

Rocking the Rectangular Grid



Class by Linda Sattgast

Design Beautiful Pages—Linda's Rectangular Grid

Lesson 02-01: Finishing the Rectangular Grid

Credits

Photos and page by Linda Sattgast
Kit: Bright Canyon by Melissa Renfro
Chevron from Stories 365 by Kristin Cronin-Barrow
Fonts: Myriad Pro, Orator STD, Caleigh

My husband Charlie and I are snow birds, so most years you'll find us heading south for the winter. Here we're parked in the desert next to some scrubby creosote bushes and a small range of mountains, just perfect for hiking. Many people would look at this landscape and see a dry, uninviting desert, but we see a captivating beauty that's very different from the lush beauty of the Pacific Northwest, where we live most of the year.



Over the years I've struggled with how to transfer some of that feeling to a scrapbook page, so other people can understand why we love the desert so much. For this page I wanted to share the experience of hiking to the top of the mountain in time to watch a glorious sunrise.

Finding The Right Photos

First I found 3 great photos I loved: the RV reflecting sunlight, Charlie hiking to the mountain, and a silhouette of Charlie watching the sunrise.



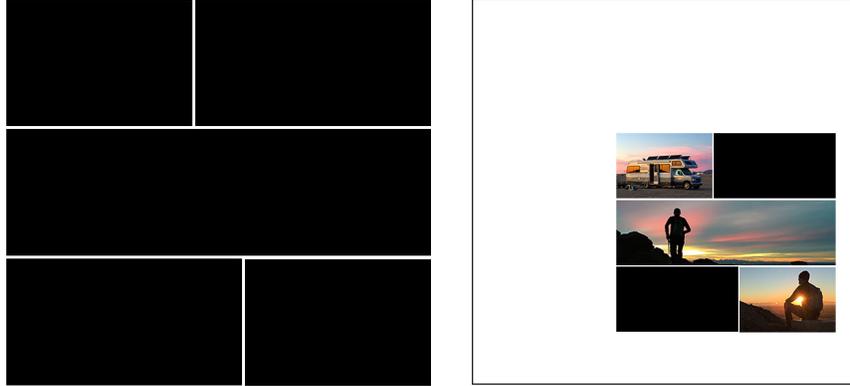
Choosing Or Creating A Template

I looked through the starter rectangular grid templates and didn't see exactly what I was imagining in my head, so I decided to make my own grid using the Rectangle tool.

Top Row: I made one short and one longer piece.

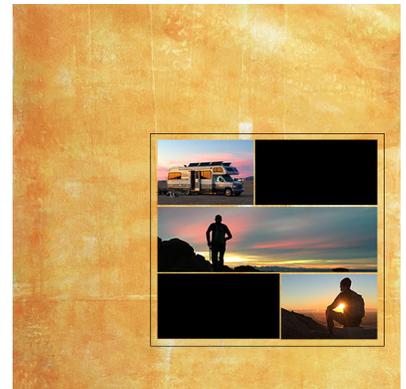
Middle Row: I copied the longer grid piece and used the Transform tool to stretch it out to the same width as the top two pieces.

Bottom Row: I duplicated the top two layers, moved them to the bottom, and flipped them horizontally using the Transform tool. This gave the grid a feeling of balance.



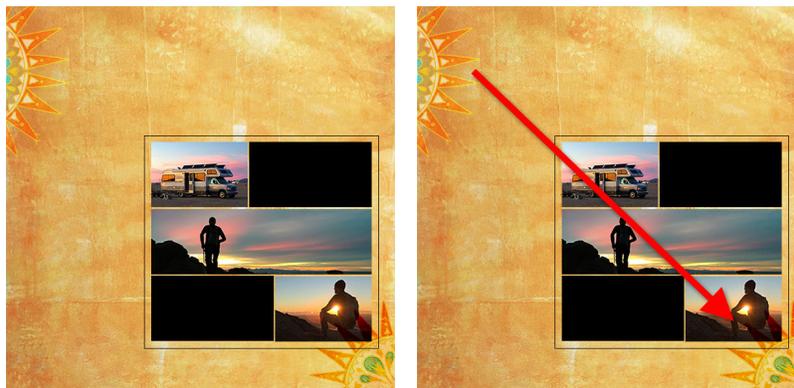
I then chose a paper that went well with my theme and matched some of the colors in the photo. I decided not to use a white border on the photos or put a contrasting mat behind the photos.

Instead, I added a stroke outline to make the grid feel grounded on the page.



