



by Jenifer Juris

Design Beautiful Pages

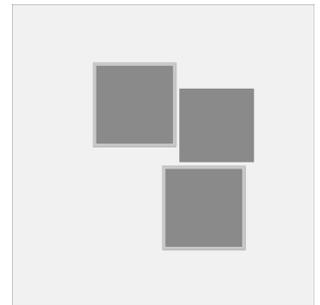
Lesson 01-01: The Delightful Uneven Grid

Welcome to the Delightful Uneven Grid! In this lesson, we're going to discuss what defines an uneven grid page design and the different ways you can use an uneven grid to make a beautiful scrapbook layout.

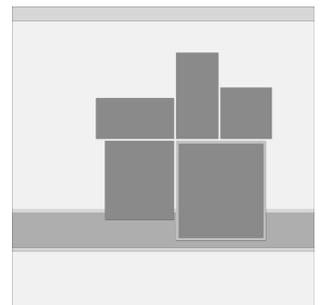
Let's first go over the definition of an uneven grid. An uneven grid has a minimum of 3 pieces where the spacing between the pieces is relatively uniform and the outside edges of the grid do not create a rectangle shape. If that feels like a mouthful to you, I agree.

So, let's look at the definition this way. There are three requirements that must be met in order for your page to meet the definition of an uneven grid:

1. The uneven grid must have a minimum of 3 pieces.



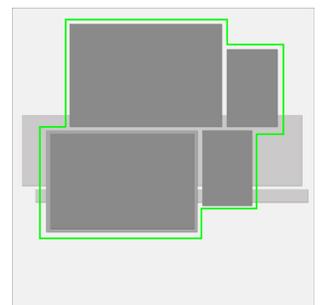
2. Spacing between the pieces should be relatively uniform.



3. The outside edges of the uneven grid should not create a rectangle shape.

If just one of these three requirements is missing, then the design isn't an uneven grid.

We've already learned about rectangular grids which line up nicely to form a rectangle with straight outer edges. Think of the rectangular grid as the responsible older sister and the uneven grid as the younger party girl who just wants to have fun—which is why an uneven grid works great for more relaxed topics!



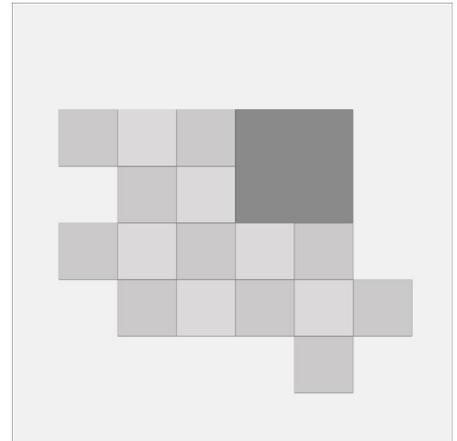
Now that we know what makes an uneven grid an uneven grid, let's talk about the three categories of uneven grid pages.

One of the requirements for an uneven grid is that the spacing between the grid pieces must be relatively uniform. But there are three kinds of spacing you can use:

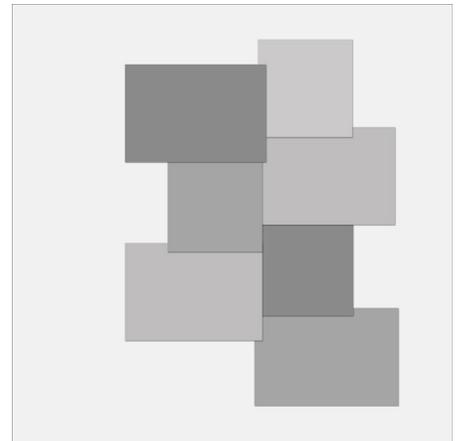
1. Positive Spacing: Positive Spacing is where your grid pieces have actual space between each piece. As with all three spacing groups, the spacing between the pieces should be uniform as seen here.



