



## Week 3

- **Rethink Your Ribbon & Trim**
- Repurpose Your Clothes, Patterns and Notions
- Research Sewing & Embroidery Tools
- Reinventing the Wheel: Make Your Own Tool Clutch

### Introduction

What does your ribbon stash look like at this very moment? Is it a small stash...or do you have your very own ribbon and trim store at home? Is it organized in a way that has you using it on every layout...or is it a big tangled mess that makes it difficult for you to put it to use?

I store my ribbon in a number of different ways that ultimately make it easier for me to find exactly what I'm looking for on any given page.

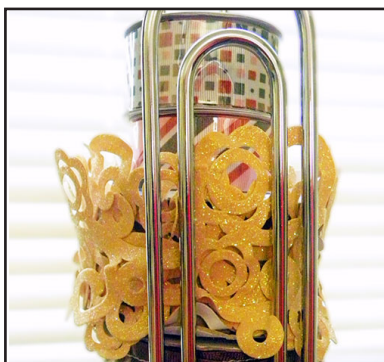
- I store my larger spools of solids and more classic patterns in the dispenser of my Clip It Up Ribbon Organizer.
- I then store 12 inch lengths of trims and ribbon--perfect for borders--clipped below my spools.
- I store my collection cards on a book ring for easy coordinating and store them on the inside of my scrap cabinet.
- And then I store my little bits in a glass jar on my desk so I know what I have and am always enticed to dig in and use my leftovers.

## Six Ways to Creatively Organize Your Ribbon

In the first two lessons we've talked about how you cannot fully understand the true potential of your stash until you have acknowledged what you have, treat your supplies with respect and store them in a manner that motivates you to use them. The same holds true for your ribbon--so here are a few solutions for creatively organizing your ribbon and trim using repurposed items from your home.



**Glass Jars and Canisters** are a perfect way to store your small scraps of ribbon. You may be tempted to throw those smaller pieces out, but that would be a huge mistake! Instead keep them handy in a small glass jar, so that you can see the variety of colors and patterns you have on hand. Then put your scraps to use by adding knots, tabs or even multi-colored ribbon flowers to your projects and layouts!



**Paper Towel Holders** are another repurposed item that I personally use to temporarily store the spools of ribbon that I am currently using with a project or page. This way they are readily accessible at my work area through the duration of a project, and I can easily put them all away in their proper place when I've finished with them.

**Recycled Boxes** are perfect for making your own ribbon storage containers. Try using shoe boxes or photo boxes for larger spools, or plastic wrap, tinfoil/wax paper boxes for smaller spools! Simply paint or cover the box in the finish of your choice, then measure and punch holes in the box's flap to create pull guides for your spools. Add eyelets to the holes for reinforcement and you're all set!



**Toilet Paper Holders** can be helpful when looking for a way to store your ribbon cards. I know it sounds funny--but they don't take up much room and allow you to utilize unused wall space. You can organize your ribbon by color or manufacturer on rings, for easy reference. Then hang your ribbon cards from the holder on a wall or on the inside of your cabinet doors!



**Curtain Rods** are an inexpensive, yet decorative way to store your ribbon spools so that they are visible on the walls of your scrap space. I'd look for rods whose ends pull off to make it easier to add and remove spools. And make sure the brackets give you enough distance from the wall for your larger spools. When you've finished a spool of ribbon, save the spool so that you can wind ribbon you may get from kit clubs, or that you may purchase by the yard on it and store it along with the rest of your ribbon spools!

**Key Holders** can be useful if you're like me and like to have 12 inch lengths of ribbon available in a variety of colors for borders on your layouts. Using bulldog clips I clip ribbons of the same color or theme in a bunch and then hang them from the hooks on the key holder. For me its always the challenge of "out of sight, out of mind"--this way I know what I have and am inspired to use it!



## Rethink Your Ribbon & Trim

Below are some ways to get you thinking outside the box with regard to your ribbon stash. We often look to our ribbon for borders, but ribbon can also help you to create dynamic backgrounds, fun accents and embellishments, as well as charming finishing details.



