

CG2-JW-01-el-Snowflakes-Background-manual



Christmas Greetings 2 — Classic Snowflakes Card
Black Weave Background & Design (Photoshop Elements)

by Jen White

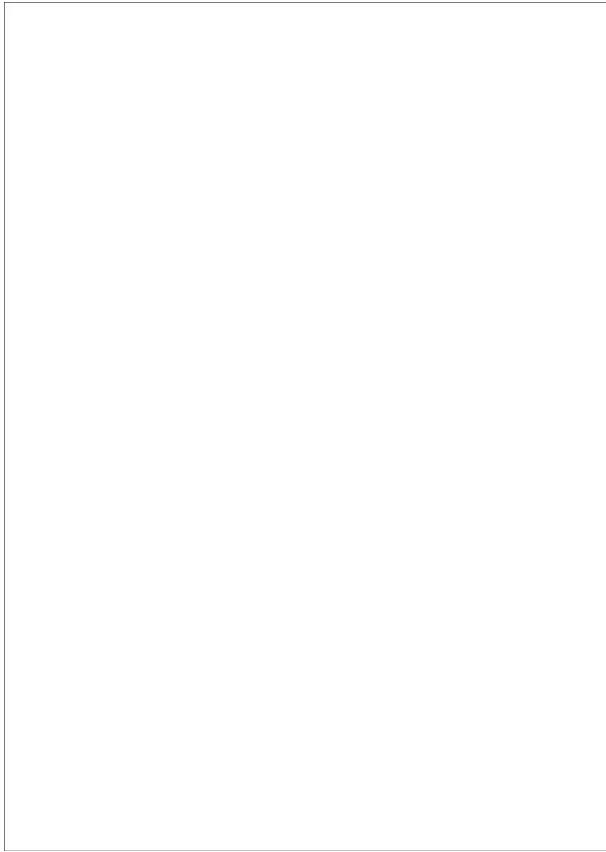
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Get off to a great start on building a Classic Snowflakes card card from the ground up. This is part one of a three part video series.

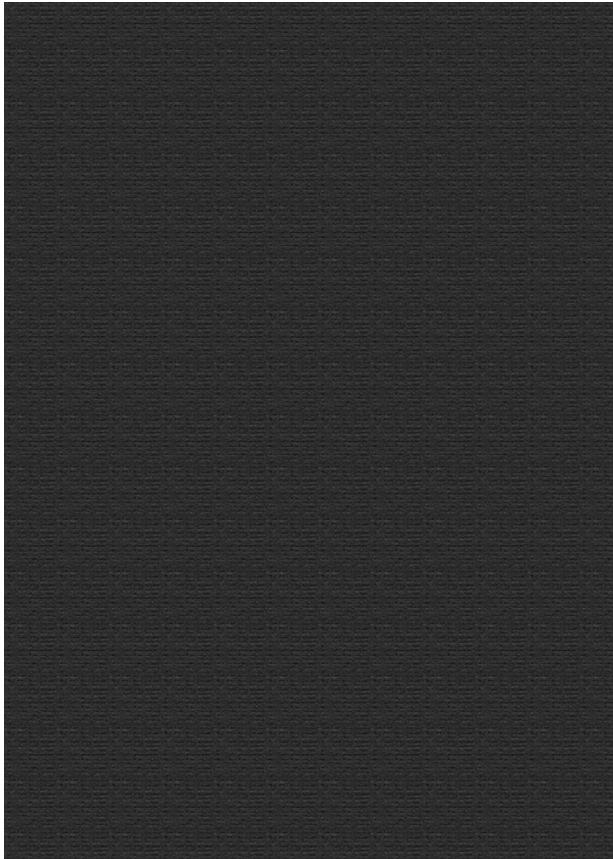
Step One: Prepare a Document

- Create a new 5 x 7 inch document (File > New > Blank File) at 300 ppi with a white background.
- In the Layers panel, click on the Lock icon to unlock the Background layer and make it editable.
- Press the letter D to reset Color Chips to the default of black over white.



Step Two: Create a Plain, Textured, Dark Background

- In the Layers panel, click on the Add New Fill or Adjustment Layer icon and choose Pattern.
- In the dialog box, open the Pattern Picker, open the dropdown menu, and choose Grayscale Paper. Click on the Black Weave pattern. If you don't see Black Weave, click on the Settings icon and choose Large List.
- In the dialog box, set the Scale to 100% and click OK.



