



by Jenifer Juris, Linda Sattgast, and Jen White

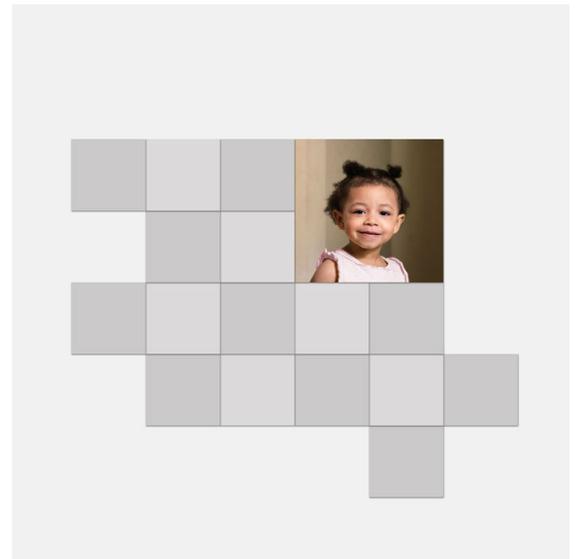
Design Beautiful Pages

Lesson 02-01: Jenifer's Uneven Grid Page

In this lesson, I explain the design choices I made when putting together my uneven grid page.

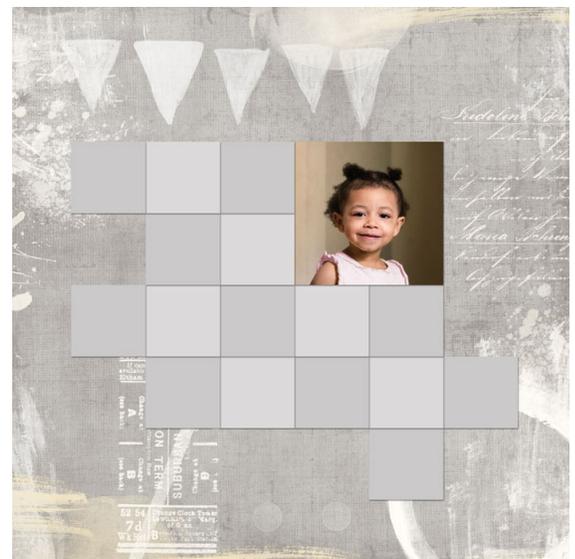
The Photo

To start with, I had a photo in mind that I wanted to use so in this instance, my page started with this adorable photo of my niece. I knew I wanted this photo to be the only one on the page because I wanted it to stand out.

