



Charms for your craft

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INTRODUCTION

A while back someone said to me, charms aren't your usual scrapbooking item! WHAT? Of course I was mortified? Where has this lady been, then it got me wondering how many others out there haven't thought of using them.

With this in mind I have gathered up some examples and ideas to show you how to incorporate charms into your creations.

Charms were the first items I started selling back in 2006 and now with over 85 charms they are still our most popular item.

To be honest, I had a hard time picking which of my layouts to show you for examples, as 95% of my layouts / off the page projects have charms on them.

The most common way I see people use charms is on flowers or to centre buttons as the first lot of examples show, but I rarely do that. Why? Because there are so many other ways to use charms however I do have a few examples with flowers and buttons to show you.



Made with Love Envelope with our white flower



Princess Crown Charms with flowers, black organza ribbon & on the left our white rhinestone chain



Our Moon, Hearts & Stars Frame with our pink edged white flower



Mushroom charm with one of our eye pins and olive edged white flower



Made with Love Heart tied with thread onto our red and white flowers with white tags for the journalling



Here is our bumble bee sitting on one of our flowers. I have centred the flowers with our pearls, buttons & buzz and bloom chipboard flower. All available at our website



I made a small frame with tulle in the back. Centred our pink and white frangipani flower with a princess crown



Our daisy charm is attached to a button with our eye pin, beads and thread. The flower has pink kindly glitz on it

EMBELLISH WITH CHARMS

They can be added to the main embellishment / feature of your layouts



Our flower charm with our white tags, corrugated ribbon, stemmed flowers and skeleton leaves



Our musical charm with our pink felt love heart, pink hearts ribbon, black rhinestone flourish and black rhinestone photo corner



Love charm with black & white heart ribbon, white organza ribbon and our stemmed flowers



Sun charm with blue organza ribbon, blue rhinestones and flower



Our made with love envelopes and snowflake charms.



Variety of our flowers (centred with our glitter brads & rhinestones) with our dragonfly and small daisy charms



Butterfly flying away from the flowers which includes our small daisy charm, skeleton leaves and white with purple edged flowers



Our lollipop charms with a cluster of lolly embellishments for a Halloween layout



I made a small frame with tulle as the backing, added our Ballerina Charm with our eye pin, organza ribbon and our beads



I am beautiful charm attached to our stemmed flower, with various of our flowers, silver cup chain and pink & white plaid fabric brad.



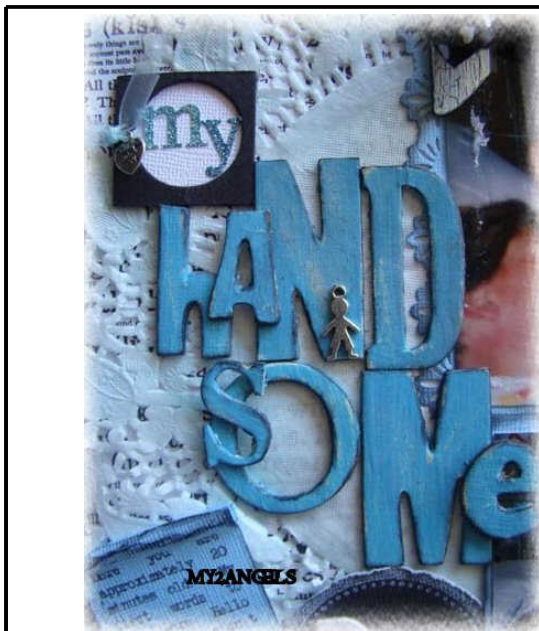
On these two examples, I used our car and boys cap charms.



To create the circles I punched out 2 circles, 1 larger with black core dinations cardstock for the backing and inserted a paper clip between it. Core dinations is great to distress as it has an inner core colour which I emphasized by running my craft knife around the edges. Then I downloaded an old newspaper, inked it and then attached the charm with Dimensional Magic. In the left example to finish it off I punched out another circle from the pp of the layout to add to the top.

