



by Jenifer Juris

Secrets of Terrific Type

Lesson 04-03: Justification Homework—Photoshop

As promised, for our homework on Justification, we are going to create a grid style photo card where we will use justified type to make the grid look its best.

Before we get into the instructions, let's quickly go over why justified type will be the best choice for this project.

Here is a preview of the photo grid we're making without the type.



Here I've added type but instead of using justified type, I've used Center Alignment. It doesn't look bad, but, it could look better!



When I change the text from Center Alignment to Justify All, this really makes the lines of the photo grid look GOOD! There's zero trapped space and because of that, the type ends up making the grid look so much better.



So now that you see why we're using Justified type, let's go to PS and learn how to make this cute photo grid.

Step One: Prepare the Workspace

Create a new document that is 7 inches wide by 5 inches 5 at 300ppi with a white background.

Press the Letter D to reset the Color Chips.

In the Menu Bar, choose Window > Character to open the Character panel.

Click on the Character panel Menu icon and choose Reset Character.

In the Menu Bar, choose View > Rulers to make sure your Rulers are showing.

Also in the Menu Bar, choose View > Snap To and make sure both Guides and Layers is checked.

Step Two: Add Shape

So, in the Layers panel, click on the Create a New Layer icon.

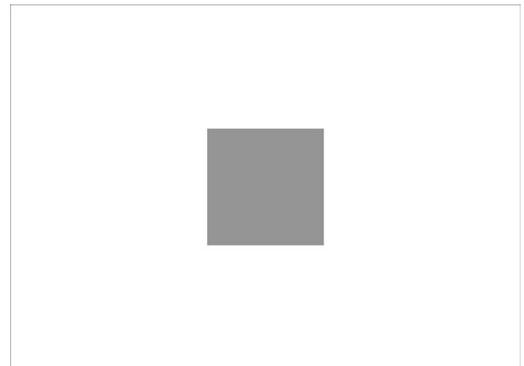
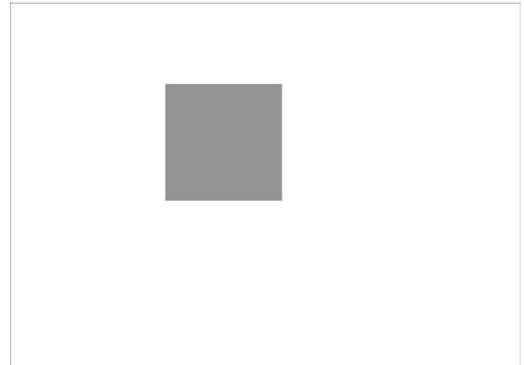
Get the Rectangle Shape tool. In the Tool Options, set the Tool Mode to Pixels, the Mode to Normal, and the Opacity to 100%. Check Anti-alias. Click to open the Additional Tool Options and choose Fixed Size. Enter a width and height of 1.6 inches.

Click on the Foreground Color Chip to open the Color Picker and chose Hex #: 959595. Click OK.

On the document, click and drag slightly to create the shape and then let go.

In the Layers panel, Shift click on the background layer so that both layers are active.

Get the Move tool. In the Tool Options click on the Align Vertical Centers icon and Align Horizontal Centers icon to place our square directly in the middle of the document.

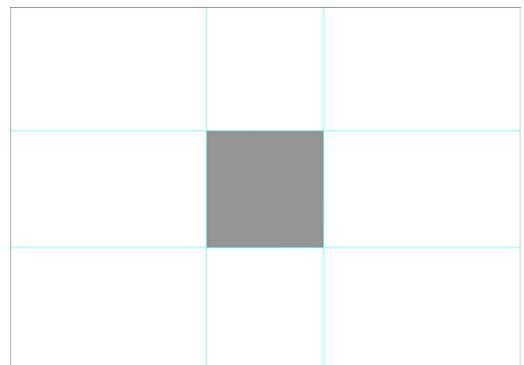


Step Three: Add Guides

In the Layers panel, click on the shape layer so it's the only active layer.

Click and drag a guide from the left ruler so that you end up having guides on both the left and right sides of the square.

