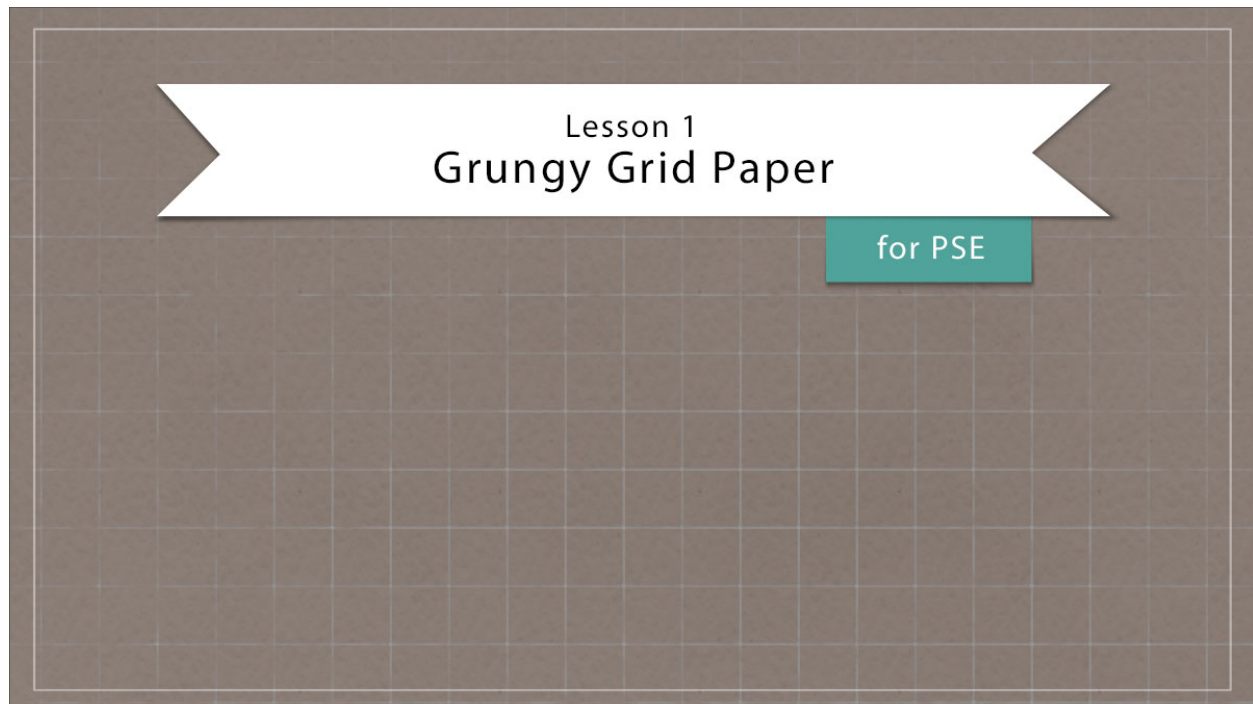


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Digital Scrapbooking Mastery, No. 2

Lesson 1: Grungy Grid Paper for Photoshop Elements

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It's hip to be square. You know that, right? Since you and I will be building our Mastery 2 scrapbook page from the ground up, we'll start by grooving through the steps to create a grungy grid style background paper. Believe it or not, this lesson will start you on the right track to thinking outside the box.

Begin in Expert Mode of Photoshop Elements by creating a new 12 X 12 inch document at 300 ppi with a white background. Then, press the letter D to reset the Color Chips to the default of black over white.

In the Layers panel, click on the Create New Fill or Adjustment Layer icon and choose Pattern. In the Pattern Fill dialog box, open the Pattern Picker. Then, open the dropdown menu and choose Grayscale Paper. Scroll down until you find the Pebble pattern. I'll set the Scale of this pattern to 150% and then click OK.

Next, we'll blend some color with this pattern. In the Layers panel again, click on the Create New Fill or Adjustment Layer icon, but this time choose Solid Color. And here, you have a couple options. In the Color Swatches panel, you can choose one of the medium to dark colors from your swatches that you loaded earlier in this class, or you could choose a

medium to dark color from the default swatches that Adobe has here in the Color Swatches panel, like this dark brown. Or, another option that you could do is to choose a medium to dark color in the Color Picker. Neutral tones will work best for this tutorial. I'm going to use Hex # 8d7f77. Then, click OK to close the Color Picker. And then finally, in the Layers panel we'll change the Blend Mode of the Color Fill layer to Multiply. If you zoom in, you should now be able to see that pebble texture coming through the color. But, let's add a little additional texture.

