

## Close to My Heart Loony Newsletter

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### Snowman Soup

by Annette Schnabel

In need of an idea that will “warm” the hearts of special people? Snowman Soup might be just what you are looking for! This can be a great family or classroom project. If you are planning a caroling party, make extras and hand out as you go!

“Ingredients” used for this project include:

Snowman Poem (below)  
Frosty Friends Stamp set (D1073; page 32)  
Brown Lunch Bag  
Dutch Blue Cardstock (pages 86-87)  
White Daisy Cardstock (pages 86-87)  
Moonstruck Ink (pages 86-87)  
White Daisy Organdy Ribbon (page 195)  
Stick on Velcro  
Paper Punch  
Glue Pen (page 183)  
Prizma Glitter (page 184)

Ingredients used for Snowman Soup:

Hot Chocolate Packets  
Marshmallows  
Candy Canes (the “stirring sticks”)

Mints (optional but so tasty!)

This project begins with the plain brown lunch bag as the base. Cut the bag to 6 inches in height. Then measure the width of your bag (mine was approximately 5-1/4”).

Cut Cardstock for the front of the bag (6” x width). Cut Cardstock for back (8” x width). The extra two inches is folded down to make the front flap. I tore the edge of the CTMH Dutch Blue cardstock, with its white core, for a decorative edge. Stamp and attach the cardstock pieces.

Attach the Velcro. (Hint: stick the two hook and loop Velcro pieces together. Attach as one to the inside of the flap. Then press the flap firmly to the bag. This is an easy way to have both parts match up perfectly).

Layer the poem onto Cardstock. Attach with ribbon to the front flap. Add glitter for a special finishing touch.

If you need a time saver, print the poem directly onto the white daisy front piece and stamp around with snowflakes).

#### Snowman Soup (Author Unknown)

Was told that you’ve been good this year  
Always glad to hear it.  
With freezing weather drawing near  
You’ll need to warm your spirit.  
So here’s a little Snowman Soup  
Complete with stirring stick.  
Add hot water and sip it slow  
It’s sure to do the trick!

## To Crop or Not to Crop: Basic Cropping 101

by Michelle Persons

Cropping is a basic scrapbooking skill that can be as simple as cutting a picture to fit on your page or turn your picture into a work of art with intricate details. Memory Makers Magazine states that cropping is “a process of cutting photos to enhance the image or eliminate portions of the shot.” The question is when to crop and when not to crop?

### TO CROP

When you can make *copies* of the photographs and feel free to cut them without worry.

When pictures with *busy backgrounds* steal attention away from your intended object of focus. Crop them out to bring the focus to where you want it.

When photos have been *damaged or have blemishes* like photo processing errors, or out of focus areas.

When you want to add style and variety.

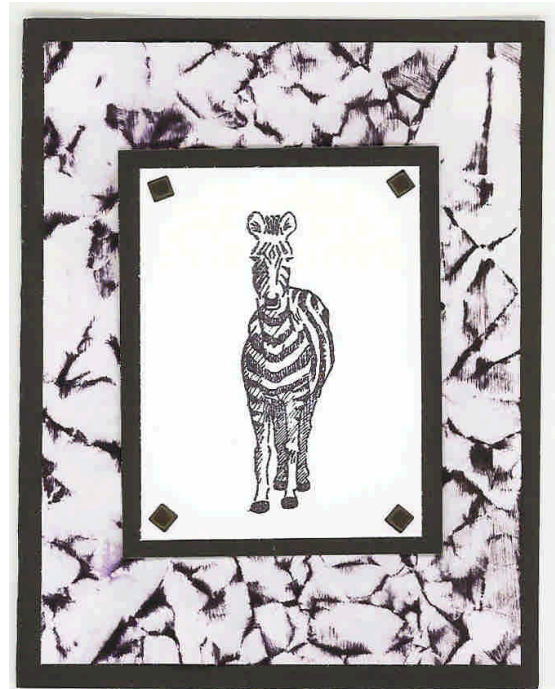
### NOT TO CROP

Cropping is **not** recommended for *one-of-a-kind heirloom photos*.

When considering if you should crop a photo or not, consider the background of the scene. If it conveys *artistic quality*, you might lose perspective of the picture if you crop it out. Look at the objects in the background for *sentimental value*, too. For example, while scrapbooking a friend's wedding, I was going to crop a picture around the limo. Then I noticed my Old Buick (boat!). It was just as long as the limo! I left it in to remind me of my first car.

*Polaroids* should not be cut apart. The chemicals used to process the image are exposed when the paper is cut. However, the newer peel apart Polaroids are safe to use because the peel away part contains the processing chemicals.

Whether you crop your photo or not, know that you can create a new piece of artwork with your photos in your scrapbooking.



## Direct to Paper

by Lynn Hart

1. Choose two complementary ink pads. Use CTMH's new Color Combination Guide for all the great color combinations!
2. On a blank sheet of copy paper (this should only be used on cards, and not scrapbooks, since copy paper is not acid free), rub one of the ink pads directly on the surface. It works better to start with the lighter color.
3. Crinkle the paper like you are going to throw it away; then open and flatten it.

4. Rub the second ink pad over the paper. The ridges of the paper will pick up the new color.
5. Lightly spray with water to blend the colors a little more. Let this dry, or if you are impatient, use a hair dryer to dry this quickly.
6. The paper may be ironed to flatten it.

For this card, I used black card stock, black ink, Out of Africa stamp set (D1042). Check out the great embellishments! These are from the new "My Accents" –Pewter (Z191).

Call your CTMH Consultant to order any of these great embellishments, card stock, and stamp sets!