Do the same thing from the top ruler so that you have guides on both the top and bottom of the square.



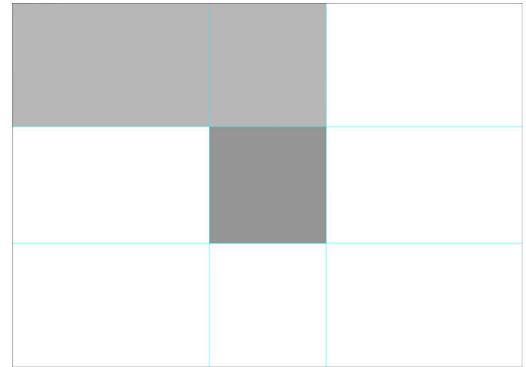
Step Four: Add Grid Shapes

So, to do that, Click on the Create a New Layer icon.

Click on the Foreground Color chip to open the Color Picker and choose Hex #: b7b7b7. Click OK.

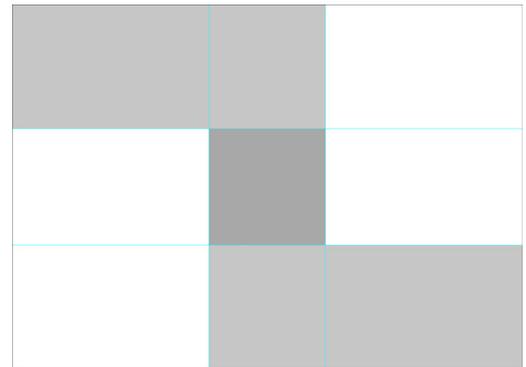
Get the Rectangle Shape tool. In the Tool Options, click to open the Additional Settings Options and choose Unconstrained. Leave all the other settings the same.

On the document, or rather, outside of the document, click and drag a rectangle from the top left corner to the first horizontal guide and the second vertical guide.



In the Layers panel, click on the Create a New Layer icon.

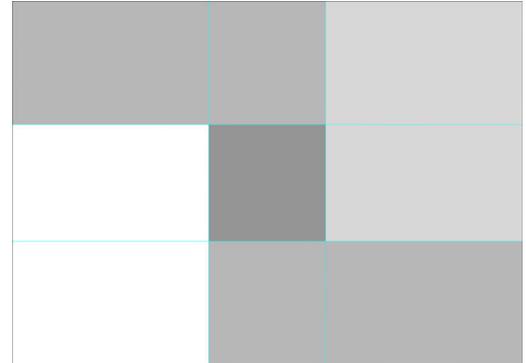
On the document, or rather, outside of the document, click and drag a rectangle from the bottom right corner to the second horizontal guide and the first vertical guide.



In the Layers panel, click on the Create a New Layer icon.

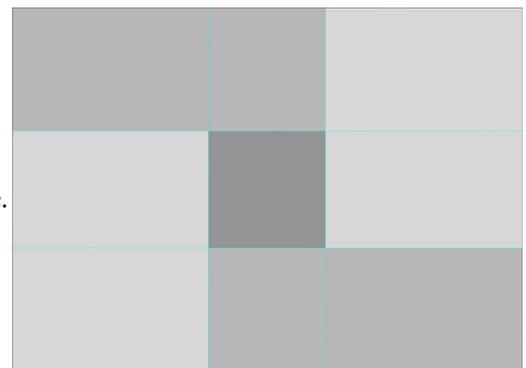
Click on the Foreground Color Chip to open the Color Picker and choose Hex #: d7d7d7. Click OK.

From outside the bounds of the document, click and drag from the top right corner to the second vertical guide and the second horizontal guide.



In the Layers panel, click on the Create a New Layer icon.

From outside the bounds of the document, click and drag from the bottom left corner to the first horizontal guide and the first vertical guide.



Step Five: Add Photos

For a small photo grid like this, I recommend using photos that go together. Either photos from the same photo shoot, photos from the same day or event, or photos of all flowers, etc.

For me, I'm using photos I took of bluebirds in my yard. If you'd like to use the same photos I have used, they are available for you in the downloads for this lesson.