### Using Ribbon in Your Backgrounds and Mats

*Here a few of the ways that I love using my ribbon in my backgrounds and mats. When used in this way, I think ribbon can bring a rich dimension over your entire page. If you have a large collection of ribbon then these techniques are for YOU--as they require a bit more ribbon than some of the other techniques in this lesson.*

### Make a ruffled pattern on your page's background.

The gathered ribbons that I used on the background of "I Love Fluffies" went a long way to help me create this fun and bold look on my page. And believe it or not--it was quite simple to achieve. Using the same gathering technique discussed in Week 1, I took three 12" lengths of gathered ribbon and adhered them to my page using a thin line of hot glue-- positioning them asymmetrically across the page to add visual interest.

You could also try:

1. using a sheer trim for a more delicate look.
2. creating designs that are less linear with your gathers, like swirls.
3. using a staggered series of gathers.
4. surrounding your layers with white space to make them a focal point on the page.
5. using your gathers to ground your focal elements by layering a photo or embellishment over top.



## Create a textured chevron print mat with ric-rac.

In my layout "What a Hunk" I was able to create a hip photo mat with a spool of white ric-rac. This effect brings some nice texture to the layout and adds to the modern feel of it as well. Make sure when you lay down your strips that they are nested inside of each other for an authentic chevron-patterned look.

Or try recreating one of these other patterns with your ribbon and trims:

- **Argyle-** by combining several widths and colors of diagonally positioned strips.
- **Check-** by weaving complimentary solid colored ribbons strips of the same width.
- **Plaid-** by weaving together several colors and widths of ribbon strips into a block.
- **Striped-** by lining up several strips of ribbon in varying colors and widths.







## Using Ribbon and Trim to Create Fun Accents for Your Pages

*Is your mind open to the possibilities? Good--then that means that you are ready to turn your ribbon into wonderfully creative embellishments and accents that you'll love and will help bring your pages to life.*

### Use twine, jute or leather cord to create banners on your page.

Title banners, accent banners or even a photo banner like the one in my layout "Always Exploring" can be a great way to use your fibers and cord. I created this banner feature to hang my photos from using a spool of jute from my stash. Not only was the jute strong enough to clip my photos to using mini clothespins, but it also added to the organic theme of this layout.

To incorporate these fibers into your own banners here are a few tips:

1. I like to hang my fiber first. This helps to establish a path for your pennants or other elements to take along your page.
2. I use staples, brads, eyelets or stitching to secure the ends of my fibers. This gives them a finished look and ensures a long-lasting effect.
3. You could use pop dots to secure your pennants or other elements over-top of the fiber. This gives them a free flowing look, as it lifts them off the page but secures them at the same time.
4. You could also attach your pennants with a few cross-stitches, a staple, small brads at the corners, various clips or by wrapping a mirrored pennant around the fiber and adhering the backs to one another.





## Extract designs from decorative trim to create elegant embellies.

Sometimes using wide, bulky or intricate ribbons and trims on our pages can be a little overwhelming. However that doesn't mean that you can't find ways to put your wider trims to use. In "4 Years Later" I used a single bud from a strand of rosette ribbon as well as a flower that I had extracted from a 4"wide piece of beaded trim, to embellish my page. As a whole, the beaded trim or the rosette ribbon might have been too much--but in pieces, they added the perfect amount of detail and sophistication to my layout.



Besides extracting patterns from these types of trim you could also:

1. cut them in half to make them more user-friendly.
2. cut free-hand shapes from them.
3. layer additional trims or elements over top to tone them down.



## Make your own personalized prize ribbons.

I thought these prize ribbon-inspired embellishments were the perfect addition to my "Proud Mother Wall Art." I started with some stacked flowers as the circular base for my prize ribbon and then used ribbon lengths in a variety of colors and widths layered over top of one another for the tails.