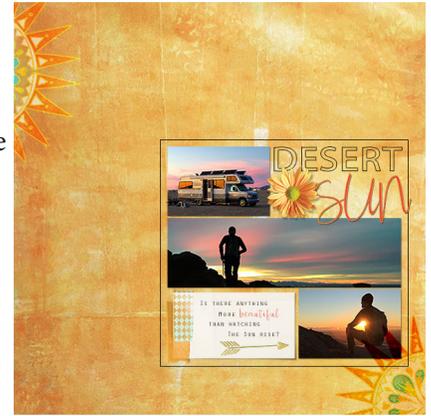
This page is about the sun, so next I added the same artistic sun element twice, one slightly larger than the other. I changed the blend mode of the lower one to Color Burn at 100% opacity, and changed the blend mode of the upper one to Hard Light. It seemed just a little too bright, though, and I didn't want it to steal the show from the main focal point—the grid—so I lowered the opacity of the upper sun to 60%.

Notice how these two elements establish the flow as a diagonal line from corner to corner. Now I had to decide what to do with the remaining two grid pieces.



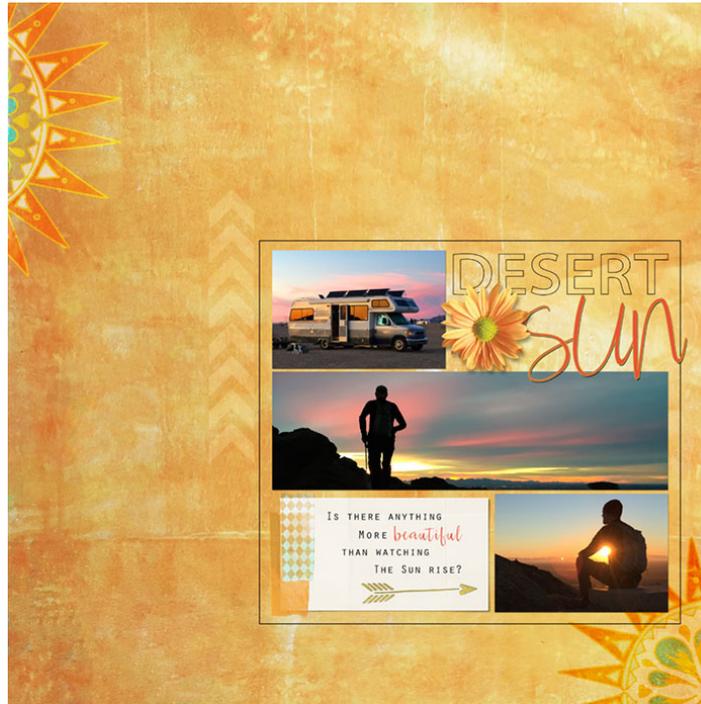
I decided to remove both grid pieces and use the top spot for a title and flower element. You might not think of a desert having flowers, but it actually does have some beautiful flowers, especially in the winter. The point here, though, is that the flower reminded me of a sun, so I felt that it fit with my topic.

In the lower left corner of the grid I added a tag on which to put my journaling. This tag came with washi tape, which looked great with my layout. I debated whether I should use straight journaling about how we hiked up the mountain and made it to the top in time for sunrise, but I decided the word art, complete with an arrow element from the kit, would say it best.



Later I added one more element—a chevron set to soft light at 60% opacity. Notice it’s connected to the rectangular grid by its Proximity. It’s not just stuck anywhere floating in space.

Even the chevron is a vertical element, it continues the same diagonal flow from corner to corner.



Wait Awhile

I recommend that you put your page away for at least a half an hour, maybe even for a day or two, because when you come back to it you’ll have new perspective and your eye will be drawn to any area that doesn’t seem quite right.

I left a fair amount of “white space” on this page—space where there’s paper but nothing else.

Lesson 02-02: Watch Me Scrap—Linda’s Rectangular Page

This video has no manual content and no captions.