So, open a photo that you wish to use. I'm using Bluebird Photo 1 first.

Get the Move tool.

While holding down the Shift key, click and drag the photo onto your document.

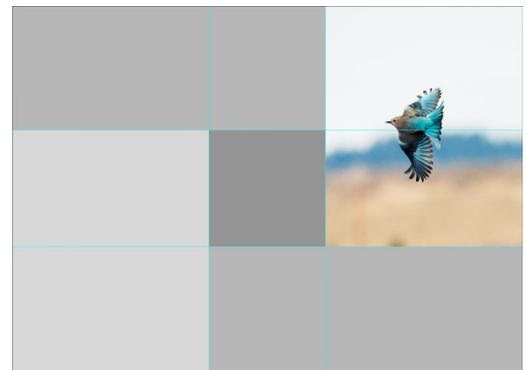
I already know that I'm going to use this photo for one of the taller rectangle pieces. So, in the Layers panel, make sure the photo layer is above the rectangle where you wish to place the photo in the grid. For this photo, I want to place it in the top right rectangle so that the bird appears to be pointing towards the center of the grid.

Now in the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Create Clipping Mask.

Next, I'll press Ctrl T (Mac: Cmd T) to get the Transform Options. At this point, you might need to press Ctrl 0 (Mac: Cmd 0) to resize your document so you can see the transform handles.

While holding down the Shift key, click and drag from a corner handle to resize the photo smaller until it fits within the size of the clipping mask. Click the checkmark to commit.

At this point, you may need to resize your document back to a larger size so press Ctrl + (Mac: Cmd +) until your document size is to your liking.



In the Layers panel, click on the other tall rectangle, the bottom left one, to activate it. Again, I'm using the bottom left rectangle for this photo so that my bird appears to be looking in towards the grid.

Open Bluebird Photo 2.

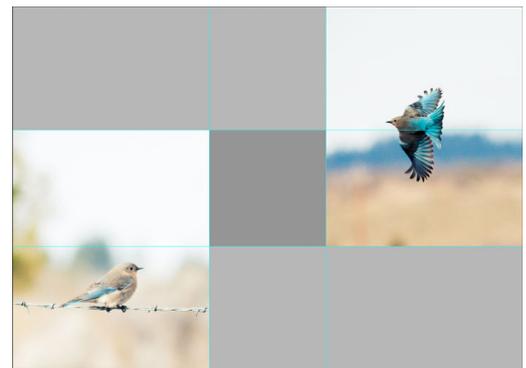
While holding down the Shift key, click and drag the photo onto your grid document.

In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Create Clipping Mask.

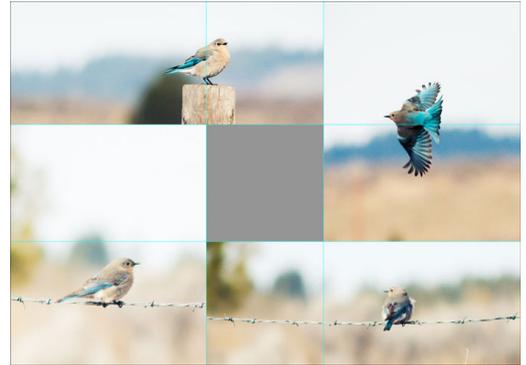
If needed, press Ctrl T (Mac: Cmd T) to get the Transform options. And, if you need to, press Ctrl 0 (Mac: Cmd 0) to resize the document so you can see the transform handles.

While holding down the Shift key, click and drag from a corner handle until the photo is sized to your liking. Click the checkmark to commit.

Then, if needed, Press Ctrl + (Mac: Cmd +) to resize the document larger.



Repeat these steps for the other two photos.



Step Six: Add Grid Lines

So, in the Layers panel, click on the top most layer to activate it.

Then, click on the Create a New Layer icon.

Press Ctrl A (Mac: Cmd A) to get a selection around the document edge.