To make your own traditional style prize ribbon:

1. Start with a pre-made or self-cut chipboard circle or other circular element.
2. Use pleated ribbon or make hand gathers around the edge of your chipboard piece and adhere it with hot glue as you go.
3. Cut ribbon lengths to act as your tails and attach them to the back of your base.
4. V-cut or slant-cut the ends of your ribbon to keep them from fraying and to give them a nice finished look.

## Use Ribbon to Create Eye-Catching Frames and Borders

*As you may have noticed--one of my favorite page designs is the "shelf"--where I use a strong border to build the focal area of my layout on. This could be because I love ribbon so much! If you ask me the two sort of go hand-in-hand! Below are a few ways you can take your ordinary ribbon borders up a notch by adding a little bit of extra dimension and interest.*



### Frame your photos with a ruffled ribbon.

A ruffled or gathered frame can be the perfect way to bring a homespun feel to your project or page. On the inside edge of this frame, I used a wide gathered ribbon whose look was achieved using the same gathering technique described in Week 1. Then I adhered it to my frame using a thin line of hot glue.



You could also use any of these other techniques to frame your photos with ribbon:

1. Wrap ribbon, tulle or other trims around the bottom, or one side of your photo and tie it in a bow for emphasis.
2. Piece together your leftover ribbon bits, running them along the edge of your photo and accent them with buttons, die cuts and other small accents along the way
3. Allow strips of ribbon to radiate from behind your round photos.

