



by Jen White

Design Beautiful Pages

Lesson 01-01: Effective Framing, Part 1

What Is Effective Framing About?

This lesson is not about a new design technique. This lesson is also not a how-to for creating your own frames.

This lesson is about the art of how to effectively support previous techniques through the creative use of frames and how to creatively combine frames with photos and other elements to achieve a pleasing scrapbook page you'll be proud to display.

Dependent Frame

A dependent frame is the most common type of frame used in scrapbooking. A dependent frame acts as one unit with a photo. The frame and the photo are the same size and the same shape.

Use a dependent frame for the purpose of making a lone, bold statement.

Use a dependent frame to set one photo apart from a group of photos.



Fit a Frame: Prepare the Workspace

- Create a new 12x12 inch document (File > New > Blank File) at 300 ppi with a white background.
- Open a photo (File > Open).
- Get the Move tool.
- Holding down the Shift key, click and drag the photo onto the new document.
- Open a frame.
- Holding down the Shift key, click and drag the frame onto the document.



Fit a Frame: Resize the Frame

The frame layer should be the active layer in the Layers panel.

- Get the Rectangular Marquee tool.
- In Tool Options, click on the New Selection icon. Set the Feather to 0 and the Mode to Normal. (PS: Set the Style to Normal.)
- On the document, click and drag a selection outline around one half of the frame. To adjust the height, select the top half. To adjust the width, select the left half.



- Press Shift Ctrl J (Mac: Shift Cmd J) to cut and paste the selected pixels onto a new layer.
- Use the keyboard arrow keys to nudge the top half of the frame so that it fits just inside the edge of the photo.
- In the Layers panel, activate the layer containing the bottom half of the frame.
- Use the keyboard arrow keys to nudge the bottom half of the frame so that it fits just inside the edge of the photo.



Fit a Frame: Blend the Frame

- In the Layers panel, activate the layer that containing the top half of the frame.
- Get the Brush tool.
- In the Options Bar, open the Brush Picker and choose a soft round brush. Set the Mode to Normal and the Opacity to 100%. (PS: Also, set the Flow to 100%.)
- In the Layers panel, click on the Add Layer Mask icon.
- Black should now be the Foreground Color Chip. If it isn't, press the letter X.
- On the document, click and drag slightly over the blunt bottom edge of the cut off frame. You may have to click on the Visibility icon of the top frame layer several times to determine where the edge of the frame is.
- If the bottom half of the frame needs blended, repeat the instructions for it.



Fit a Frame: Merge the Frame Layers

- In the Layers panel, click on the top frame layer to activate it.
- Shift click on the bottom frame layer. Now both frame layers should be active.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Merge Layers.

Note: Make sure to not add a drop shadow to the frame until after it's been merged.

Outer Frame

An outer frame is one that is positioned around the outer edge of the page instead of the outer edge of a photo. The outer frame and the page will usually be about the same size.

The purpose of the outer frame is to tighten a page and/or add interest.

The key to an outer frame is to make it interesting without distracting the viewer from the focal point.

The most common ways to add a non-distracting outer frame include a simple stroke outline, a grungy overlay, a clever combination of edge elements, or a stack of coordinating papers.

For guaranteed success, keep colors and items to a minimum.

Credits

Kits: Simplify by Angie Briggs, Real Life by Calista's Stuff, Musings by Etc By Danyale, Photographie by Joanne Brisebois, Shine by Sheila Reid

Photos: Dan Gold, Brandon Morgan



Lesson 01-02: Effective Framing, Part 2

Let's explore the third and final frame type taught in this lesson and learn what it takes to morph a photo out of a frame.

Independent Frame

An independent frame is one that is not directly related to the size and/or position of any particular photo. It is perfect for drawing attention to a particular place or subject within a photo.