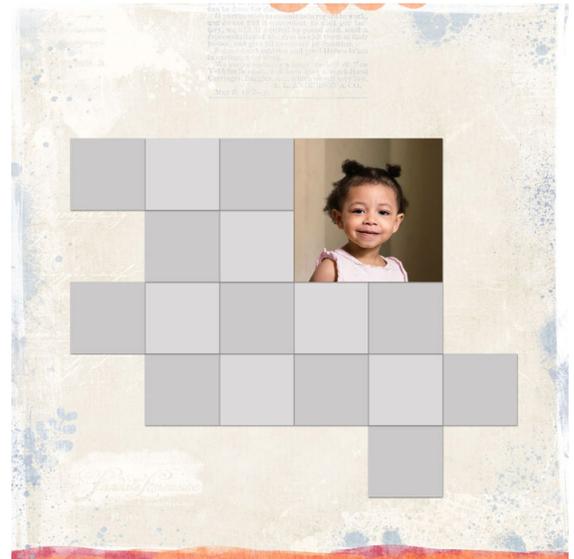


The Papers

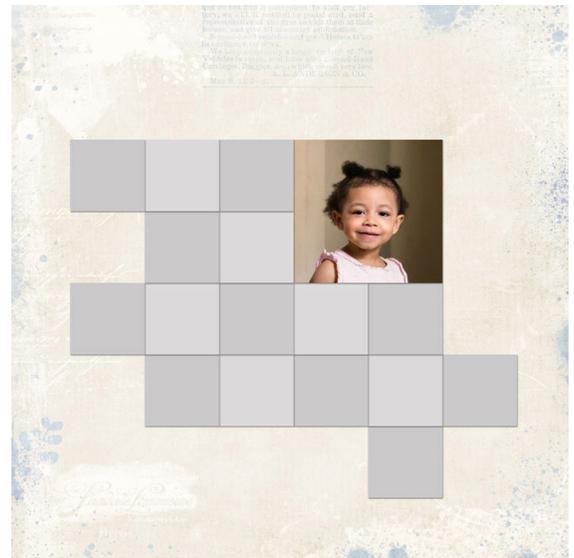
The second thing I did was work on adding papers to my uneven grid. This took a lot of time due to the nature of this template. I first took a minute to decide what paper to use for the background. After looking through the kit, it was down to two options. This gray paper...



...and this off white paper.



The gray paper had too much going on so I decided not to use it because I knew it would be overwhelming once I finished the rest of the grid. So the off white paper it is! But, I didn't like the orange paint that was showing so I increased the size of the paper beyond the bounds of the document so that the orange paint wouldn't be visible.



Then, for the main uneven grid, I started with a handful of papers I knew I would want to use and proceeded to place them. The ones I liked the most, I tried to duplicate at least once. The hard part was placing them so that the effect appeared random. Once I had done that, I then had to find a few more to fill the rest of the spaces. In the end, I'm happy with how the mix of colors, patterns, and solids seemed to balance out while still avoiding the checkerboard look.



The Elements

The first thing I did was take some time to add some stitching. If you take the time to view the Watch Me Scrap video for this month, you'll see that it was a bit of a job but it was worth it. I really like how the stitching makes the uneven grid look.

Before I placed my 3D elements, I wanted to play with the paint elements in this kit. There were so many good options but I wanted to add only enough to be visually interesting without overwhelming the design of the page. I also reduced the opacity of the larger paint pieces because as they were, they were too much. I do like the effect it had here as the paint added a bit of fun to an otherwise plain background.

Because this template fills most of the page, the layout already appears to be “full” so to speak. I kept the amount of elements to a minimum so as to not overwhelm the design. I placed the flowers and the bow in the positions I did in order to make a visual triangle with the 3-d elements.



The Type

All that was left, then, was to add the title and journaling. I used a trio of fonts for the title to keep it visually interesting and then I placed the journaling next to the photo to maintain proximity to the main subject. After that, I added the date and that was it!

Credits

Template: Digital Scrapper
Photo: Jodi Johannes (sister)
Kit: Standy Out by Red Ivy Designs
Fonts: Limon Family



Lesson 02-02: Jenifer—Watch Me Scrap

There is no manual section for Watch Me Scrap.

Lesson 02-03: Linda's Uneven Grid Page

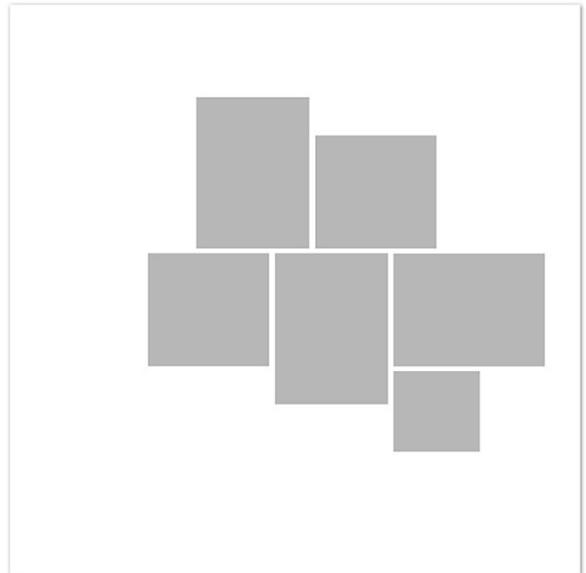
I was inspired by a late June walk I took around my neighborhood where I encountered many gorgeous flowers. Even though I hadn't planted flowers in my own yard, the thought came to me that the entire neighborhood could be my garden. All I had to do was take a walk to enjoy it!

