

# pocket play

Short on time? Get creative ideas to make the most of your pocket pages. BY MELANIE BLACKBURN

Creating pocket pages allows me to equally document my daughters' stories and life events. I've created three individual 6 x 8 pocket page storybooks—one per child.

Each month I focus on one story or recap events in each of their books. By the end of the year, my goal is to have 12 spreads in each album. I love the concept of having dedicated pocket page albums which allow me to focus on their stories and milestones.



## TIPS

**POCKET TIP #1: Use a large photo for a title page.** Let your photos do the work when it comes to design. A striking photo can tell the story with only a few embellishments.

**POCKET TIP #2: Create journaling with a typewriter.** There's nothing like the click clack of a real typewriter. Type up your journaling and trim to fit in one of the pockets.

**POCKET TIP #3: Think in thirds.** With three photos on this spread, the eye travels around the spread to tell the story. Once you look at the photos, you'll want to know the story told in the journaling.

**Document December events in a flash.** A trip to the Christmas

tree farm was such a treat for my family, and my daughter especially loved the hot chocolate we had that day—she loved it SO much she had two servings. This was the perfect spread to include in Alexia's storybook so that she can always remember our family's holiday traditions.

## a december to remember

**supplies** PATTERNED PAPER, STICKERS, WOOD VENEER: Pinkfresh Studios; TYPEWRITER: Brother



**DESIGN TIP: Mix and match.** Alternate photos and journal cards or embellishment pockets to create a wonderful rhythm to your page. It playfully leads the eye around the page.

**DESIGN TIP: Include a margin.** The thin margin around each of the photos creates a connecting element, providing a nice visual repetition on your design.

### favourite things

**supplies** CARDSTOCK: Recollections; PATTERNED PAPER, DIE CUT SHAPES, ENAMEL DOTS, LETTER STICKERS, STICKERS: Pinkfresh Studios; TYPEWRITER: Brother

**Delight in the details.** Create a collage page to recap some of your favourite things about the season. You might not have time to do elaborate spreads about every event, excursion, or get together, but a page like this allows you to capture the magic of the holidays and remember the little things that make them so special.

For more wonderful creations from Melanie, visit her blog [ohpaperjoy.wordpress.com](http://ohpaperjoy.wordpress.com)

#### TIPS

**POCKET TIP #1: Balance your design.** I placed darker pictures at the top right and bottom left corners and anchored the spread with our family picture in the center.

**POCKET TIP #2: Incorporate white space.** Though you absolutely could fill every pocket with a photo, letting the eye rest on supporting accents gives your design a less cluttered feel.

**POCKET TIP #3: Add special touches.** The snowflake noel card got some quick dimension when I added enamel dots to each point. Just a fun way to add extra colour to your design.