2. Zero Spacing: Zero Spacing is where your grid pieces touch edge to edge. There is no space between the pieces, and they also do not overlap. Stitching or strokes are often used to create the grid effect with this type of spacing.



3. Negative Spacing: Negative Spacing is where your grid pieces overlap uniformly. The amount of overlap is the same for each piece of the grid. Again, stitching is a common way to create the grid effect with this type of spacing.

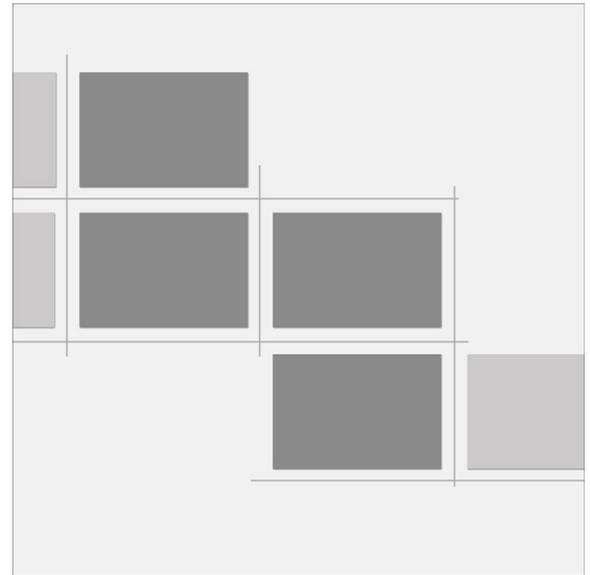


When it comes to the three groups of spacing, I want to make it clear that your layout should only ever have 1 type of spacing at a time. Your uneven grid should never include both positive and negative spacing or any other combination. We will talk more about this and why in the next video. Just keep in mind that sticking to one type of spacing is crucial for your uneven grid design to work.

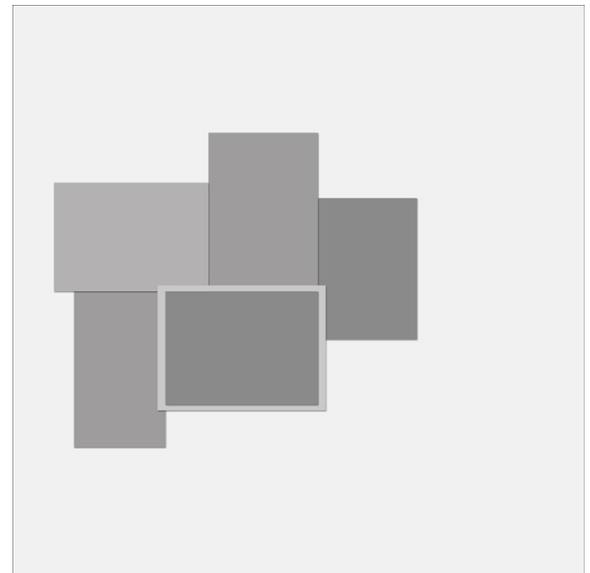
Another concept that's very important is that the spacing needs to be uniform. No matter what type of spacing you're using, if you want your page to be recognized as an uneven grid, uniform spacing is key. Again, we'll discuss in the next video why this is important for the success of your uneven grid design.

Now, let's do a quick review of the three types of spacing by looking at some more examples.

This first template is a classic example of positive spacing. Again, there is actual space between each uneven grid piece and the spacing is nice and uniform. Even though there is a stroke or stitching in between the pieces, the pieces have space between themselves and so it is a positive spacing uneven grid.



This second one might be harder to tell but it is a perfect example of zero spacing. The uneven grid pieces are touching edge to edge with no space in between and no overlap. You might notice that the bottom right piece has an anchor behind that does overlap slightly but that's the exception here, as it's used to draw attention to the main photo. The rest of the pieces are edge to edge and that's what matters.

