

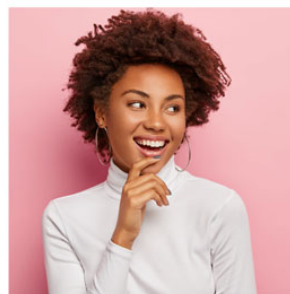
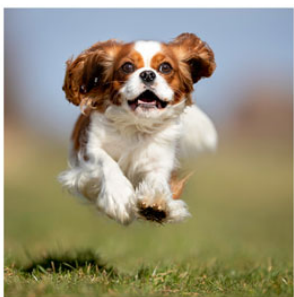


Essential Solutions for Page Design Problems

Design Problem: Crooked Horizons

by Jenifer Juris

Do you want your photos to look natural and balanced? Find out the simple thing you can do to make that happen in this installment of Essential Solutions for Page Design Problems.

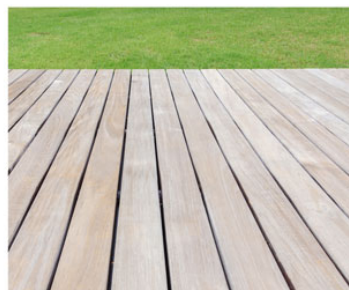


When it comes to photographing memories, the pictures we take can be of anything. But there are some groups we see more often in digital scrapbooking. People, pets, wildlife, nature, and landscape photos are some of the most common. In this lesson, we are focusing on any photo that has a horizon line.

Photos with horizon lines come in two varieties. The first is any photo with an actual horizon line. These are photos taken outside where you can see the sky meet the ground.



The second kind of horizon line is a faux horizon line. These photos may not show where the sky meets the ground, but you may have something like a railing or other straight line that goes across the entire photo. Both the real and the faux horizon lines are what we are addressing in this lesson.



When it comes to designing a scrapbook page with a photo that has either a real or faux horizon line, the design problem we can face is when the horizon lines are crooked.

Photos can end up with a crooked horizon for a variety of reasons. Holding the camera crookedly, standing on crooked ground, or having to take the picture at a weird angle are just a few reasons this can happen. It's not really important why it happens. What's more important is fixing it when you are editing your pictures later. If you can fix it in camera, that's always better. But if you can't, or don't realize it until later, that's when you need to edit the photo to correct it.

Photos with crooked horizon lines are a design problem for a few simple reasons:

1. The first reason is that crooked horizons are distracting.
2. The second reason is that crooked horizons aren't natural.
3. The third reason is that crooked horizons create an unbalanced image.

I could keep going, but you get the idea. Crooked horizons are a design problem because they don't look like real life. You don't walk outside and normally see a horizon with a crazy angle. It's not natural.

If you've been watching this series of videos, you're going to start noticing a theme. If anything on our pages is unnatural, unbalanced, or distracting, it reduces the visual quality of our scrapbook layouts. These qualities always cause our eyes and our brains to be confused or distracted, and this makes a page less enjoyable to look at. Our brains seek out order, balance, and a unified theme, so when our pages have something other than that, our brains don't like it and find the layout less enjoyable.

So what are the solutions for this design problem?

1. The first solution is that you need to SEE the crooked horizon.

Many of us, myself included, are usually so focused on the person or animal in a photo that we don't remember to check the horizon line to see if it's level. If being able to see what's wrong with a photo is something you find difficult, then I highly recommend my class, An Eye for Edits. This class will teach you how to identify which edits a photo may need and how to fix them, including crooked horizons.

Please see the lecture where you downloaded this lesson for a discount on an Eye for Edits.



2. The second solution is that once you see the crooked horizon line, fix it.

I know it sounds simple, and that's because it is. This is one of those design problems that is very straightforward and easy to correct. Before I show you an example on a scrapbook page, let me show you what crooked horizon lines look like in a handful of photos.

In these 6 photos, the horizon line is tilted in a very distracting way. Our brains see these images and find that the subject of the photos is tipping over. I don't know about you, but my brain immediately wants to reach out and fix it so they are level and don't fall over.



Here are these same 6 photos now that they have been fixed. Instead of being distracted by wanting to fix these photos, my brain can relax and just enjoy the scene in each one.



Here's a scrapbook page with a sunset photo as the main part of the design. In this example, you can see the horizon line is very crooked. It's making the whole page feel tilted, off balance, and like everything is going to run off to the right.



Here's the same scrapbook page with the photo corrected. Things feel balanced, level, and visually calm. I don't feel the urge to reach out and fix anything. The sky looks normal now, and I can stop and enjoy the beautiful image instead of wanting to fix it.



In this before and after, you can more easily see what a difference a straight horizon makes. That one simple fix can take a page from feeling awkward and heavy on one side to feeling balanced and natural.



Credits:

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