📙 Digital Scrapper Premier 2023, Volume 7

Lesson 2, Variation 2, Letter Grid Photo

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Lesson 2, Variation 2, Letter Grid Photo

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Give a super-special photo a super-special position on your page by clipping it to a letter grid.

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NOTE: Please complete the lessons in the order they are provided.

For this lesson you will need:
- paper7 from the Class-Files folder.
- practice-photo6 from the Class-Files folder.

Quick Steps for Lesson 2, Variation 2, Letter Grid Photo

Step-by-step instructions are below.

- Create a new document.
- Add a 2-inch grid.
- Add a black 500 pt capital letter.
- Resize the letter to fit fully inside the grid squares.
- Mask away gridlines from the letter.
- Clip a photo to the letter grid.
- Add a drop shadow.
- Create a duplicate letter grid below the original one.
- Transform it larger and offset it.
- Clip paper to the bottom letter grid.
- Complete the title.
- Finish the page.

Step-By-Step for Lesson 2, Variation 2, Letter Grid Photo

Prepare Your Workspace

- Create a new 12x12 inch document (File > New > Blank File) at 300 ppi with a white background. Letter-sized documents will also work for this tutorial. (PS: Choose File > New.)
- Press the letter D to reset the Color Chips to the default of black over white.

Add a 2-Inch Grid

- Press Ctrl K (Mac: Cmd K) to open Preferences.
- In the dialog box, click on Guides & Grid (PS: Guides, Grid & Slices). Set Gridline Every to 2 and Subdivisions to 1. Click OK.
- In the Menu Bar, choose View (PS: View > Show) and place a checkmark next to Grid.

Add a Capital Letter

- Get the Horizontal Type tool.
- In the Tool Options, open the Font Picker and choose Kanit Black. Set the Size to 500. Click on the Center Align icon.
- On the document, click once in the center, type a capital letter, and click the checkmark to commit the change. I'll type a capital B because it coordinates with my title.
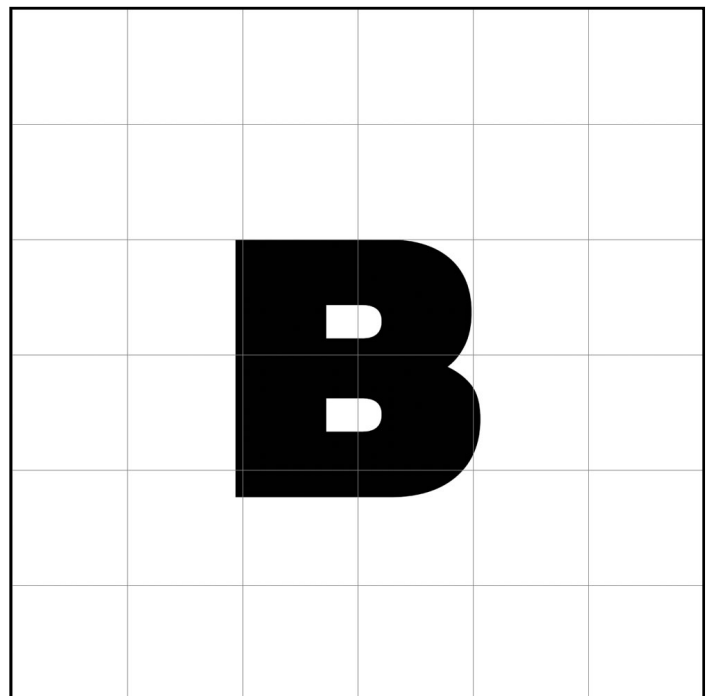
Resize the Letter Within the Grid
- Press Ctrl T (Mac: Cmd T) to get the Transform options.
- On the document, click and drag on the corner handles of the bounding box until the longest side of the letter spans just under 4 (or fewer) squares of the grid.
- To reposition the letter, click and drag inside the bounding box.
- If needed, click and drag (PS: hold down the Shift key) on the side handles to make the letter fit better within the grid.