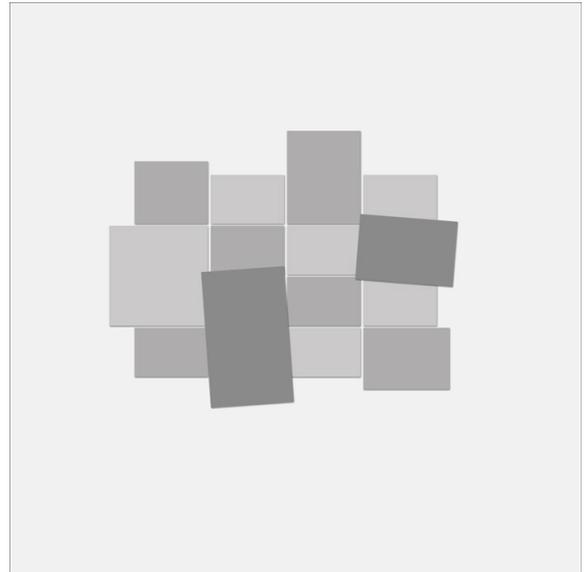


This third one here is more obvious. This template is a wonderful example of negative spacing. Each piece overlaps the other by approximately the same amount of space. The uniform spacing helps keep the grid nice and clean and easy for the eyes to understand.

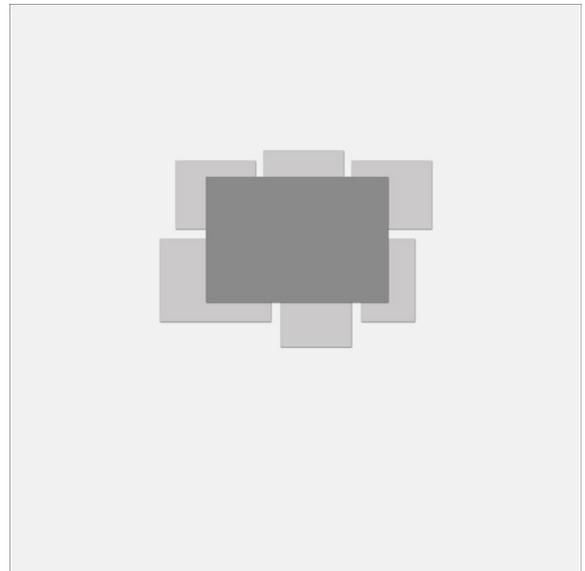


Now that we have the three categories of uneven grids straight, let's talk about some of the exceptions.

The first exception (or bending of the rules) is that you can tilt or overlap one or two of the pieces of your uneven grid for effect or emphasis.



The second exception is that you can use the uneven grid as an anchor. Instead of using the grid as the main focus of the page, you can use the grid as a platform or anchor behind your photo or photos.

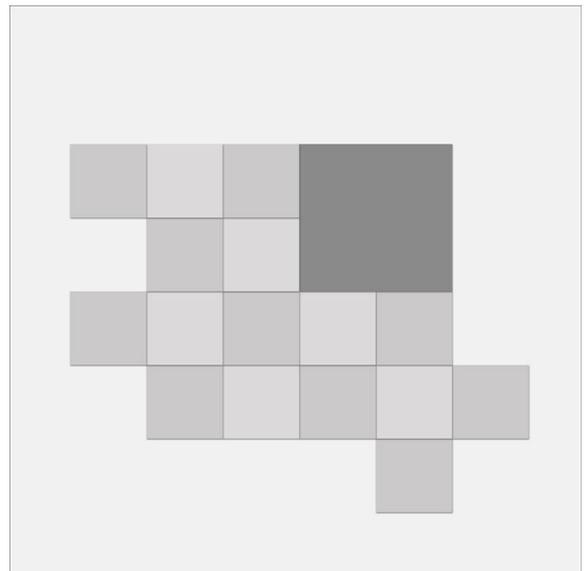


The third exception is that you can leave ONE of the 4 sides of your uneven grid as a straight line. Normally, we're trying to avoid straight lines on the outside edges of our grids so that they remain uneven. But, if one of the 4 edges is straight, it is okay.