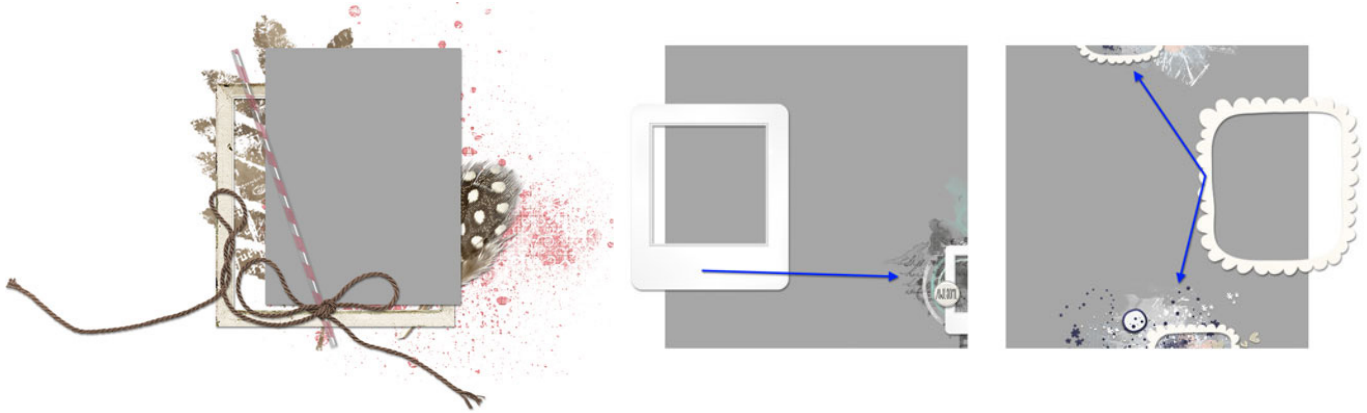
The key is to add an artsy element without distracting from the focal point.



An independent frame does not need a photo. It can work with other elements to provide a stunning anchor or edge element.

When the independent anchor frame is the same shape as a photo, it not only looks nice, but it introduces the principle of repetition into your design.

An independent frame can be used with other elements to create interest along the edge of a scrapbook page.



When an independent frame is combined with a morphing technique, it will appear to break the rule of no 2D objects over a 3D object.

The morphing techniques uses just a frame, a photo, and complex mask.

Morphing



Credits

Page: The Tutu by Jen White
Photo: Lori McMichael
Kit: XOX by Brandy Murry
Font: Shree Devanagari 714

Morphing: Prepare the Document

- Download the Morphing-Technique files from the class downloads page.
- Create a new 12x12 inch document (File > New > Blank File) at 300 ppi with a white background. (PS: Choose File > New.)
- Open the photo from the downloads. (File > Open)
- Get the Move tool.
- Click and drag the photo onto the new document.

Morphing: Add and Adjust the Frame

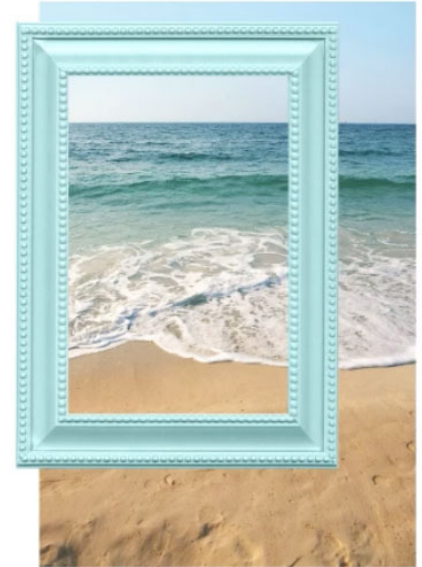
- Open the frame from the downloads and add it to the document.

Note: The order of the layers is important.

- Press Ctrl T (Mac: Cmd T) to get the Transform options.
- On the document, click and drag on a corner of the bounding box to resize the frame. (PS: Hold down the Shift key while dragging.) Click and drag inside the bounding box to reposition the frame.

Goals:

- Make room for the photo to generously spill out frame.
- Make sure the inside of the frame stays within the boundaries of the image.
- When an image contains action, place the frame at the beginning of the action and the complex mask at the projected end of the action.



Morphing: Add and Adjust the Mask

Open the complex mask from the downloads and add it to the document.