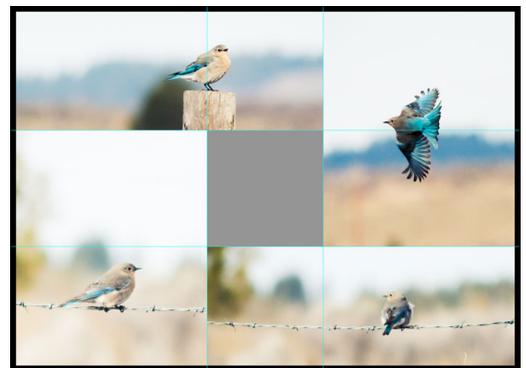
Press the Letter D to reset the Color Chips.

In the Menu Bar, choose Edit > Stroke.

In the dialog box, set the Stroke Width to 20 px, leave the color black. Set the Location to Inside and set the Blending Mode to Normal with an Opacity of 100%. Uncheck Preserve Transparency. Click OK.

Press Ctrl D (Mac: Cmd D) to deselect.

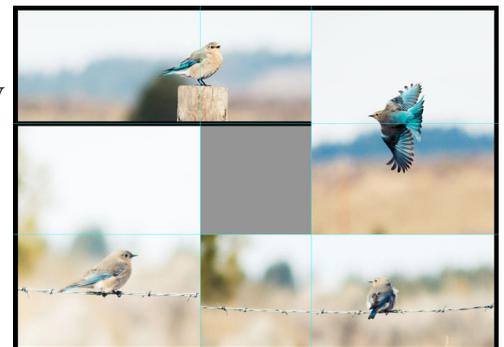
In the Layers panel, name the stroke layer Document Edge Stroke.



Get the Line tool. It's nestled with the other Shape tools. In the Tool Options, set the Tool Mode to Pixels, the Mode to Normal, and the Opacity to 100%. Check Anti-alias. Click to open the Additional Settings Options and make sure Arrowheads are both unchecked. Set the Weight to 20 px.

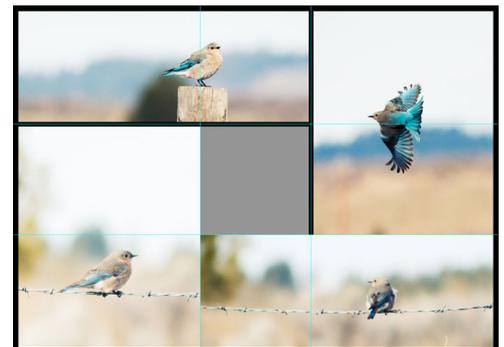
In the Layers panel, click on the Create a New Layer icon.

On the document, while holding down the Shift key, click and drag and a line that is centered along the first horizontal guide that starts outside the left edge and comes up to the left edge of the top right photo.



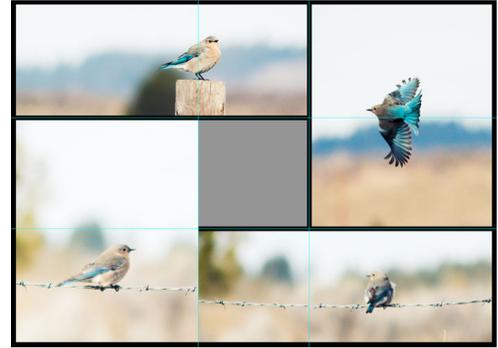
In the Layers panel, click on the Create a New Layer icon.

On the document, while holding down the Shift key, click and drag a line that is centered along the second vertical guide that starts outside the top edge and comes down to the top edge of the bottom right photo.



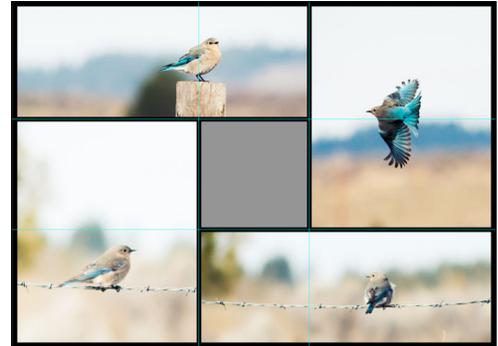
In the Layers panel, click on the Create a New Layer icon.

On the document, while holding down the Shift key, click and drag a line that is centered along the second horizontal guide that starts outside of the right edge and comes to the right edge of the bottom left photo.