Now it's time for the Awareness Challenge. Spend some time browsing your favorite galleries. Remember the 3 requirements for an uneven grid: a minimum of 3 pieces, uniform spacing, and the outside edges should not create a rectangle.

Take some time to discover: What types of uneven grids draw your eye? Do you prefer positive spacing over negative or is zero spacing your favorite? Whatever you find most appealing, have fun and be creative!

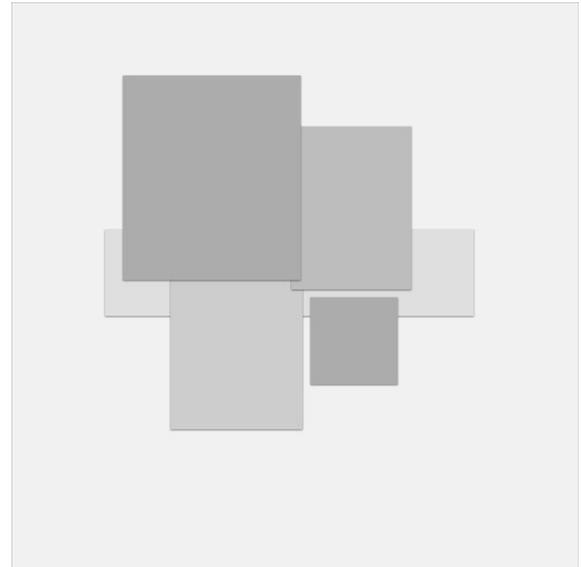
As always, we've included a pack of templates with this class to help get you started. I hope these ideas inspire you to get started with your own uneven grid pages!



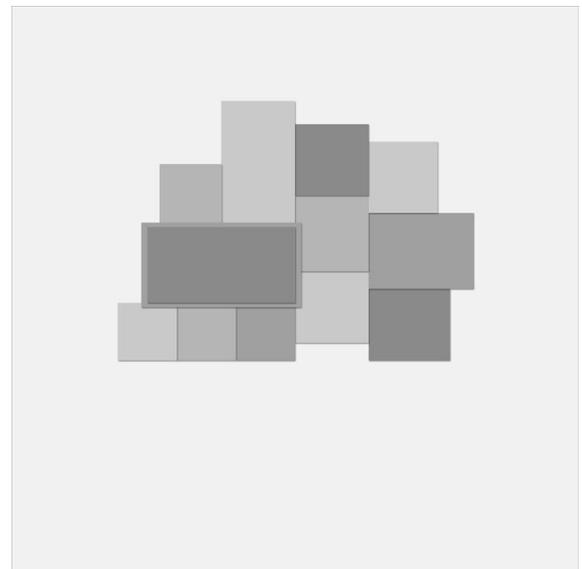
Lesson 01-02: Uneven Grids vs. Photo Clusters

In a previous class section you learned about the photo cluster design. A photo cluster and an uneven grid are actually quite similar, so, to avoid confusion, let's compare the two designs and see what makes each of them unique. Once you clearly understand the differences, you can then bend or blur a rule for special effect. This is often seen with pages that have a larger grid of photos so we'll look at an example of that.

But first, let's do a quick review of the two definitions. A Photo Cluster is 3 or more photo shapes that when randomly overlapped form an irregular shape.