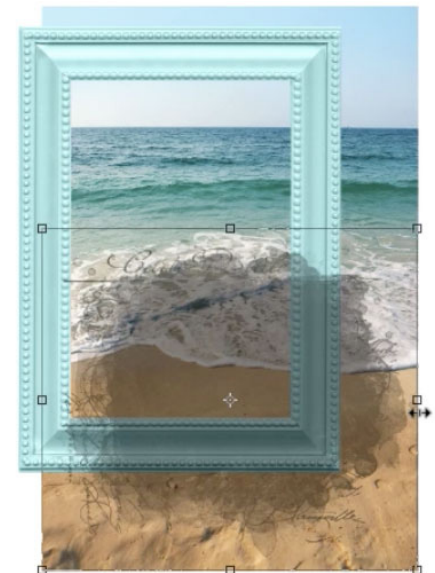
Use the Transform options to reposition and resize the complex mask.

Goals:

- The boundaries of the complex mask need to stay inside the boundaries of the photo.
- If the photo contains an action, position the complex mask at the projected end of the action.
- The complex mask should cross from the inside of the frame to the outside of the frame.

Tips:

- For better visibility while working, temporarily lower the opacity of the complex mask layer to 50%. Don't forget to set it back to full opacity when finished working.
- When transforming a complex mask, there is no need to constrain the proportions.



Morphing: Add a Photo Clipping Mask

- In the Layers panel, click on the photo layer to activate it.
- Holding down the Ctrl key (Mac: Cmd key), click on the Create a New Layer icon.
- Get the Rectangular Marquee tool.
- In the Tool Options, click on the New Selection icon. Set the Feather to 0 and the Mode to Normal. (PS: Set the Style to Normal.)
- On the document, click and drag a selection outline slightly larger than the inside of the opening of the frame. Make sure to not select anything outside the outer boundaries of the frame.



- Press Ctrl Backspace (Mac: Cmd Delete) to fill the selection with the Foreground Color Chip. The color of the fill will not make any difference and you should not have seen any change to your document.
- Press Ctrl D (Mac: Cmd D) to deselect .
- In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Create Clipping Mask.



Morphing: Clip to the Complex Mask

- In the Layers panel, hold down the Alt key (Mac: Opt key) and click and drag a copy of the photo layer above the complex mask.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Create Clipping Mask.



Morphing: Link the Photo Layers (Optional)

- In the Layers panel, click on the top photo layer to activate it.
- Holding down the Ctrl key (Mac: Cmd key) click on the bottom photo layer. Both photo layers should now be active.
- Click on the Link Layers icon.

Morphing: Shadows

Most times a simple drop shadow on the frame itself will be fine.

Note: Never add a shadow to a complex mask.

Use a custom shadow on a frame when appropriate, but make sure the shadow realistically reflects the position of the complex mask.

dbp09-01-02-manual-10.jpg

Credits

Page: Dreamy by Jen White

Photo: Lori McMichael

Class: QwikLearn | Design Beautiful Pages

Kit: Beautiful Morning by Amber Shaw

Font: Geneva

Kits: Simplify by Angie Briggs, Musings by Etc By Danyale, Real Life by Calista's Stuff, Stand Out by Red Ivy Designs, Time For Mistletoe And Holly by Jady Day Studio, Photo Masks by Susie Roberts

Photos: Mink Mingle, Jean Gerber



Lesson 01-03: Framing—Using the Templates

Why does this lesson's template set look so wonky? Let me introduce you to the method behind the madness and a few tips and tricks that will set you up for scrapping success.