In the Layers panel, click on the Create a New Layer icon.

On the document, while holding down the Shift key, click and drag a line that is centered along the first vertical guide that starts outside the bottom edge of the document and come to the bottom edge of the top left photo.



In the Menu Bar, choose View > Show > Guides to hide the Guides for now by unchecking them.

Now, in the Layers panel, Shift click on the Document Edge Stroke layer so that all of the black stroke layers are active.

Press Ctrl E (Mac: Cmd E) to merge the layers together.

Step Seven: Add Poem Type

Now in the Layers panel, scroll down to bottom shape layer, the square we first started with, and drag it to the trash.

Click on the Create a New Layer icon.

Get the Horizontal Type tool. In the Tool Options, set the Font to Lumberjack Regular, the size to 7.7 and for now, use Center Alignment. Click to open the Type tool Color Picker and use Hex #: b49d88.

On the document, inside of the white square area, click and drag a text box.

I'm going to copy and paste in a short poem about bluebirds I found on the internet. This poem is by John B Tabb. I've already copied it so I'll press Ctrl V (Mac: Cmd V) to paste the words. Then click the checkmark to commit.

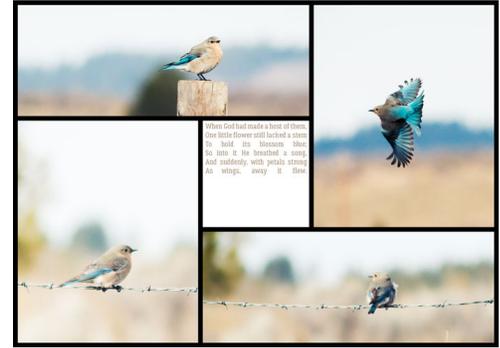


The Poem is pasted here in case you wish to copy it yourself:

The Bluebird by John B. Tabb
When God had made a host of them,
One little flower still lacked a stem
To hold its blossom blue;
So into it He breathed a song,
And suddenly, with petals strong
As wings, away it flew.

In the Menu Bar, choose Window > Paragraph to open the Paragraph panel.

Click on the Justify All icon.

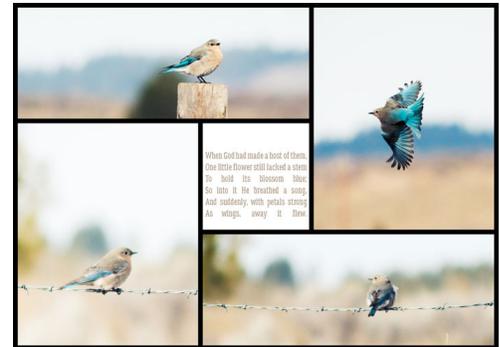


Get the Move tool. While holding down the Shift key, click and drag the text down to make room for a title. I'm going to move it down until it's along the center of the square.



Now, in the Paragraph panel, click the tab for Character to open the Character panel.

Set the Leading to 12 pts and set the Vertical Scale to 125%.



Click on the Create a New Layer icon.

In the Character panel, set the Leading back to Auto and the Vertical Scale back to 100%.

Step Eight: Add Title and Author

Now, get the Horizontal Type tool. In the Tool Options, change the Font to Israquella and the Size to 30 pts. Use Center Alignment.

On the document, Shift click to place your title. Type the words The Bluebird. Click the checkmark to commit.

In the Layers panel, click on the Create a New Layer icon.

In the Tool Options, change the Font to Kano and the Size to 7 pts.

On the document, Shift click to below the poem to place the author's name so type John B Tabb in all caps and click the checkmark to commit.



In the Menu Bar, choose Window > Character to open the Character panel.

Set the Tracking to 520.

Now, our Bluebird Card is ready for saving.

I hope you enjoyed making this card as much as I did! Feel free to use this grid for more than just the bluebird photos.

For example, I also used this grid to create a cute card about puppies! A friend of mine recently had a litter of puppies and she allowed me to come take these precious photos of them.

So, have some fun with this. I hope you enjoy making your photo grids as much as I did!