Background Option 2 - Use a Paper Instead of a Pattern

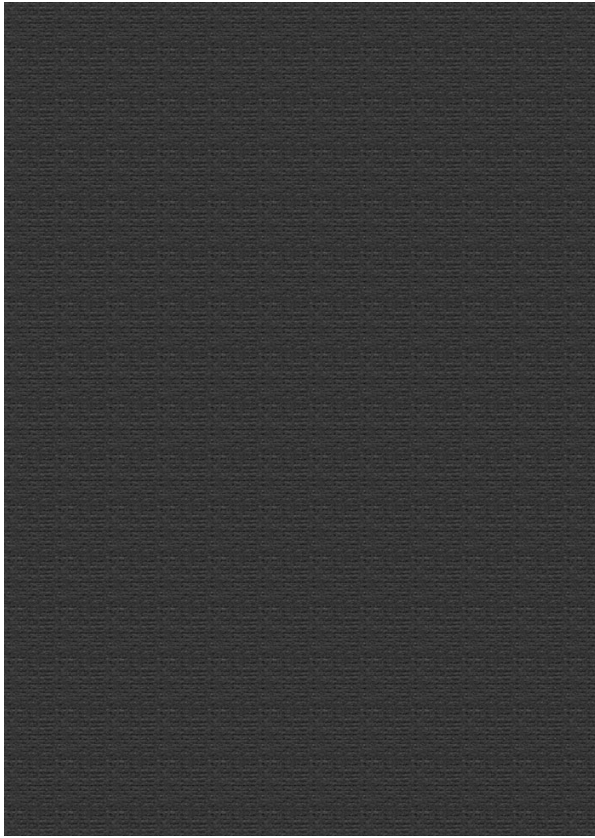
If you'd like to use a paper instead of the pattern in Step Two, follow these instructions.

- Open a plain, dark, textured background paper (File > Open). Do not use a patterned paper.
- Get the Move tool.
Holding down the Shift key, click and drag the paper onto the card document.

Step Three: Lighten or Darken the Background

If you like the shade of your pattern or paper, you can skip this step.

- In the Layers panel, click on the Add New Fill or Adjustment Layer icon and choose Brightness/Contrast.
- In the Brightness/Contrast panel, move the Brightness slider to the right to lighten the pattern or to the left to darken the pattern. It'll stop at +100. Close the Brightness/Contrast panel.

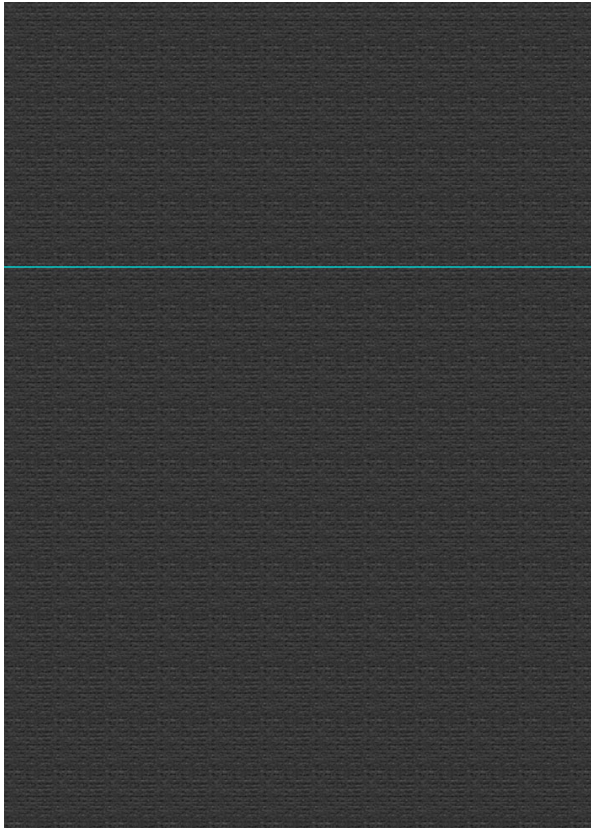


Step Four: Group the Background Layers

- In the Layers panel, the top layer should be active. Hold down the Shift key and click on the bottom layer. Now three layers should be active.
- Click on the Create a New Group icon.
- Double click directly on the name of the group and rename it Black Weave Background.

Step Five: Set a Guide Line

- In the Menu Bar, choose View > New Guide.
- In the dialog box, set the Orientation to Horizontal and the Position to 2.25 inches. If your Rulers are set to Pixels, enter 700 px. Click OK.



Step Six: Save the Document

- Save the document (File > Save As) a layered PSD file in an easy to find location. I'm naming my file CG2-SnowflakeCard.psd.