Lesson 02-03: Jen’s Rectangular Page

by Jen White

Credits

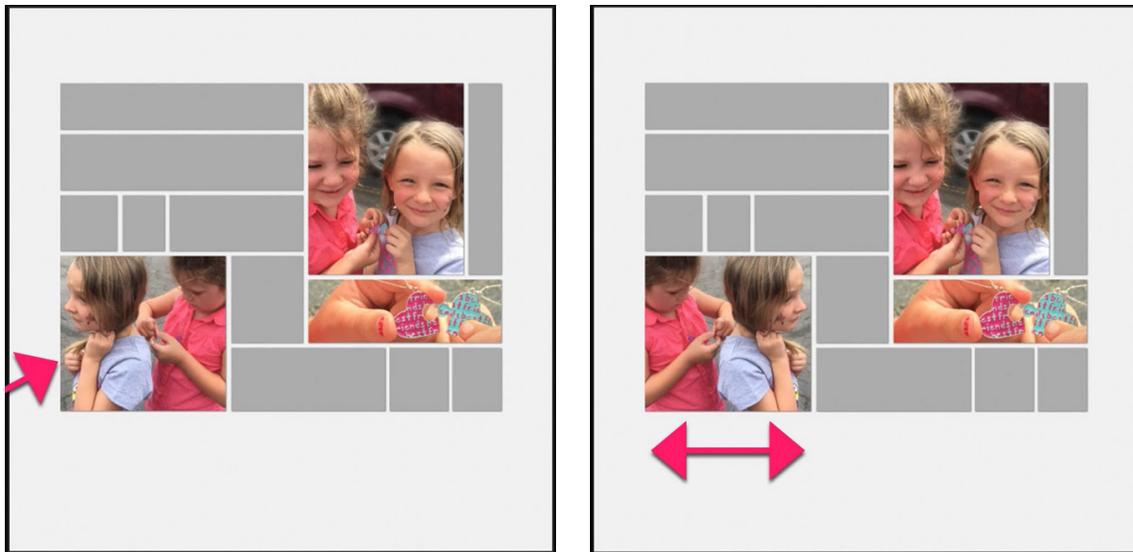
Page & Photos: Jen White
Kit: Heart of Gold by KimB

Here’s how my rectangular grid page came together and the decisions that were made behind the scenes.

The Photos

I started out by choosing three photos of my niece Grace and her best friend Thea. The photos I had to work with weren’t the best, but I still needed to get the story told. The subject of my kit was best friends, which fit the theme of my photos perfectly.

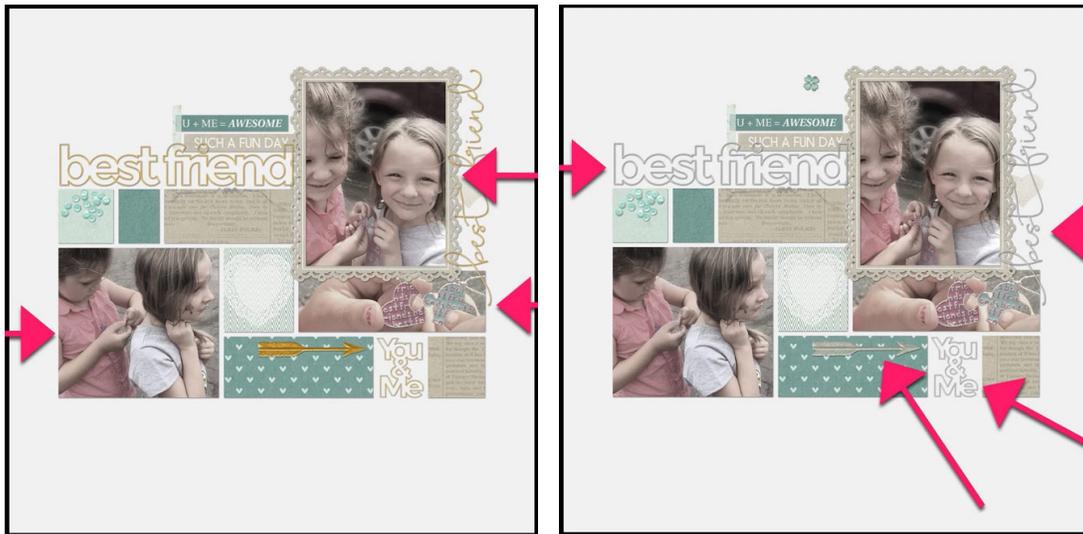
There were two main photos I wanted to feature on my page, plus other small one. I thought the template I chose would give me plenty of opportunity to showcase my photos, but also allow me to use some of the fun best friend elements in my kit. I felt that the bottom left photo would look better if it was facing inward, so I simply used the Transform tool to flip it horizontally.



The Papers and Elements

Once I started clipping papers to templates pieces, it became clear that I was either going to have to change some of the colors in the kit, or desaturate my photos. I decided to desaturate the photos, which really helped to put things back into balance, but then I was dissatisfied with the gold elements. It made more sense to have silver elements since the best friends necklace featured in the photos was silver.

Turning the metal elements from gold to silver was just what my page needed. It was really starting to feel unified both in color and number.



The Finishing Touches

Now I was ready to find a background paper and add finishing touches. My kit contained a lot of plain papers to choose from, but after trying several, I felt like the darker gray was the best at complementing my photos and design.