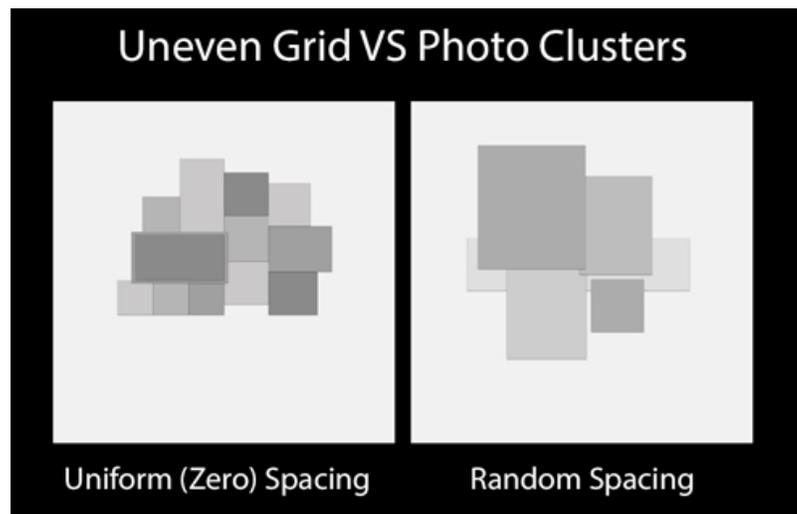
An Uneven Grid has a minimum of 3 pieces where the spacing between the pieces is relatively uniform and the outside edges of the grid do not create a rectangle shape.



So just by looking at the two definitions, we can see that the differences are slight. In fact, there are only two major differences:

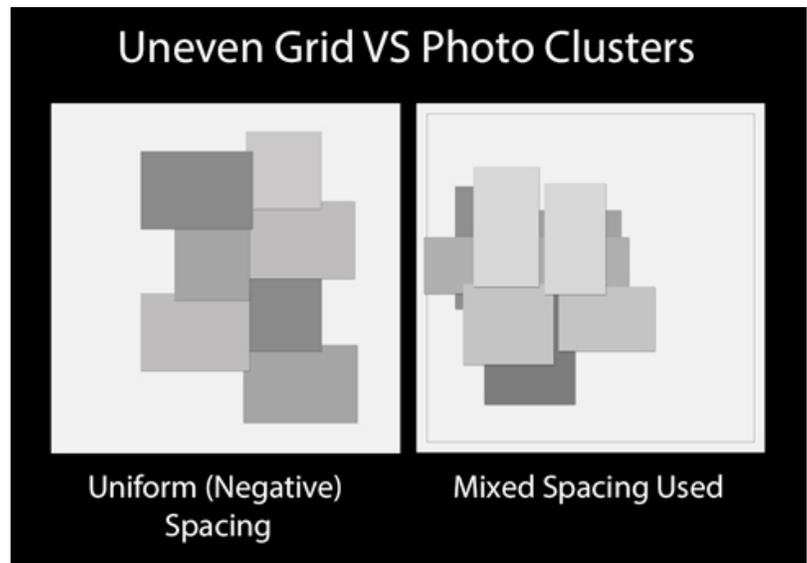
1. A Photo cluster uses only photos whereas an Uneven Grid can use photos OR paper.
2. A Photo Cluster has pieces that are randomly overlapped but an Uneven Grid requires spacing to be uniform.

Let's do a couple of comparisons to help make sure we can see the differences. In this first comparison, the uneven grid has uniform zero spacing, where all of the pieces are touching edge to edge. In contrast, the photo cluster has random spacing. Some pieces have negative spacing and one piece has positive spacing.



Uneven Grid VS Photo Clusters

In this second comparison, we again see that the uneven grid uses uniform spacing. The template shown here is using negative spacing as each piece has a slight overlap. The photo cluster template, however, uses more than one spacing type. I see both negative and positive spacing used here.



So, if you want your page to be a true uneven grid, the spacing is important. It must be all of one kind (whether it's positive, negative, or zero) and it must be uniform. If it's not, your page will start to fall under the photo cluster category and won't be a true representation of an uneven grid.

