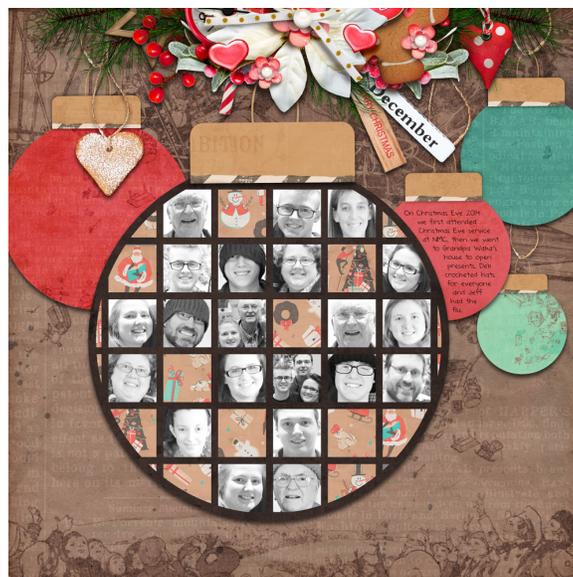


 Digital Scrapper Premier 2021, Volume 5  
Story Grid, Variations: Shaped

Digital Scrapper Premier 2021, Volume 5  
**Story Grid, Variations: Shaped (Photoshop Elements)**  
by Jen White

Use the Custom Shape tool to form your Story Grid into a shape that helps support the subject of your page.

© 2022 Digital Scrapper  
[Terms of Use](#)



## **Quick Steps—Story Grid Template**

1. Create document
2. Set guides to .35 margins, lock & snap
3. Place 1 inch square shape
4. Duplicate 9x, distribute, rename, group
5. Duplicate group 9x, distribute, rename
6. Save & duplicate template

## **Quick Steps—Story Grid Page**

1. Always work on a duplicate
2. Choose a topic
3. Choose a title & complete worksheet
4. Add letter to mask & center
5. Clip paper (or photo) to mask
6. Add drop shadow to mask
7. Add & apply layer mask to paper/photo
8. Add background paper to template
9. Clip photos to remaining masks
10. Add elements & date
11. Crop & save

---

### **Variation: Shaped**

- Complete steps 1 and 2 of the Quick Steps—Story Grid Page.
- Skip steps 3 through 7.

### **Create a Main Group**

- In the Layers panel, all the groups should be collapsed, not expanded.
- Click on the top group to activate it.
- Holding down the Shift key, click on the last group.
- Click on the Create a New Group icon.
- Double click directly on the name of the new group and rename it Main Group. Press Enter or Return to commit the change.

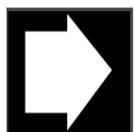
## Add a Large Custom Shape

- Get the Custom Shape tool.
- In the Tool Options, click on the Color Chip and choose black. Open the Geometry Options and choose Defined Proportions. Uncheck From Center. The New Shape Layer icon should be active. Open the Custom Shape Picker, open dropdown menu, and choose Shapes. If you cannot see the thumbnails of the shapes, open the flyout menu and choose Small Thumbnail.

**TIP:** If you have your Tool Tips enabled in General Preferences (Ctrl/Cmd K), you will see the name of a shape when you hover over it.

## Other Good Shape Choices

The shape you use for this lesson should be very basic, with large blocks of space that would fill nicely with a grid of photos.