In the Layers panel, click on the Create a New Layer icon. Then, double click on the name of that layer and we'll name it Clouds. Then, in the Menu Bar, choose Filter > Render > Clouds. As a side note, every cloud render that you create will be different. So, your cloud layers will never look the same as mine. Next, press Ctrl T, Cmd T on a Mac, to get the Transform options. And then, in the Tool Options set the Width or the Height to 300%, then click the checkmark to commit. And then finally, in the Layers panel we'll set the Opacity of the Clouds layer to 50%. Later in this lesson I'll reduce the Opacity of the Cloud layer even further. But for now, I want to use this random pattern for a visual reference.

The next step is to add some white grid lines. In the Layers panel, again click on the Create New Fill or Adjustment Layer icon and again choose Pattern. In the Pattern Fill dialog box, open the Pattern Picker, then open the dropdown menu and this time choose Patterns. Navigate to the Tiles-Smooth pattern and in the Pattern Fill dialog box set the Scale of this pattern to 175% and check Link with Layers and then click OK.

So, you may be wondering what does Link with Layers do? Well, when that's checked and you have a Pattern Fill layer active and you have the Move tool, you can use your keyboard Arrow keys to click and nudge that pattern exactly where you want. It doesn't make too much of a difference on this particular paper, I want the grid to be centered on the paper. But, if you have a really big pattern, it can really make a difference.

Next, in the Layers panel we'll set the Blend Mode of this pattern layer to Lighten. You shouldn't see much of a change here because the Lighten blend mode blends the dark pixels and leaves the light ones alone. Next, in the Layers panel again click on the Create New Fill or Adjustment Layer icon and this time choose Invert. In the Invert panel you can click on the Create Clipping Mask icon or you can do so in the Menu Bar by choosing Layer > Create Clipping Mask.

The next step is to use this clouds overlay to grunge up our gridlines. Begin by getting the Brush tool. And then, in the Tool Options open the Brush Picker, then open the dropdown menu and choose Natural Brushes. Scroll down and choose the Stipple 54 px brush. Set the Size of this brush to 775 px and the Opacity to 50%. The Mode should be Normal. In the Layers panel, hold down the Shift key and click on the Grid Pattern layer. Now there should be two layers active in the Layers panel. Click on the Create New Group icon and then rename this group. Next, click on the Add Layer Mask icon and at this point the Foreground Color Chip should be black. If it's not, press the letter X. Now, on the document click to stamp the brush in areas where the clouds are the lightest. You do not want to click and drag and do you do not want to click where there are no clouds, so that would be this dark area where the grid lines are showing through. Also, since the brush is set at 50%, when you click

more than once in an area, more of the grid will be masked away. You can see as I'm clicking that the layer mask in the Layers panel is showing the areas that I'm masking away. If you'd like to see your progress closer up, press Ctrl +, or Cmd + on a Mac, to zoom way in. And you can see in areas right over here, where it shows that I'm masking away those lines. Now to really see a difference, in the Layers panel click on the Visibility icon of the Clouds layer to temporarily hide it, and then you can really see what a difference this is making. Here it was before the mask, and here it is now. I'm going to turn that Clouds layer back on and then continue to mask away my lines. When you're finished masking away the gridlines, you should notice that the layer mask in the Layers panel should mimic the overlay of clouds on your document.

Now let's soften this effect. In the Layers panel, lower the Opacity of the White Grid group to 60% and then click on the Cloud layer to activate it. Lower the Opacity of this layer to 10% and then set the Blend Mode of this layer to Soft Light. The grid lines are not real apparent when you're zoomed way out, but if you zoom way in, you'll see that they're there and they are nicely grunged up.

And at this point if you would like to have the grid lines a little bit more pronounced, opened the White Grid group and then click on the Pattern Fill layer. Then, change the Blend Mode from Lighten to Screen. That's all simply a matter of taste and it could be changed anytime during the process of creating your scrapbook page.

Now let's group these layers together by going into the Layers panel and clicking on the top White Grid group to activate it. And then, hold down the Shift key and click on the Pattern Fill layer. Then, click on the Create a New Group icon and then I'll rename this group Grungy Grid Paper.

Finally, we'll want to crop this document. Press Ctrl A, Cmd A on a Mac, to select the entire document. Then, in the Menu Bar choose Image > Crop. Then, press Ctrl D, Cmd D on a Mac, to deselect. You'll want to save the document as a layered PSD file with a unique name in an easy to find location. We'll be building upon this exact document in the remaining lessons of this class. Before continuing on, however, I'd recommend that you visit the Archiving Layers section for this particular lesson, and then as an added bonus of extra fun, visit the alteration section of this class to see what you can do with the layers of the Grungy Grid paper.

As always, I would love to see what you've created in this lesson. Post a saved JPEG image of your paper in the Facebook group, or you could even zoom in here as I have my paper and take a screenshot to post. That way we can see it nice and close up. This has been Jen White with Digital Scrapbooking Mastery.