TITLES & JOURNALLING

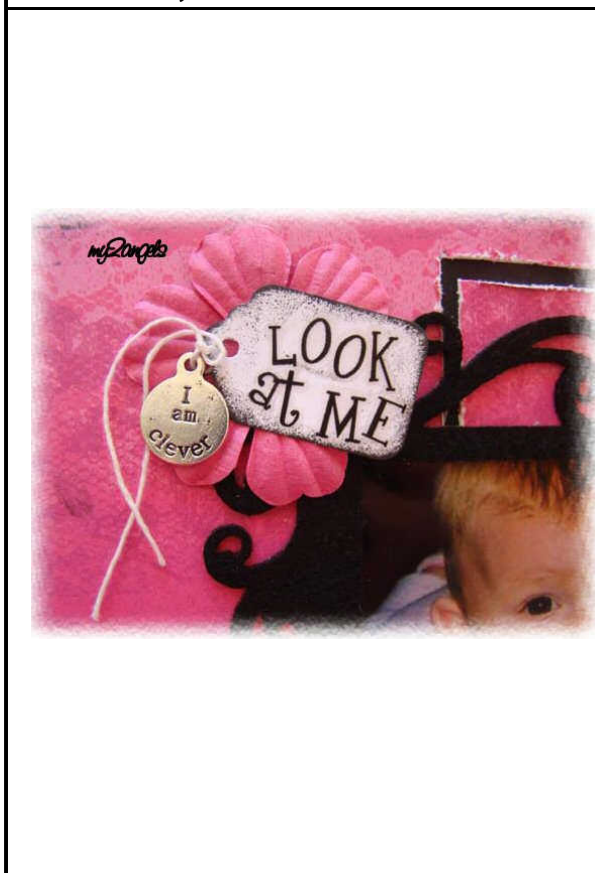
Add them to your title and / or create your page title for a unique touch



Little Boy and Made with Love Charm



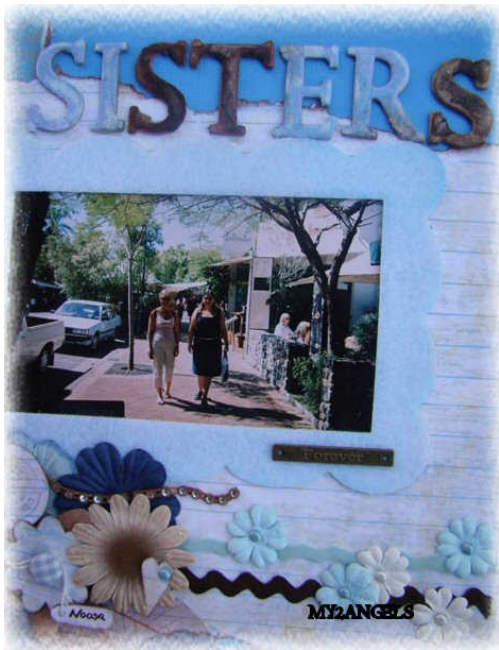
I am Beautiful on our Pink Flowers with White tags



I am Clever Charms with our pink flower and white tags



I have incorporated our love and bike charm into the title for this layout. As this is a boys layout string was used, instead of ribbon, to add a bit more of a "boy" effect.



Our tags are another good idea instead of rub ons or stickers for titles.

They come in a set of 4 – laughter, forever, passion and together. Whilst you may automatically think wedding / engagement / romance I have used the "forever" tag on a chipboard heart covered with pink kindly glitz on a layout for my daughter and on the "sisters forever" layout, as shown to the left

Passion - you could add this to your title when completing a scrapbooking page or project on one of your passions

The laughter and together tags ... well this is endless

CORNERS & SIDE PIECES



Small Silver Key and Made with Love hanging with Organza Ribbon from our pink felt heart and stemmed flowers



Thread to create a photo corner on the Buzz and Bloom Photo Corner which I embossed using my cuttlebug



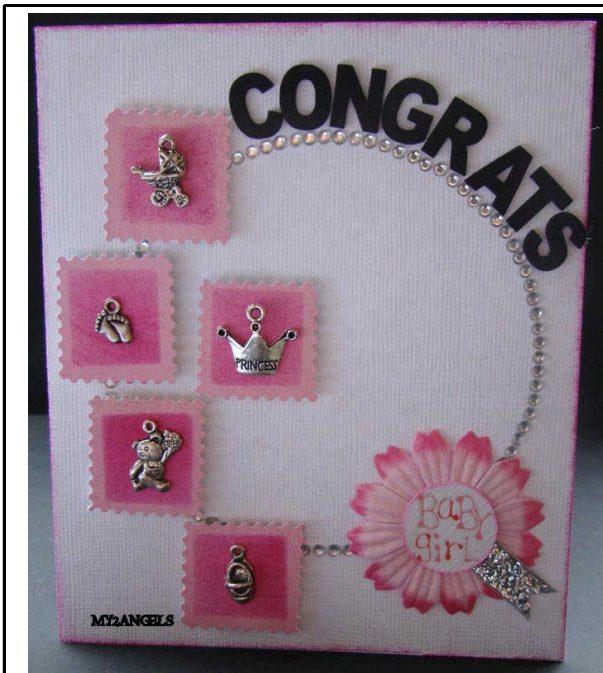
Fold over your pattern paper, and place a charm on top of flower and tie with organza ribbon. In this case I used our present charm for a birthday layout



Our Together charms on top of distressed folded pattern paper

CARDS AND OTP PROJECTS

Charms are not limited to just layouts



This is one of my first cards I did and it is still my favourite. I used 5 of our charms, (pram, baby feet, princess crown, teddy bear and baby shoe) with our silver rhinestone circle with silver glitter ribbon tucked under the flower.