Arrows  
Arrow 12



Banners and Awards  
Flag



Shapes  
Hexagon



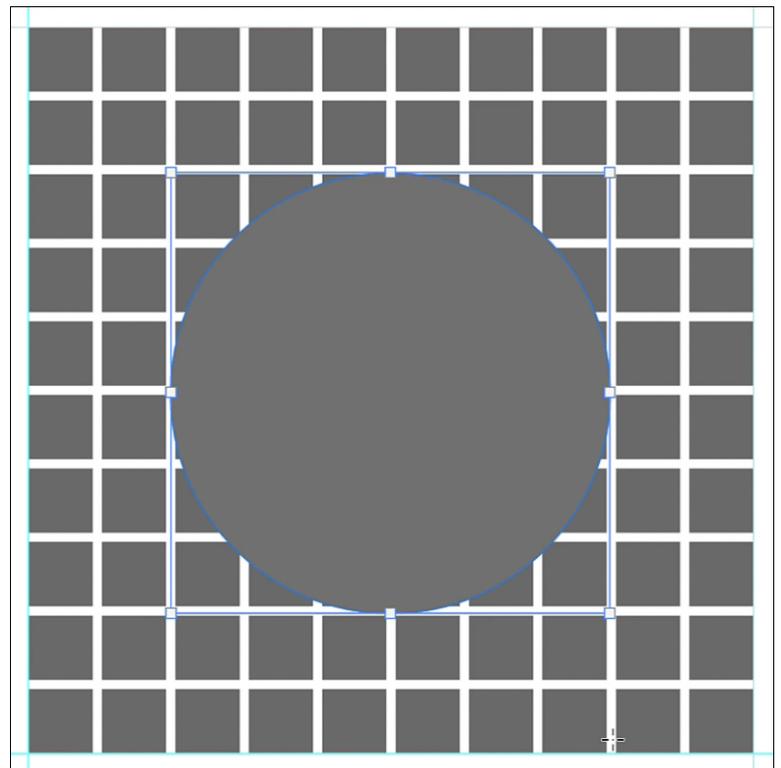
Shapes  
Heart Card



Shapes  
Circle



Symbols  
Sign 4



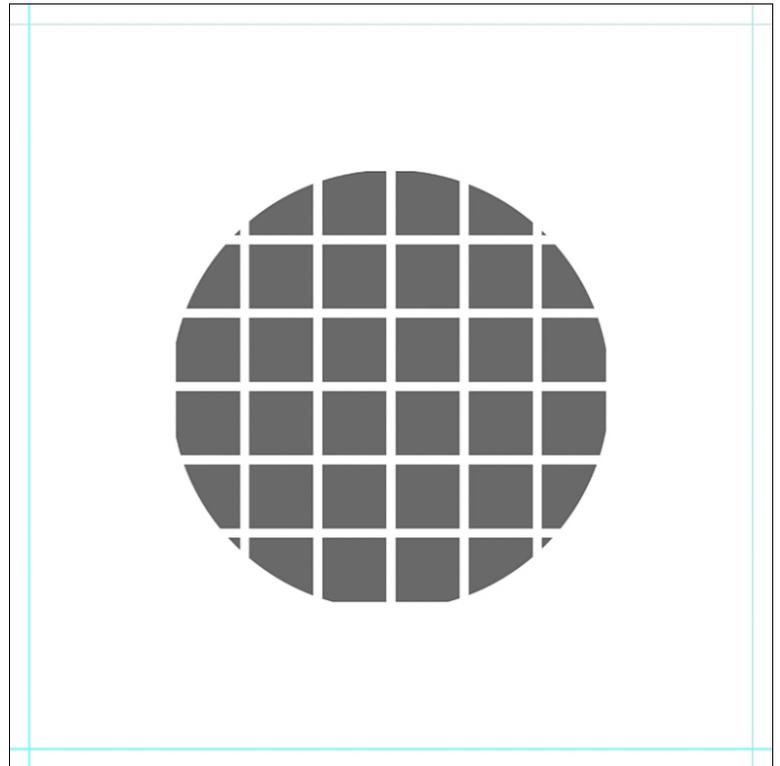
- Choose the Circle shape to activate it.
- On the document, click and drag to create the size of the shape you want. My circle will fill about half the page. If you want to make your shape disproportionate, hold down the Shift key while dragging. To reposition while dragging, hold down the Space bar.

## Mask the Story Grid

- In the Layers panel, hold down the Ctrl key (Mac: Cmd key) and click on the thumbnail of the shape layer to get a selection outline.
- Click on the Visibility icon of the shape layer to hide it.
- Click on the Main Group to activate it.
- Click on the Add Layer Mask icon.

## Adjust the Mask's Position and Size

- In the Layers panel, click on the Link icon to the left of the Main Group's layer mask to deactivate the link feature.
- Click on the layer mask to activate it.
- Press Ctrl T (Mac: Cmd T) to get the Transform options.
- On the document, click and drag inside the bounding box to reposition the layer mask. Click and drag on the corner handles of the bounding box to resize the layer mask. Click the checkmark to commit the change.
- In the Layers panel, click on the Link icon to the left of the Main Group's layer mask to activate the link feature again.



**TIP:** If you click and drag on the document with the link feature is activated, the mask will move along with the active layer or group of layers.

- Complete steps 8 through 11.



Page & Photos: Christmas 2014 by Jen White

Tutorial: Digital Scrapper Premier 2021, Volume 5, Variations: Shaped

Kit: Festive Market Finds by Simple Pleasure Designs

Font: DJB Annalise