I chose these six photos for my page. Two photos are vertical and four are horizontal, a nice mix for an Uneven Grid.



First of all, I have to say that I love this design—the uneven grid! It always looks great, and it's one of the easiest layouts to create yourself, so I decided to make a page from scratch without using a class template.

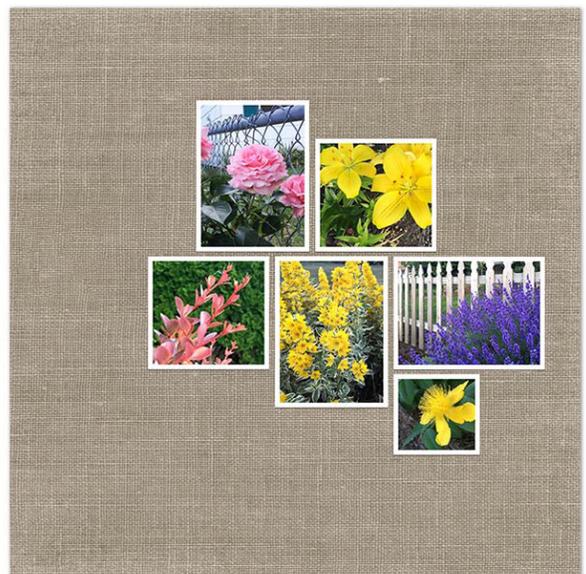
I used the Rectangle tool to quickly put together an uneven grid that had two vertical clipping masks and four horizontal or square clipping masks, based on the kind of photos I had, and I used even spacing between the grid pieces. It was fast and easy.



Then I clipped the images to the grid pieces. Aaaahhh! I like my garden already!



Next I chose a background paper and added a drop shadow and white stroke outline to the images. I didn't know if I'd end up with this paper, but it was a good start.



An uneven grid is a great place to put some circular mats or elements, so I added a circular heart element from the kit. I also added a journaling card and the journaling.

Sometimes making a page is more like meandering through a garden—I just wander through the kit, picking up elements that interest me, and trying them out.



I thought I'd work on the title next. I wanted to use "Neighborhood Garden" for the title. I came up with just the right font—Amigirl Regular—for the word garden, but I thought I might use a tag for the word "Neighborhood." That sent me back to the kit.



I didn't find a tag, but I found this beautiful butterfly and banner, so I added them to my page.



I also found a pink and white striped piece of washi tape, so I added that to the side of my journaling card and thought it might also work for the word “Neighborhood” in my title. I placed it away from the grid and title thinking I could fill that area in with elements.



First I tried some leaves and some roses that matched my layout, but even though the rose cluster was very pretty, I already had so many flowers in my photos that I decided against using flowers for elements.



I ended up making the butterfly part of the title word art, keeping it very simple, and adjusting the size of some of the other elements.



For my final tweaks I:

- Moved the uneven grid over a bit so it was more centered
- Replaced the circular element with leaves, which were more appropriate for my subject
- Added a simple cluster in the bottom right corner to create a diagonal flow through the grid of photos
- Shortened the journaling mat
- Added one tiny flower on the edge of the washi tape
- Moved the burlap paper to the right to reveal a darker burlap strip, which gave my page more definition

The last thing I added was something you may hardly notice, but it actually makes a big difference. I added some light and dark grunge around the photo grid and some along the edges of my page. This type of shading is one of those anchor devices to make your page appear more solid and connected.

So that was my process for creating a Delightful Uneven Grid page!

