



# LIVING THE ARTISTIC LIFE

[www.ArtLessonsWithJamie.com](http://www.ArtLessonsWithJamie.com)

Fall Edition

October 2010

## Welcome to the fall edition of

"Living The Artistic Life" ... a newsletter that announces new and convenient ways for you to enhance and/or re-create your artistic talents be it painting, drawing, or crafting... This time I am excited because I have a new line of "kits" and products for the scrapbooking, and /or card making enthusiasts... no paintbrush required...just think downloadable images and background kits that have been coordinated and combined for quick and easy [but "gorgeous" ] assembly to make those ten minute handmade cards or scrapbook pages, gift tags etc.

Go to [www.ArtLessonsWithJamie.com](http://www.ArtLessonsWithJamie.com) and order your kit today.

Have A Happy and Creative fall.

Jamie

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#### Halloween: Words to the Wise

A mini file filled with three backgrounds and a full page of text words for scrapbooking or greeting cards. Also includes: fun images for gifttag making etc.



Each File you buy contain 6-8 pages of images, backgrounds, tag templates and text for you to use.

Mega files contain even more. They are inexpensive and easy to download .Just save to your computer and use at your convenience.



# Tools of the Trade: Paper, Scissors, and Crop

Learning to make memory albums, greeting cards, and scrapbook type journals does not have to be expensive... only creative. Embellishments are the key to taking flat, plain pages to fancy works of art.

Learn to use what you already have around ...look and see what is lying around in the bottom of that sewing basket, or top drawer in the “chest of drawers”...you’ll be surprised how many tiny treasures are just waiting to become part of an embellished cover on a memory album , gift bag, or card.

Here is a list of things I have found and use...

- old saved greeting cards for text ...or re-use the back for a new stiff background paper or gift tag.
- old colorful magazine pages to collage with or turn into colorful envelopes or small gift bags.
- saved bits of ribbon, tiny slices of fabrics, paper doilies...and any button that is flat enough to use.
- old jewelry and keys, used postage stamps, loose charms, tiny toys
- old music c.d. cases make great photo frames
- old potpourri that may have little dried acorns, or pinecones, and colored leaves and flower petals
- take the time to press some beautiful fall leaves...I stick them between magazine pages and stack other magazines on top to weight them
- just think outside of the usual pre-fabbed merchandise in the store and get the creative side of the brain going. Look at everything you find and ask yourself...can I repurpose this or integrate this as part of my “new” scrapbook, memory journal, or greeting card ..etc.?
- **Warning:** this habit will become addictive and you will find yourself having a terrible time throwing away anything!!!!

Tools I have to buy: keep on hand

- Good glue sticks and a bottle of Fabric glue
- Hot glue and a good glue gun
- Hole punch
- A few good rubber stamps that I like the words on them
- A metallic gold, sepia toned, and silver ink pad and fine line marker
- Cardstock off white paper [the larger the number the heavier it is. ] I use off white instead of white because it helps tone the printer ink to a more natural look... and saves ink.
- printer ink for the computer printer.
- decorative edged scissors
- A spray fixative that will preserve my photos and keep printed images from fading.. Krylon UV spray is one I like.

## The Creative Scrapper: Re-purposing an old C.D. cover into a photo frame

I made these frames to sit on the table at a wedding shower for my daughter.. Her colors were fall foliage colors so I reused some old potpourri and a hot glue to decorate the edges. Hot glue and a resized printed photo was all I needed... plus a little creative thinking to help balance them so that they sat upright and did not tumble over. A few pennies glued as little feet did the trick... [ I did not feel I was defacing them since I can pull them off afterward if I need too...but if this bothers you think of using old washers instead. ] I was able to do a lot of these for a little time and no cost to me. [Except for the printer ink and paper. ] If you want to hang them on the wall you can hot glue ribbon on each side and tie at the top for a hanger. A gallery of these c.d. frames would be cute holding letters for a name in a child's room or holding the kiddo's drawings...think outside of the box... that is what being creative means.



Step1: Resize, print, and insert the photo I measured the original label c.d. and it was about 4.3/4 by 4 3/4 inches ...so I knew approx. what size the photo needed to be before I printed it.

or you can just stack the old insert on top of your new print out and trim around it. This insures that the photo will slide in where the old insert "cover" used to be.

Step 2 : Heat up the hot glue gun and squirt a little glue on the outer front edges and begin to "stick" pieces of potpourri around the frame... [ Do a little glue and potpourri at a time. ] Do not let anything hang over the bottom edge.

Step 3: You can see a little wire heart I made by bending some junk wire I had I put glue on the wire heart in a few places...and made sure I "stuck" it on a fairly flat piece of the potpourri "leaf".

Step 4: Put glue on the underside -bottom edge on one side and then place it on top of a penny... [to adhere the penny to the frame] you do it this way so the glue is level. If you stick the glue on the penny first it will be unlevel and lumpy.. not what you want....then do the other side... keep working with it until it will sit steady...you may have to re- adjust your penny where it is a little more to the back than centered.

Step 5: If you get glue strings on the image let them dry. Don't try picking them off while the glue is hot it will just ruin the surface of the plastic.. When they are dry you can usually "pick" them off... if not... use a little Windex and put it on a soft cloth and "rub" them off.

# Embellishments add Pizazz



When you are making greeting cards... by adding those little bits of ribbon or buttons you take a "cute" card to the next level of originality and creativity... Sew a few ribbons folded over on the cardstock before you glue it to the base... or hot glue a raffia bow... both of those embellishments are not that heavy and mail easily.

Keep the heavier embellishments like keys or charms added onto gift sacks or tags...

These items you are going to deliver yourself... so you don't have to worry about the mail tossing them around.



Sew folded over ribbon scraps onto the cardstock before you glue it to the base

A little bow of raffia makes it special

Remember to order some of the new scrapbooking image files from my website at [www.artlessonswithjamie.com](http://www.artlessonswithjamie.com) and you always have what you need to make tons of special cards and tags.

Watch my blog regularly for new ideas and posts, announcements, or upcoming classes and workshops.