of animals!



When we got home, I explained that we were going to use the pictures that they had taken to make a zoo animal book for their little brother. We started with a chipboard mini from Jenni Bowlin Studios. I love the 4x4 size – it's not an overwhelming project for kids to take on, and it's perfect for little hands to hold when it's finished. We sorted through our pictures and printed our favorites as 4x4s.



Now for the fun part! We broke out the Maya Mist. I love using shapes punched with the Fiskars Squeeze Punches as masks, and decided to try that technique with some help from the boys. We punched stars (Twinkle Twinkle – M, L and XL) and arranged them on the pages that came in the mini. Each page got a couple of squirts of mist – if you're doing this with kids, I recommend putting the item you're spraying inside a cardboard box in case they miss.

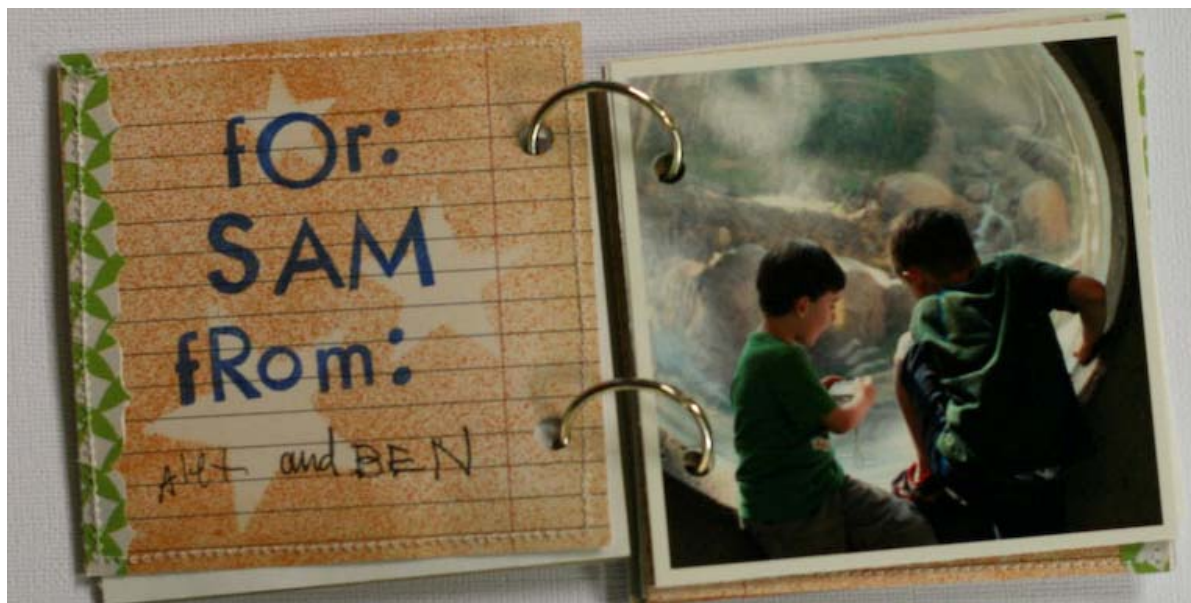
We used the Upper Crest border punch on some green and white Jenni Bowlin Studios paper and added that to the edge of each page.



Then we stamped a title, dedication page and the name of each animal using the Basic Font Clear stamps with blue ink.



Once the boys were done stamping, I stitched a border around each page and punched holes in the photos so I could add them to the book.



The boys can't wait to give this book to their little brother, and I love that we got two afternoons of fun out of this project.

supplies: Fiskars Basic Font Alpha, Fiskars Twinkle Twinkle Squeeze punches, Fiskars Upper Crest border punch, Fiskars paper trimmer, 4x4 Jenni Bowlin album and paper, Maya Mist, thread