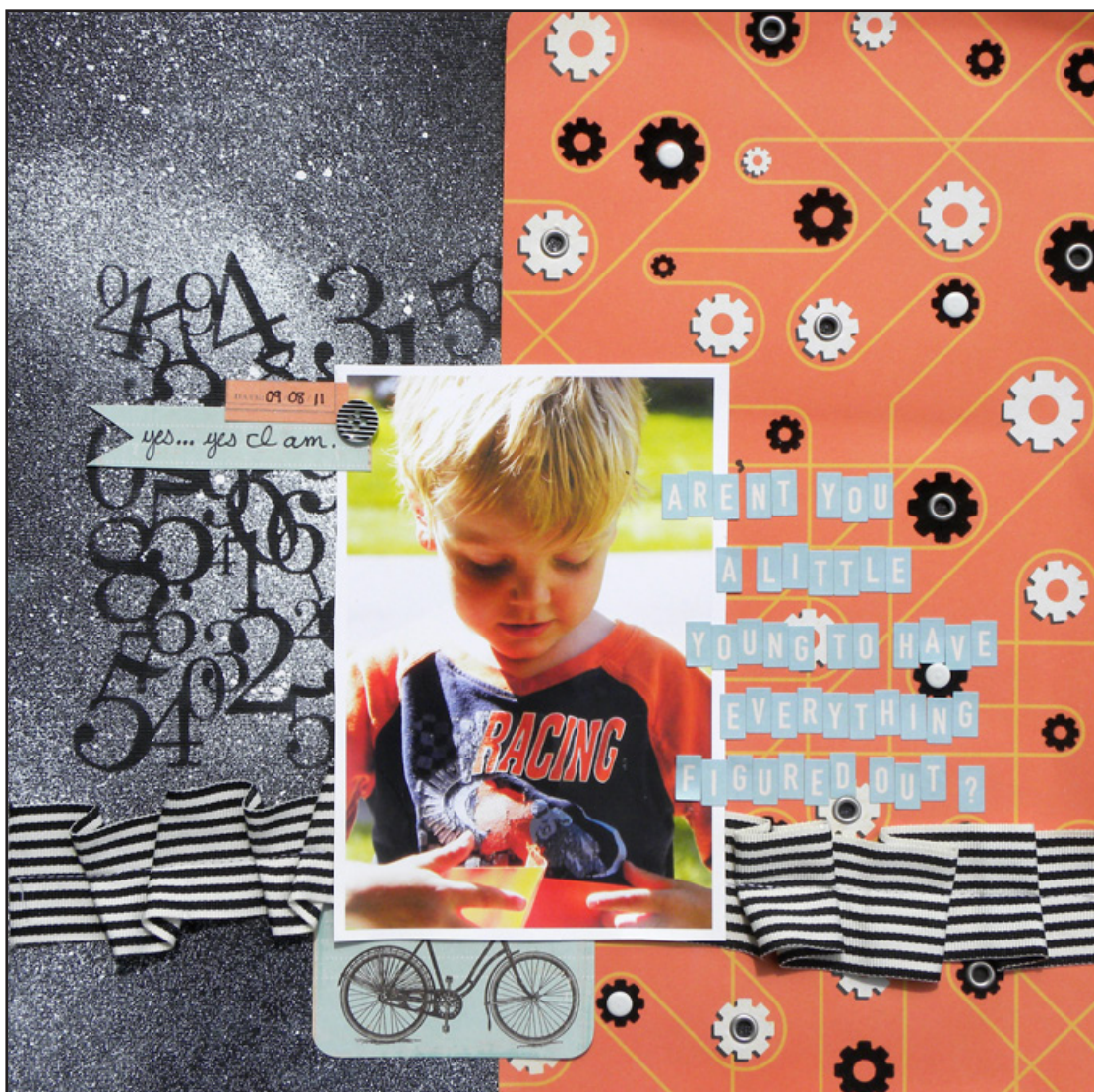


## Create a dimensional border from pleated ribbon.

Pleated ribbon can add a great deal of depth and dimension to your pages and projects. In my layout "Aren't You A Little Young..." I used it to do just that. This layout utilized mostly suggestive layers and I really wanted to add some tactile dimension.

To get this look I:

1. Measured the length of ribbon I needed.
2. Doubled it and then cut it from the spool.
3. Then I made uneven pleats by folding the fabric back and pinning it at random intervals throughout the length of the ribbon. You could also do tidy and even pleats if you wish.
4. Then run a machine stitch over the top.
5. No machine--no problem! Use your hot glue gun instead to secure each of your folds as you work down the length of the ribbon.







## Using Your Trim to Add Charming Details to Your Pages

*This is the part of this lesson that the fibers you own are really going to come in handy. We don't often think of using our ribbon to create small, finishing details on our pages because ribbon is a fairly bulky supply. But your fibers are perfect for adding those eye-catching details that give your pages a polished look, while adding a little bit of charm.*

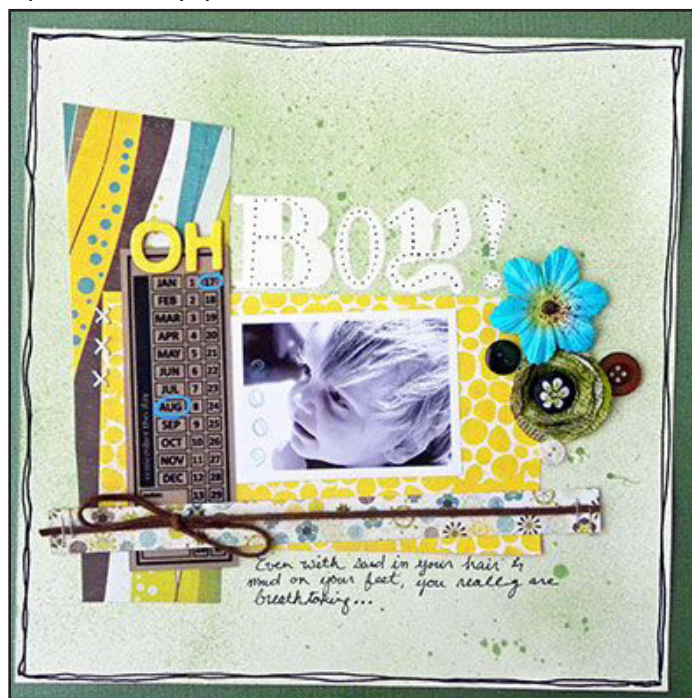
## Use bows on your pages as focal elements.

