

CG2-JW-01-ps-Snowflakes-Background-transcript



Christmas Greetings 2 — Classic Snowflakes Card
Black Weave Background & Design (Adobe Photoshop)
by Jen White

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Get off to a great start on building a classic snowflakes card from the ground up. This is part one of a three part video series showing you how to create this greeting card design. In this first video, we'll be creating the card background and setting up some design guidelines.

Here in Adobe Photoshop, I've begun by creating a new 5 x 7 inch document at 300 ppi with a white background. Then in the Layers panel, click on the Lock icon to unlock the Background layer to make it editable. Next, press the letter D to reset the Color Chips to the default of black over white.

In this next step, I'll add a dark gray pattern to the background of the document. You should feel free to use a different pattern or even a background paper for the background, but I recommend that your pattern or paper be dark, textured, and plain. Any papers like these would work lovely. You definitely don't want to use a patterned paper. So here's how to create a plain textured background from scratch. 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 and choose the Black Weave Pattern. If you don't see the black weave, click on the Settings icon and choose large list. Back in the dialog box, set the Scale to 100% and then click OK.

Here in step three we'll use another adjustment layer to make the pattern lighter or darker. You can also use this step to make other plain textured background papers lighter or darker. Or, if you like the look you currently have now you can skip this step. In the Layers panel, click on the Add New Fill or Adjustment layer icon again, but this time choose Brightness/Contrast. In the Properties panel, move the Brightness slider to the right to lighten the pattern or to the left to darken the pattern. I will lighten mine just a little bit, I'll stop at about positive 30 and then I'll minimize the Properties panel.

Because my snowflake card will have many layers. I recommend grouping the layers to keep them organized in the Layers panel. Here's how to do that. In the Layers panel, the top layer should be active. Hold down the Shift key and click on the Background layer. Now all three layers should be active. Then click on the Create a New Group icon. Double click directly on the name of the new group, and I'll rename mine Black Weave Background.

The last step will be to set a guideline for the design of the card. This card follows the Rule of Thirds design, where approximately one third of the design will be reserved for the titling and two thirds will be used for the pattern. To do that in the Menu Bar, choose View > New Guide. In the dialog box, set the Orientation to Horizontal and the Position to 2.25 inches, then click OK.

At this point, make sure to save your document as a layered PSD file and an easy to find location such as your Desktop. We'll be building on this document in the next lesson. So that's how to create the background set up for the Classic Snowflakes Greeting Card. This is Jen White with Christmas Greetings 2.