

Design Beautiful Pages— Ready To Fly

Top Of The Stack

by Linda Sattgast

In this challenge I'll walk you through the process of creating a Top Of The Stack design. We'll use the birthday girl image you see here as the photo on top of the stack.

Usually you'll start with the photo and then build the stack below it, but just for fun—and to show you it can be done either way—let's build the stack first and add the photo last. Here's how we'll proceed:

- Choose a birthday themed kit.
- Decide which elements are appropriate for the stack.
- Build the stack.
- Add appropriate drop shadows to the stack layers.
- Add the photo to the top of the stack

Question

What will you look for when choosing a kit?



I've chosen a birthday-themed kit called Celebrate by Julie Billingsley.

A birthday kit seems like an obvious choice, but there's more to my choice than just the theme.

I want to make sure the kit I choose has enough stacking elements to create the height I want and the right kind of elements to tuck into the stack. A kit with few stacking elements and an emphasis on 2D elements isn't going to provide enough material for my stack.

Of course I can get additional stacking elements from other kits, but then my list of credits gets really l-o-o-o-o-n-g! Just sayin.'

So I prefer to start with a robust kit that lends itself well to stacking and add only a few extra elements from other kits.

Question

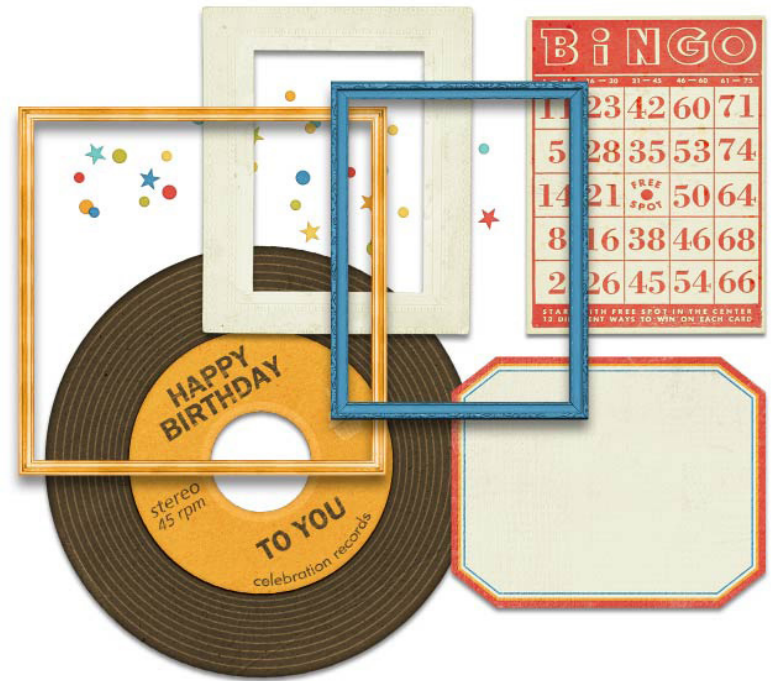
Which elements from this kit would you choose as the main stacking elements to build up your stack?



These are the items I'll use to create my stack platform. A scatter element must be at the bottom of the stack unless it's clipped to one of the stacking layers. This is a good start but I could wish for a few more stacking elements.

Question

What other kinds of elements could you use to make your stack higher?



Use your imagination to come up with additional stacking elements:

Question

Look at the original kit image and think about which elements would work well to tuck into the edges of the stack.



Kit paper,
cropped



Shapes with
clipped paper



Journaling mats
from other kits



Masks from
other kits

I chose elements that weren't too big and would be easily recognized sticking out between two layers in the stack. This is definitely a matter of opinion, but in general I chose images that were a bit flatter to go between the layers and left elements that were more 3D to go on top.

Which brings me to the question:

Which images would you choose to create a cluster effect on top of the stack?



What I looked for were elements that would pop up nicely at the top and could also hang over the edge.

Often you'll be able to use the same element in both places, between layers or on top of the stack. Notice I put the blue flower in both groups. Again, this isn't an exact science but an understanding of the purpose of an element and where it might fit in best.

This leads to another question:

Which elements would you NOT use on your stack?



By the way, all of these items would be great as decorations on the rest of the page!



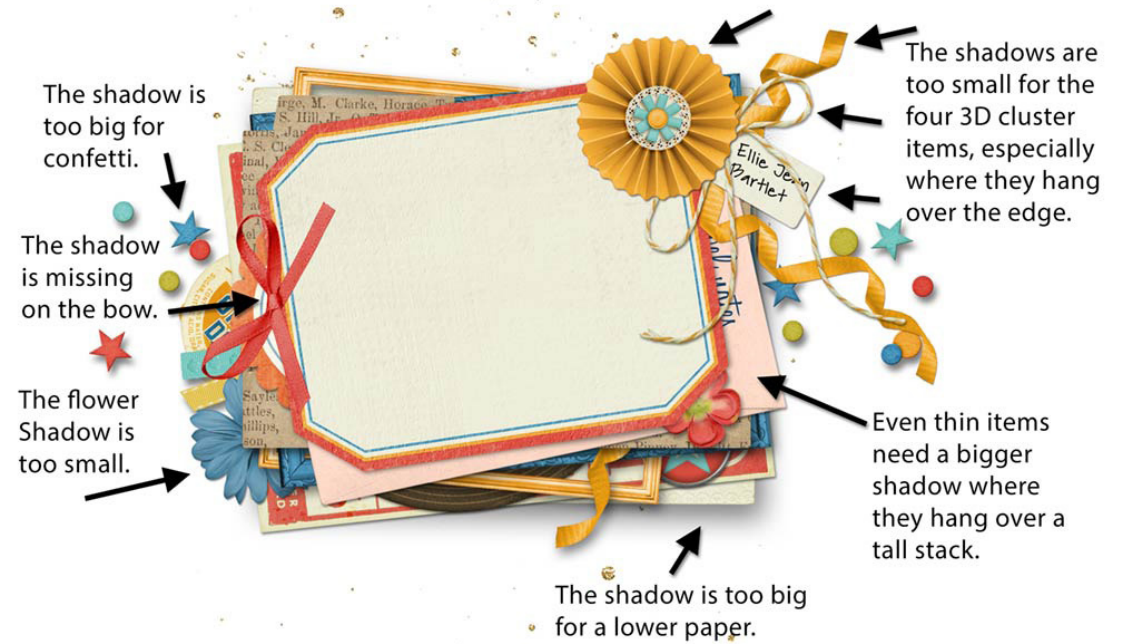
Here's the stack I created using only elements and clipped paper.

Challenge

It's important to handle drop shadows correctly for the many layers in a stack. See if you can identify 9 elements that need the drop shadow corrected.



Here are the nine elements that need correction.



Here's my corrected image.

One thing to note is that it's much easier to see the drop shadows on a light or white background, so hide the background paper temporarily while working on the shadows.

Let's add a photo.



Instead of placing my photo on top of the stack, I selected the inner section of the top journaling mat and clipped my photo to the selection so it appears as though the photo is printed on the mat.



Here's my final page.

Credits

Photo by Rosy Smith

Page by Linda Sattgast

Kit: Celebrate by Julie Billingsley

Other: Tulle bow by Linda Sattgast, glitter from Stories 365 by Kristin Cronin-Barrow, mask from Design Beautiful Pages, file card from Recollection by Joanne Brisebois, paper from APPMyCamera by Anna Aspnes, paper overlay and journaling mat from Heartbeat At My Feet by Zoe Pearn, Envelope from World Travel by HGD by Laurie Ann

Font: DJB Another Mandy