To stay true to the rectangular grid design without feeling like I was going overboard, I filled in the missing template pieces with grunge from the kit and some journaling. So that's how I rocked the rectangular grid!



Lesson 02-04: Jenifer's Rectangular Page

by Jenifer Juris

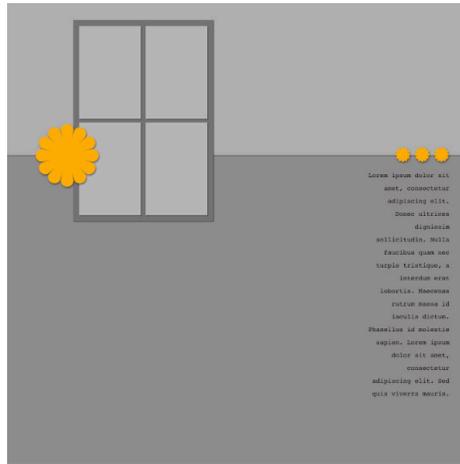
Credits

Page and Photos by Jenifer Juris

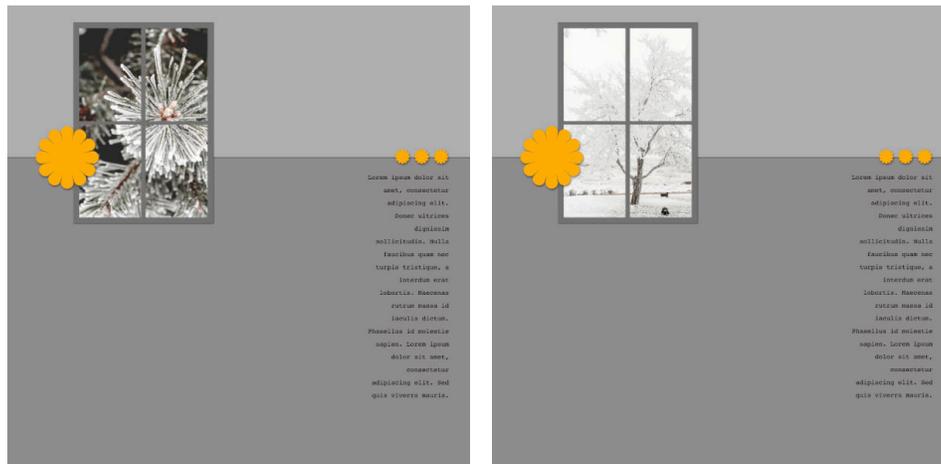
Kit: Winter Bliss by Kristin Cronin-Barrow

The Photo

Here's the rectangular grid template I decided to use.



I knew immediately, that I wanted to use one photo for all four squares. But, as Linda mentioned in one of the class videos, this can be a bit tricky. Because of the shape of the grid, I knew I wanted the photo to remind me of looking out a window. I tried about 10 photos before I found one that was going to work with my overall page design. It came down to 2 contenders.



The first photo is a beautiful close up of frost that I took last year of one of the many bushes in my front yard.

The second photo is a zoomed out photo that captures the bulk of one of the trees in my front yard. I ended up choosing photo two for several reasons:

- It gave me the whole window feel I was going for.
- It gave a sense of a scene instead of a close up of one subject.
- It was mostly white, and since the title of my page was going to be White Winter, I just knew this was the one.

The Paper Choices

I'm a sucker for a nice wood grain paper. The white and snowy wood grain paper I chose was just what I wanted for the main piece of my scrapbook page. I knew having any kind of busy pattern on the bottom half would be too much because it consists of roughly two thirds of the layout.

Picking the paper for the top portion of the template was a little trickier. In the end, I chose a pretty blue paper with multiple snowflake scatters. It really helped complete the scene of a White winter page.

I used a similar blue paper for the matte behind my photos. Again, I was going for that window feel.

And last, for the small paper strip that separates the two main papers, I wanted to use a plain, light blue paper. I wanted that strip to be something that blended in or didn't stand out. I knew the elements I was going to use would be enough eye candy that I wouldn't need a bright striped paper here.



The Finishing Touches

As the template suggested, I knew I was going to make two clusters along the line where the two main papers meet. This is where I chose to add some more bold pops of color. I knew I wanted just a little bit of that pretty bold blue so I went through the kit seeking out those pieces.

I always end up trying about twice as many elements as I end up using. But in the end, I wanted the glitzy snowflakes and the three dimensional flowers. Oh, and don't forget that beautiful blue ribbon—I love how it has movement, just like a snowflake dancing on the wind.

So that's how I put my White Winter page together using the time tested rectangular grid.