Our car, bike and cap charms are on this boys birthday card. Also used is our own designed boys ribbons



One side of this pen pot is our owl & mushroom charms with our pink ric rac, rhinestones and our silver rhinestone circle



Here is our sun, small heart locket & key charms tied with blue organza ribbon. Blue flowers, buzz and bloom chipboard frills and one of our silver rhinestone squares



I was asked recently to make something small to go on a boys birthday party bag - the party was movie themed.

I created a document in work processing, downloaded a film strip from clip art, covered with dimensional magic and applied our boys charm while still wet. A paper clip was attached to the back



Here is our angel charm with red organza ribbon, white corrugated ribbon and flowers for this sympathy card.

The doily has been sprayed with starfish glimmer mist and the white cardstock was embossed with the cuttlebug and wiped with black ink.

And my favourite OTP, a birdhouse, which won an OTP challenge recently.

I used our snowflakes, dragonflies and leaf charms.

The chipboard bird is covered with our blue rhinestones with lots of dimensional magic

Our blue stemmed flowers, kaiser pattern papers and buzz and bloom chipboard flowers.

To give the effect of snow I used 3d Crystalina Kindy Glitz and at the base was part of a net curtain sprayed with blue glimmer mist.

To finish off I sprinkled silver glitter over the top.



ALTERING CHARMS



Our Fleur de Lis has been altered with Staz On timber brown ink which I wiped off using a cloth after 10 minutes



The camera charms was also altered with Staz On Timber Brown ink

The coin is our half penny charm tied with string



Our petite heritage frame I covered it with Blush Pink Staz On Opaque ink (only took approximately 10 minutes to dry).

Finished off with a rub on in the centre, pink organza ribbon and flower

STORAGE

There are many storage options in the market for small items like beads and charms, at spotlight, on the internet and even Bunnings etc. One way to keep your costs down is reuse your empty spice jars!

I supply all charms in little zip lock bags, so if you have a small quantity just keep them in their bags in a jar.

As I use them all the time, mine are in a timber box, see below. They are stored in small hard plastic screw lid jars, which I do have in limited stock at various times. Next shipment is due late October 2009.



Why not create a story/ picture with them like on this box I keep my charms in. I have also used our pink crystal brads, black metal brads and rhinestone strips. The pictures I downloaded from clip art.

Storage jars for charms

ADHERING CHARMS

I only ever use Dimensional Magic to adhere charms because it dries within minutes so you aren't delayed getting on with the rest of your creation, but just enough time to put the jug on for another coffee, or do a quick tidy up of your scrapping area!

My favourite product to use with my charms is organza ribbon and embroidery thread. They are flexible, inexpensive, easy to work with and come in a variety of colours.

Mostly, I tie the ribbons for charms with the bunny ears bow (I think that's what I heard it being called). Here is a link on you tube (only 40 seconds long) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y78Z582bKGg> and then I just loosen the bows or tighten them to get the effect I am after.

More ideas are to stitch your charms onto your layout, or tie them to a safety pin, paper clip or little bulldog clip. For a grunge / boy effect, staple them on or tie with string / twine

We have over 85 themed charms and I think I have used every one of them, except the cheerleader charms but they are going to be used on a layout of my daughter who competed in the school athletics district competition recently.

Even if it doesn't suit the theme of your layout, what is stopping you putting a lizard on a leaf for on a boy's pages or at the bottom of a tree with an owl sitting on a branch? (I am not allowed flowers on my son's layouts, he is 12, so a leaf or two is the next best thing)

Most of the charms on our website will have examples in the pages, to help you with ideas. Our charms are made from Tibetan Silver and are either lead free and / or nickel free. Most styles come in packets of 5 for \$1.60 (price correct at 8th September 2009).

I could certainly keep going and going with examples and suggestions of using charms on your creations. I hope what I have shown you, will give you some ideas of using charms and to help add that little touch to your creations.

If you need any further information, or want something in particular, send me a message, my keyboard is permanently attached to my hands so I will get an answer to you fairly quickly!