Credits

Photos and page by Linda Sattgast

Kit: Shine by Sheila Reid

Fonts: Myriad Pro and Amigirl Sans Swash



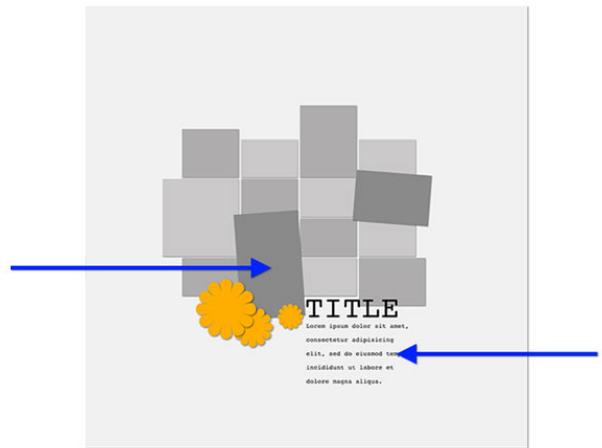
Lesson 02-04: Jen's Uneven Grid Page

I started with a pile of photos from a family outing to cut a Christmas tree.

The uneven grid design was a perfect way to showcase my story.



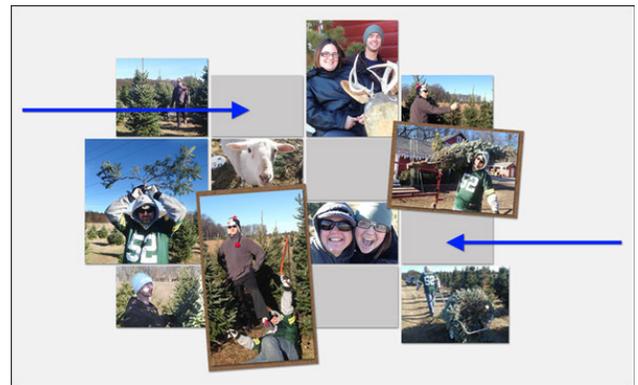
Template #6 provided a bit of whimsy with the tipped photos and it had a generous journaling spot.



I filled most of the clipping masks with my photos.

I used a few of the masks for paper instead of photos.

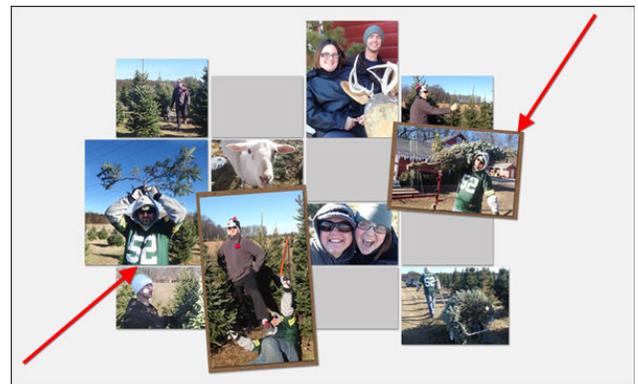
Doing this gives the eye a little bit of a break when taking in all the details.



The slight gaps in the grid design helped each photo to stand alone.

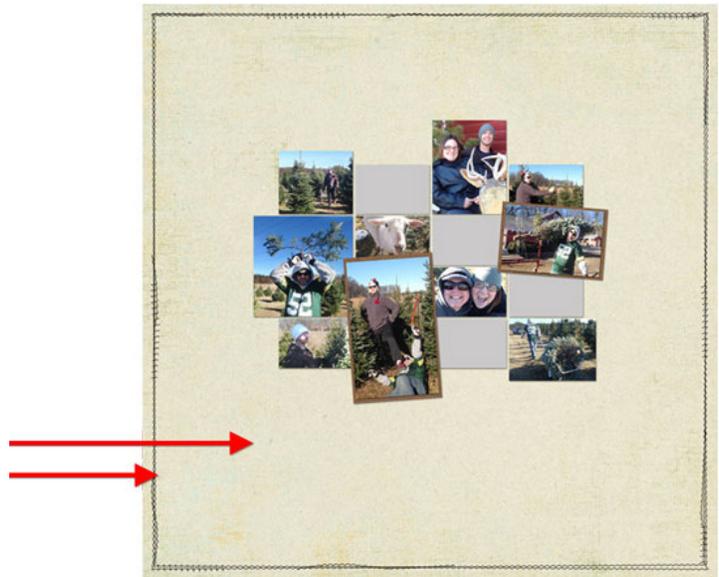
The two photos that were tipped and overlapping others had to be matted.