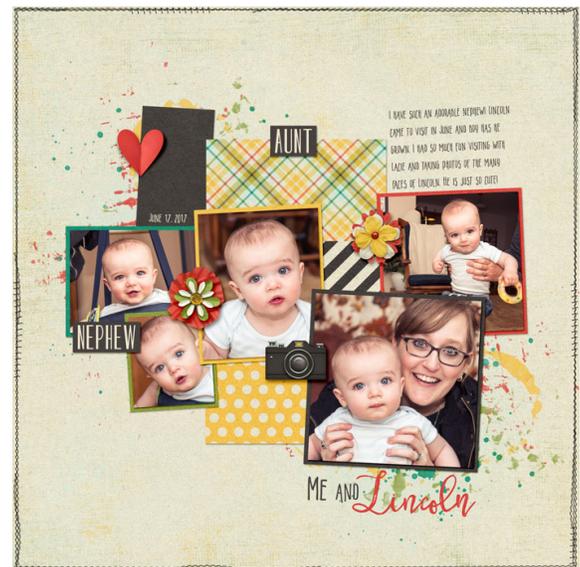
This is also why combining different types of spacing is not allowed for an uneven grid page design. If you start using different spacing types, your page will start to take on the photo cluster look and will not be considered an uneven grid.

But, as we talked about in the first video, each design always has some exceptions. We talked about how tilting or overlapping one or two pieces for effect is totally allowed. Well, what if you have a large, uneven grid of photos? Depending on the uneven grid, you may feel it's necessary to vary up the spacing or overlapping more than usually allowed. As long as the changes don't distract from the design or cause confusion for the eye, this is something that you can feel free to do for special effect.

Here's an example of what I mean. I had a group of photos that I wanted to put into an uneven grid but because my nephew is so young, I really wanted this page to have a fun and colorful layout. In order to get that across in my design, I tilted more than two pieces and I took some liberty with my spacing. While all of the pieces are negatively spaced, some are overlapping more than others and so the spacing is less uniform than normal for an uneven grid. I really like the final result and I hope this inspires you when you feel like bending the rules yourself!

Credits

Photos: Jenifer Juris
Template: Digital Scrapper
Kit: We Are Family by Kristin Aagard
Fonts: Betterfly Family



Lesson 01-03: Photos for Uneven Grids

An Uneven Grid page design provides many possible ways to use our photos. In this lesson, we'll cover a handful of fun photo ideas as well as some editing tips to help you get the most out of your uneven grid.

If you have a smaller uneven grid, you may find you only want to use one photo and fill the rest of the pieces of your uneven grid with paper. If that's the case, here are three things to keep in mind:

1. Photo Quality - If there's only one photo on the page, it really helps your design if the photo is of good quality and edited properly. Check your photo to make sure it's not dark. If your main subject has shadows or is on the darker side, edit the photo to improve that before using it on your page. In this example, the before picture is pretty good to start with.



But, once I added some brightness, it was clear that the original was a bit too dark. The changes made don't have to be drastic in order for them to make a big difference.



2. When there is only one photo, it's good to use a photo that has a clear main subject. Using a photo that has lots of distractions will make it harder for the viewer to see what is important. In this example, I have two photos from the same setting. While the first one is still super cute, the second one has almost zero distractions so that makes it the better photo to use.



3. Whether you're using one or many photos, something to keep in mind is photo placement within the clipping mask or how the photo is cropped. Make sure that the photo fully covers the clipping mask shape. As you can see, leaving a portion of the mask visible is very distracting.



Also, make sure that the main subject fits without feeling crowded and that no important features are cut off. In this example, I know it's tempting to zoom right in on those handsome blue eyes but when doing so, the photo feels cramped within the circle clipping mask. If the original photo was taken with part of someone's head or face cut off, then it's up to you if you still want to use it. Sometimes, it's the only photo available so we have no choice, but if you have options, use a better one that you can fit properly.



