

Digital Scrapper Premier 2023, Volume 7

## **Lesson 2, Letter Grid (Photoshop Elements)**

by Jen White

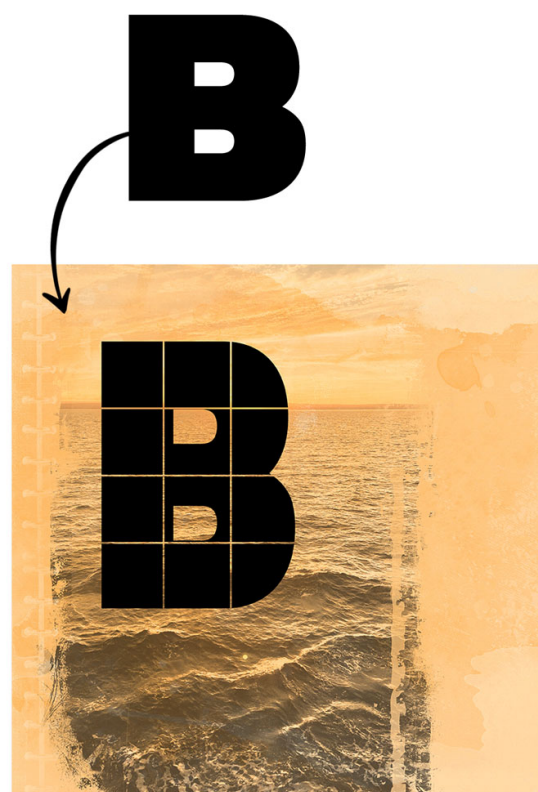
Add a touch of graphic goodness to your Volume 7 Lesson Page by adding a letter grid onto the subject.

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NOTE: Please complete the lessons in the order they are provided.

### **For this lesson you will need:**

- the V7-Lesson-Page from the Class-Files folder.
- a block-style, chunky font, like Kanit from Google Fonts.



## Quick Steps for Lesson 2, Letter Grid

Step-by-step instructions are below.

- Open the V7-Lesson-Page from Lesson 1.
- (Optional) Lower the Opacity of the Gradient Map layer.
- Add a 2-inch grid.
- Add a black 500 pt capital letter.
- Resize the letter to fit fully inside the grid squares.
- Mask away gridlines from the letter.
- Set the letter's opacity to 50%.
- Reposition and resize the letter to include part of the subject.
- Restore the letter's opacity to 100%.
- Simplify the letter and apply the layer mask.
- Save the document for use in Lesson 3.

## Step-By-Step for Lesson 2, Letter Grid

### Prepare Your Workspace

- Open the V7-Lesson-Page (File > Open) that you saved at the end of Lesson 1.
- Press the letter D to reset the Color Chips to the default of black over white.

### (Optional) Add Color Back into the Photo

- In the Layers panel, open the HARD LIGHT PHOTO group and click on the Gradient Map layer to activate it.
- Lower the Opacity to 65%.
- Close the HARD LIGHT PHOTO GROUP.

### Add a 2-Inch Grid

- Press Ctrl K (Mac: Cmd K) to open Preferences.
- In the dialog box, click on Guides & Grid. Set Gridline Every to 2 inches and Subdivisions to 1. Click OK.
- In the Menu Bar, choose View and place a checkmark next to Grid.



## What Fonts Are Good for This Tutorial?

Chunky, block-style, san-serif fonts are best for this tutorial. See the image for font examples that would work well. In the Welcome section of this class, you'll find a quick video showing you how to navigate Google Fonts.

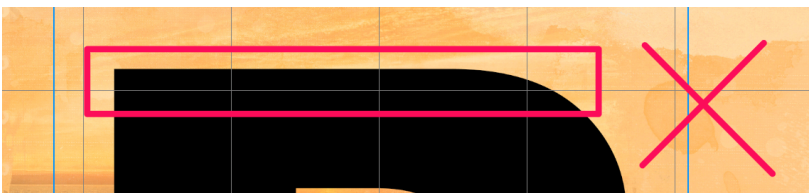
## Add a Capital Letter

- Get the Horizontal Type tool.
- In the Tool Options, open the Font Picker and choose Kanit Black. Set the Size to 500. Click on the Center Align icon.
- On the document, click once in the center, type a capital letter, and click the checkmark to commit the change. I'll type a capital B.