## Ho Ho Holiday Gift Idea

by Thea Kramer

Are you ready to try something new with your Close to My Heart My Acrylix stamps? The creative control and artistic precision My Acrylix offers, allows you the versatility to use them on a variety of projects! If you love stamping on paper, you will also love stamping on fabric! Stamping on fabric is just as easy!

Follow these basic hints and directions, and create that perfect gift bag that your friends or loved ones will cherish as a unique homemade gift.

Supplies:

- My Acrylix stamp set(s) and blocks. Pick your favorite stamps or appropriate theme for the individual or season. Personalize it with alphabet stamps!
- Canvas or denim craft bag (uncoated). This can be found at

Joanne Fabric or Michaels for \$2-4 or \$5-9 for a 3-pack.

- Versa Craft Ink Pads, found in a variety of colors (page 182)
- Optional:
  - My Accents (page 196)
  - Ribbon or Waxy Flax (page 195)
  - Fabric Glue (find this at your craft store).

Visualize your fabric as your new creative surface. Are you excited yet? Plan your "layout". Reflections Scrapbook Programs, and Originals Card Confidence Programs (found on pages 84-85 of the CTMH Idea Book) will help you design the PERFECT layout for EITHER paper or fabric! Don't forget to adjust your design to the size of the surface you are working with!

Step 1: Stamp your surface. You may want to insert a large book into the bag to create an even surface to stamp on.

Step 2: Heat set your ink by using an iron or your clothes dryer. This allows the image to be permanent and to be washed later.


Step 3: Embellish the artwork with your choice of accessories.

Congratulations! You have created a unique and thoughtful gift!

Call your CTMH Consultant  
with your

### **Holiday Wish List**

Your CTMH Consultant will call your significant Sweetie and make sure that the packages you receive are filled with the supplies you love!



## CTMH Personalized Stamp Ideas for yourself and/or that hard to buy for person on your list!

**Add a stamp pad, a bow, and a handmade card –  
personalized stamps are the perfect gift!**

*“From the Library of \_\_\_\_\_”* Teachers, Book Club Members, Friends  
*“Please return to \_\_\_\_\_”* Anyone who loans stuff out all the time  
*“Made just for you by \_\_\_\_\_”* Anyone who stamps, quilts, cross stitches, or crafts  
*“From the desk of \_\_\_\_\_”* Great for Teachers, Consultants

### **“Merry Christmas!**

*Love, the Von Trapp Family* Personalize your own Christmas Cards

*Anthony & Cleopatra  
10-30-04* Perfect for the Newly wed couple

*Ireland  
2002* Ideal for themed vacation albums

*Baby’s Name  
Length and weight  
Date of birth* Wonderful for that new little one!

*“Stamp Art by Katie”* Great stocking stuffers! Kids love them!

*“Jillene”* Anyone with a creative or unique name.  
You can get the spelling right every time!

*If you had any idea how long  
it took me to make this card,  
you’d never throw it away!* Fabulous gift for a stamper friend!

*It’s been said you’ve been naughty  
so here’s the scoop . . .  
all you get for Christmas is  
snowman Poop!* This requires two separate stamps. Add a  
snowman and some marshmallows for a hoot!

## Calendar Craze:

making the most of your  
scrapbook pages

by Peggy Baker

There is no doubt that scrapbook pages look gorgeous in our deluxe CTMH albums but there are some other ways to showcase the same pages. Many of us scrapbook in order to chronicle the times of our lives. Those same pages that remind us of the important times we have shared, can also be the basis of a treasured holiday gift idea. Using the CTMH monthly calendar, personal, memorable, heartfelt, handmade gifts can be created for family members using the pages that you have already lovingly created.

Take the completed 12 x 12 scrapbook page to an office products store where they can make a color copy. Trim the copy to 12 x 12 and adhere to the blank sheet of the calendar (this is the calendar page above the spiral). Then, using a variety of stamped images, fill in the calendar squares for the dates on the calendar page below the spiral.

It is also possible to piece the scrapbook page rather than use a color copy. This adds bulk and weight, however, and the calendar does not lay flat as a result.

The Scrapbook page was made with the Beach House kit (7030A). The calendar page was made using Playful Numbers (B1071) and Playful Letters (D1013 & C1079) as well as On The Beach (B1029) and You and Me (C1166).





## 'Twas the Night Before Christmas Giggle

Author Unknown

(with apologies to Clement C. Moore)

'Twas the week before Christmas and all through the den,  
were scattered my ink pads, my stamps, and my pens.

The cards I had hoped to send off in the mail,  
were still on the table and my hand felt quite frail.

I'd stamped through the evening in hopes I would find,  
I'd finished my cards. . . . but I was still far behind.

When out in my driveway, there arose such a clatter  
that I sprang from my chair as embossing powder splattered.

The moon on the breast of the new fallen snow,  
made me wish that my white ink was not running low.

When what to my tired, bloodshot eyes should appear  
but a red SUV and my stamp friends so dear.

Susie, Dianne, Carol, Rita, and Jill,  
all from the car in the driveway did spill.

With a handful of treats they knocked at the door,  
then dashed up my stairway to the second floor.

They surrounded my table with laughter and glee  
and stamped up those cards as fast as could be.

Embossing guns warmed, and powder was spread,  
as I felt pass beyond me my feeling of dread.

As they finished each card with a gentle, "It's Done",  
their smiles told me they were having fun.

The cards were all stacked, with their envelopes too,  
and it dawned on me that my chore was now through.

They left as they'd come in the blink of an eye,  
and I just murmured "Thank You" as the group hurried by.

And I heard them exclaim as they drove out of sight,  
The best kind of Christmas is where Stampers Unite!