When scrapping with a large uneven grid, you will often want to use a multiple number of photos. The most important tip I can give you is this:

To give your page a cohesive look when using multiple photos on an uneven grid, it's always a good idea to use the same editing style on all the photos you plan to use. Whether they are all color, or all black and white, or they all have a neat preset or action used on them, giving them the same look will have a pleasing visual effect. In this before and after example, the three photos I used weren't the best. Two of the three photos had a very warm or yellow cast to them and all three of them were dark. I knew I had to edit them but I wanted them to look as similar as possible. So I made sure the warmth, exposure, and brightness looked as close to the same for each photo as I possibly could. Because of that, I made the best of the photos and the end result works!

Credits: Jordyns Car

Photos: Jodi Finley (sister)
 Template: Digital Scrapper
 Kit: XOX by Brandy Murry
 Extras: Stitching from We Are Family by Kristin Aagard
 Fonts: Bonjour, Veteran Typewriter

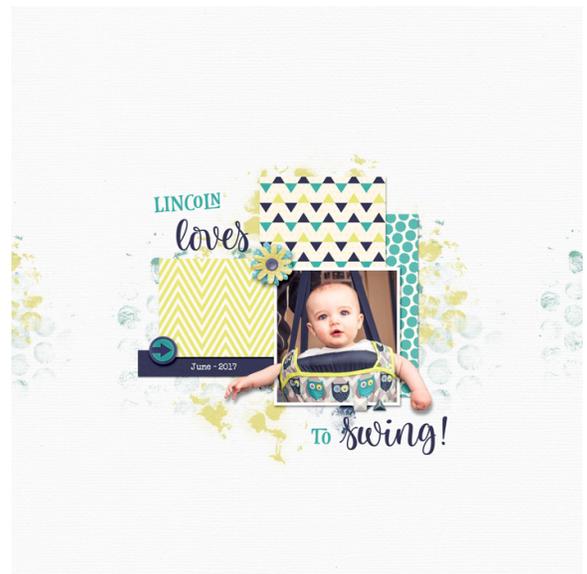


Now for three quick ways you can have some fun with your photos while creating an uneven grid page!

One way to make a photo POP off that page is to let part of the photo extend beyond the clipping mask. This is often called Out of Bounds or “OOB” in the digi-scrap world. If you’re new to digi-scraping, I highly recommend waiting until you’re more comfortable with selection tools. Taking a class, like Jen White’s Selections 1—Mastering the Basics, is a good idea to get you started if you’re really needing to learn about the selection tools and how they work. But if you’re comfortable with selections, this can be a great way to add something special to your uneven grid layout!

Credits: OOB (Swing)

Photos: Jenifer Juris
Template: Digital Scrapper
Kit: Such A Trip by Mommyish (recolored)
Extras: Cardstock Blank Canvas by Susie Roberts,
Paint from Shine Your Light by Ponytail Designs
Fonts: Limon Marker, Limon Script, Veteran Typewriter



Another great idea is to place one photo on multiple pieces. Linda mentioned this in her photos video for the Rocking the Rectangular Grid lesson. It was worth repeating as it’s a fun way to use an uneven grid, too. But, her warning from that video is something to heed as well. You must be careful about which photos you use for this. Often, using a face doesn’t work well because you end up splitting a person’s features. So save this for photos that aren’t close up on a person’s face.

Credits: Multiple Pieces (Go Outside)

Photo: Timo Stern (Stock Photo)
Template: Digital Scrapper
Kit: APP Airy by Anna Aspnes
Fonts: Veteran Typewriter, Amelia Script



One more fun idea for using your photos in an uneven grid is to use a series of photos that tell a story. You could use multiple photos from one event or you could use a series of photos that show different angles or aspects of your child or grandchild’s face. Maybe you have a favorite building or place you like to visit where you can capture different perspectives to use on one layout for special effect.

Credits: (JD Sprayer Photo Series)

Photos: Jenifer Juris
Template: Digital Scrapper
Kit: APP My Camera by Anna Aspnes
Fonts: Andara Uppercase