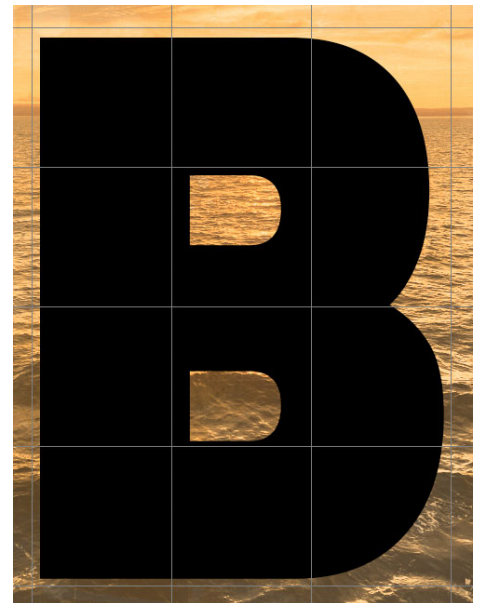
## Resize the Letter Within the Grid

- Press Ctrl T (Mac: Cmd T) to get the Transform options.
- On the document, click and drag on the corner handles of the bounding box until the longest side of the letter spans just under 4 (or fewer) squares of the grid.
- To reposition the letter, click and drag inside the bounding box.
- If needed, hold down the Shift key and click and drag on the side handles to make the letter fit better within the grid.

TIP: Do not let the edges of the letter extend past the gridline.



**ARIAL BLACK**  
**CODA HEAVY**  
**IMPACT REGULAR**  
**KANIT BLACK**

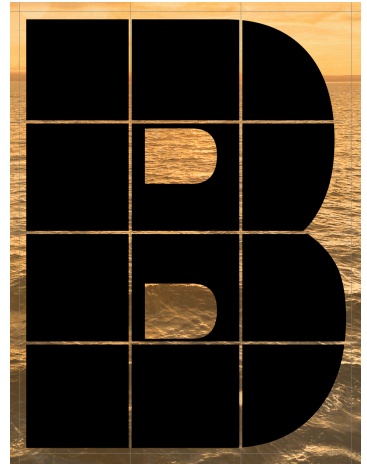
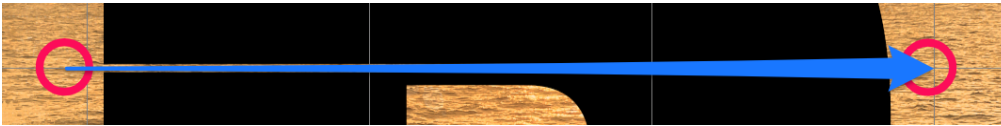




## Mask Away Lines in the Letter

- Get the Brush tool.
- In the Tool Options, open the Brush Picker, open the dropdown menu, and choose Default Brushes. Choose a Hard Round brush. If you don't see the names of the brushes, open the flyout menu and place a checkmark next to Large List. Set the Size to 15. Set the Mode to Normal and the Opacity to 100. Click on Brush Settings. Set the Fade, Hue Jitter, and Scatter to 0. Set the Spacing to 5%. Set the Hardness to 100 and the Roundness to 100.
- Press Ctrl + (Mac: Cmd +) until the letter nearly fills the viewing area and you can clearly see the gridlines and the entire boundary of the letter.
- In the Layers panel, the type layer should still be active.
- Click on the Add Layer Mask icon.
- Black needs to be the Foreground Color Chip; if it's not, press the letter X.
- On the document, hold down the Shift key and click and drag from the beginning of the top horizontal gridline to the end, making sure to completely cross the letter. (See the screenshot.)

NOTE: Holding down the Shift key will ensure that your brush travels in a straight line.



- Repeat for the gridlines that intersect with the letter.

## Reposition and Resize the Letter

- In the Menu Bar, choose View and uncheck Grid.
- In the Layers panel, set the Opacity of the type layer to 50%.
- Press Ctrl T (Mac: Cmd T) to get the Transform options.
- Press Ctrl 0 (Mac: Cmd 0) to zoom out so you can see the entire bounding box.
- Click and drag on a corner handle of the bounding box until the letter is about 75% of the original size.
- Click and drag inside the bounding box to reposition the letter so that some of the grid squares are overlapping part of the subject. Use the Arrow keys to fine-tune the position.
- Click the checkmark to commit the change.



## **Simplify the Letter**

In the Layers panel, set the Opacity of the letter layer back to 100%.

In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Simplify Layer.

Save the document (File > Save) for Lesson 3.