Yes--even on boy pages! In my layout "Oh Boy" I used this bow made from leather cording to create a visual triangle of charm, along with my hand-made flowers and hand stitches. I wasn't concerned about adding a bow to this boy page because I knew the effect would set the tone I was looking for and it really helped to emphasize my photo.

Here are a few other fun ways to use bows on your layouts:

1. Use smaller scale bows in a series or triangle on your page.
2. Start or end your ribbon border with a bow.
3. Accent your photo with a bow.
4. Create an elegant folded bow border with a bead, bauble or buckle for the center.
5. Use a corset-style accent to ground a photo or mat to your page.

Making big bows is OK too! By using your wider ribbon you can turn a big floppy bow into the perfect focal point on your more cutesy layouts.





## Wrap your fibers around mats and photos for added charm.

On my page "My No. 2" I wrapped twine around my focal mat to draw extra attention to it and to add a nice finishing detail to my layout. There's no real rhyme or reason to it--just start wrapping, allowing the fibers to cross over one another and then finish it off with a nice floppy bow. I tried to make mine look like a package tied with string.

Some other uses for your lighter weight fibers:

1. Use them in place of floss to draw attention to your hand-stitched details.
2. Hang tags and charms from them.
3. Create a looped border or frame.
4. String a few beads or sequins along them and stitch around a photo or focal element.



## Use your ribbon to create a "quilled" effect on your pages.

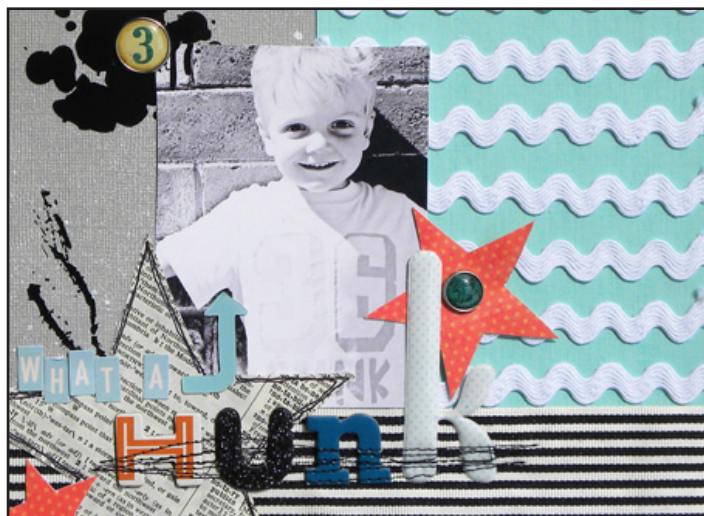
In my layout "Always Exploring" I used a quilled effect to add some leaves to the large flower I used as a focal element on my page. This adds an interesting detail to the flower and gives it a completed look.



Here are a few tips to help you to translate the paper quilling technique to your scrapbook pages using your ribbon.

1. Draw out the design you want your ribbon to take directly on your page before starting.
2. You may want to use starch to give your ribbon a bit more stability.
3. Lay down your hot glue or another tacky adhesive in small sections.
4. Work from the inside out.
5. Try to build a good starting and ending place into your design so you don't have to leave raw edges out in the open.
6. Consider the width of your ribbon and how far you want the quilled design to stand out from your page. Cut or fold your ribbon in half if necessary.





One of my favorite supplies to use on layouts is ribbon! It can bring a very rich and dimensional feel to your pages and very few of my layouts feel complete without it. I hope these ideas will inspire you to look to your ribbon stash more often and with an imaginative mind.

**Your Assignment:**

**In the Forum:**

*Let's talk about how you are currently using and storing your ribbon stash--maybe you'll get even more ideas from your classmates!*

**In the Gallery:**

*Try out a new idea from those presented in this lesson and post your results in the gallery. I can't wait to see the eye candy that awaits me this week!*