TIP: Do not let the edges of the letter extend past the gridline.
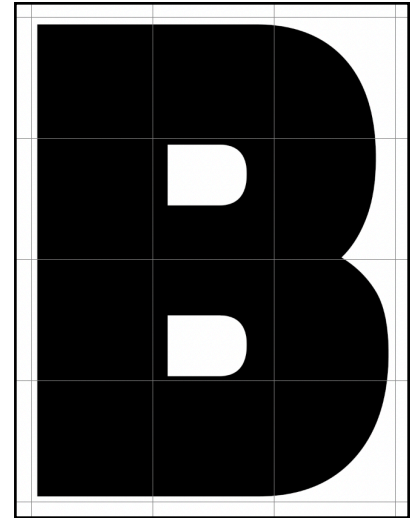
Mask Away Lines in the Letter
- Get the Brush tool.
- **Photoshop Elements Only:** In the Tool Options, open the Brush Picker, open the dropdown menu, and choose Default Brushes. Choose a Hard Round brush. If you don't see the names of the brushes, open the flyout menu and place a checkmark next to Large List. Set the Size to 15. Set the Mode to Normal and the Opacity to 100. Click on Brush Settings. Set the Fade, Hue Jitter, and Scatter to 0. Set the Spacing to 5%. Set the Hardness to 100 and the Roundness to 100.
- **Adobe Photoshop Only:** In the Tool Options, open the Brush Picker, open General Brushes, and choose the Hard Round brush. If you don't see the names of the brushes, open the flyout menu and place a checkmark next to Brush Name. Set the Size to 15. Set the Mode to Normal, the Opacity to 100, and the Flow to 100. In the Brush Settings panel (Window > Brush Settings), set the Spacing to 5% and uncheck all Brush Tip Shape options.
- Press Ctrl + (Mac: Cmd +) until the letter nearly fills the viewing area and you can clearly see the gridlines and the entire boundary of the letter.
- In the Layers panel, the type layer should still be active.
- Click on the Add Layer Mask icon.
- Black needs to be the Foreground Color Chip; if it's not, press the letter X. On the document, hold down the Shift key and click and drag from the beginning of the top horizontal gridline to the end, making sure to completely cross the letter. (See the screenshot.)

NOTE: Holding down the Shift key will ensure that your brush travels in a straight line.

- Repeat for the gridlines that intersect with the letter.
- In the Menu Bar, choose View (PS: View > Show) and uncheck Grid.
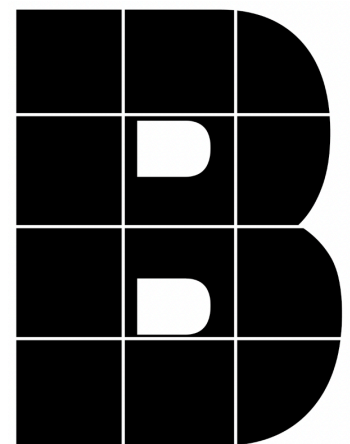
Clip a Photo to the Letter Grid

• Open practice-photo6 (File > Open) from the Class-Files folder.
• Get the Move tool.
• Holding down the Shift key, click and drag the photo onto the document.
• In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Create Clipping Mask.
• Press Ctrl T (Mac: Cmd T) to get the Transform options. Click and drag on the corner handles of the bounding box to resize the photo to look good in the grid. To reposition the photo, click and drag inside the bounding box. Make sure the boundaries of the photo stay outside the boundaries of the letter grid. To rotate the photo, hover your cursor near a corner handle of the bounding box until you see a curved, double-headed arrow, then click and drag. Click the checkmark to commit the change.

NOTE: Because of the gridlines, if your photo has a horizon, you will have to pay special attention to make sure the horizon is straight.

Add a Drop Shadow to the Letter Grid

• In the Layers panel, click on the letter layer to activate it.
• **Photoshop Elements only:** In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Layer Style > Style Settings. In the dialog box, set the Lighting Angle to 120. Click on Drop Shadow to activate it and reveal the settings. Set the Size to 15, the Distance to 15, and the Opacity to 50. Click OK.
• **Adobe Photoshop only:** In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Layer Style > Drop Shadow. In the dialog box, set the Blend Mode to Multiply, the Opacity to 50, the Angle to 120, the Distance to 15, the Spread to 0, and the Size to 15. Click OK.

NOTE: Once you complete your page, you may need to alter the settings of the drop shadow so you can clearly see the masked lines in the letter. A drop shadow that's too large will make the lines hard to see.

(Optional) Add a Letter Grid Mat
• In the Layers panel, hold down the Alt key (Mac: Opt key) and click and drag a duplicate type layer directly below the original.
• Press Ctrl T (Mac: Cmd T) to get the Transform options.
• Press Ctrl - (Mac: Cmd -) once to zoom out.
• Click and drag on the corner handles of the bounding box to resize the bottom letter grid to be slightly larger than the top letter grid. Click and drag inside the bounding box to offset the bottom letter grid from the top letter grid. Click the checkmark to commit the change.
• Open paper7 (File > Open) from the Class-Files folder.
• Get the Move tool.
• Holding down the Shift key, click and drag the paper onto the document.
• In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Create Clipping Mask.

Group the Layers
• In the Layers panel, click on the photo layer to activate it.
• Holding down the Shift key, click on the bottom type layer. Now four layers should be active.
• Click on the Create a New Group icon.
• Double click directly on the name of the new group, rename it LETTER GRID PHOTO, and press Enter/Return to commit the change.
• Get the Move tool.
• Click and drag on the letter to reposition it.
• Use the Transform options to resize it.

Complete the Page
• Add a sticker style title to complete the thought of the large letter.
• Add additional photos, if desired.
• Add elements on the edge of the letter.
• Complete the page and save.

Page & Photo: Bar Harbor, Maine by Jen White
Class: DSP23, Vol 7, Lesson 2, Letter Grid
Kits: Digital Scrapper, Always Blooming by Simple Pleasure Designs
Fonts: Liza Display Pro, Caroni