I chose to mat with a neutral woodsy color.



Because the photos were already packed with busyness, I chose a background paper with a slight texture in a neutral color.

The stitched border helped to dress it up a bit without any distraction.

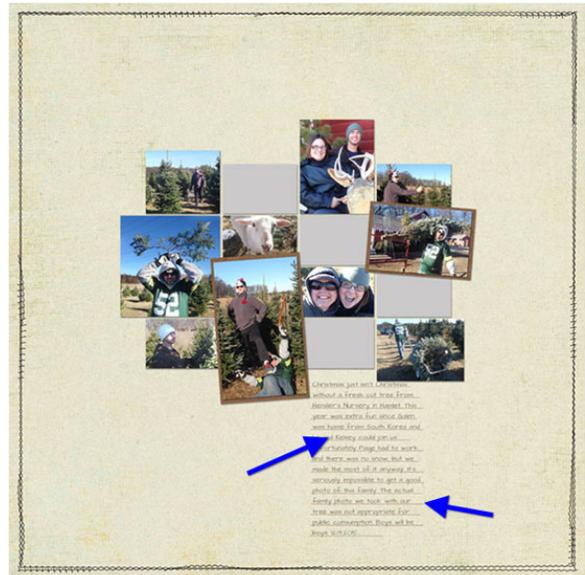


I added my story.

Keeping the type light and small helped it to blend into the design.

The journaling can easily be read when printed but it doesn't distract from the main event, which is the photos.

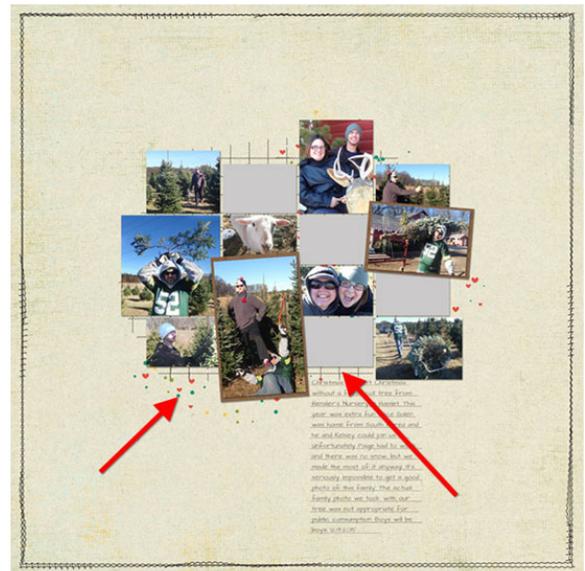
The added journaling lines work well to repeat the line of photos directly above it in the uneven grid.



I added a few anchors.

The little heart scatter gives the page a random, whimsy feel.

The stitched grid further repeats the design and works to fill in an area that was previously trapped space.



I tackled the leftover clipping masks.

Most of the papers from my chosen kit were too overpowering.

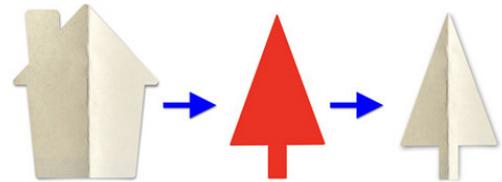
I ended up settling on a blend of two papers that matched the background paper but provided subtle pattern.

Adding some word art a low opacity further helped to dress up the paper pieces without taking away from the photos themselves.



Next, I went in search of elements to make a simple cluster for my page. I'm always up for a challenge and creating a Christmas-y cluster with a non-Christmas kit was a good one.

My chosen kit came with these super cute folded paper elements, but none of the elements were Christmas-y or Christmas tree shaped.



I created a custom Christmas tree shape with rounded corners to match the design presented in the kit. Then, I clipped the house element to my shape.

Here's how my page turned out after adding my cute Christmas-y cluster.

I absolutely love the simplicity of this design and the story that I was able to tell through it.

Credits

Page: Our Tree by Jen White

Photos: Jen White

Kits: We Are Family by Kristin Aagard

Fonts: Architect's Daughter, Gill Sans