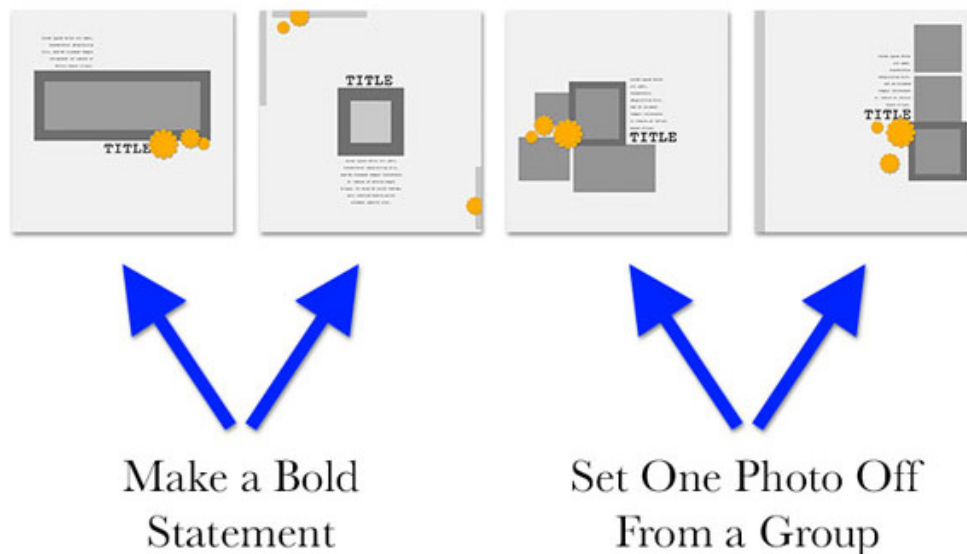
Dependent Frame Templates

Templates 1-4 use a dependent frame.

Templates 1-2 use a dependent frame to make a bold statement.

Templates 3-4 use a dependent frame to set one photo off from a group of photos.

Clip paper to the paper clipping mask layer or replace the layer with a frame.



Outer Frame Templates

Template 5 uses a stroke outline as an outer frame.

Template 6 uses a grungy border or overlay as an outer frame.

Template 7 uses a composition of various elements as an outer frame.

Template 8 uses a stack of coordinating papers as an outer frame.

Use the provided frame styles as is or replace them with a creation of your own.



Independent Frame Templates

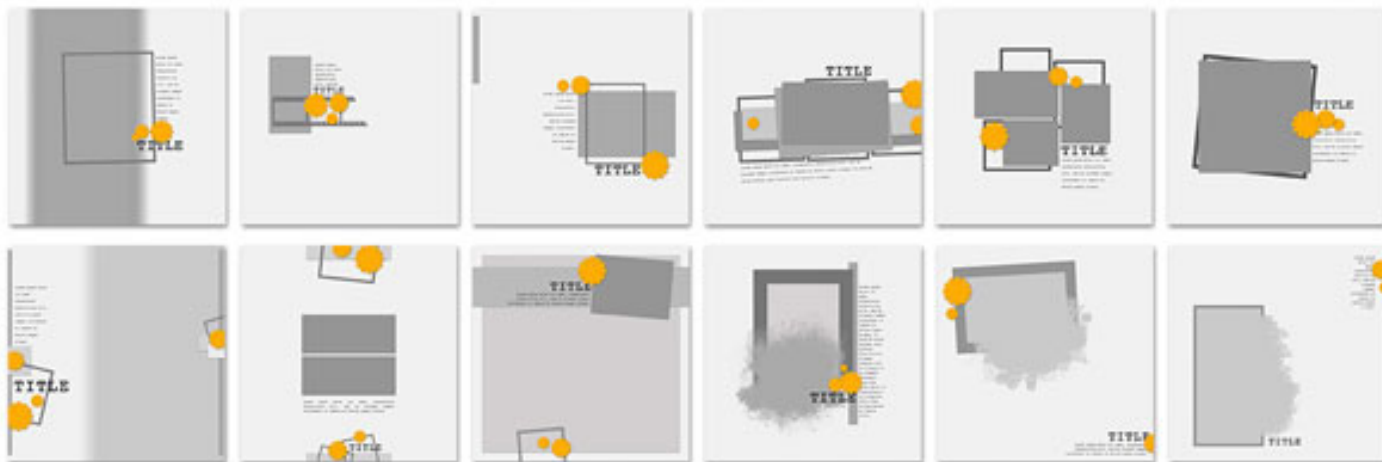
Templates 9-11 show an independent frame being used to highlight part of an existing photo.

Templates 12-14 give examples of how you can use frames as anchors behind photos.

Templates 15-17 use frames independently as elements along the edge of a scrapbook page.

Templates 18-20 twenty provide three examples of the morphing technique.

Use the frame layers as clipping masks or replace the layers with a frame of your choice.



Framing Template Tips

If you do replace the frame layer in any of the templates, do not stretch or squeeze your frame or your photo. Instead refer to the instructional from the first video in this lesson.

When replacing a frame in one of the morphing templates, make sure the frame layer is between the two photo clipping masks.

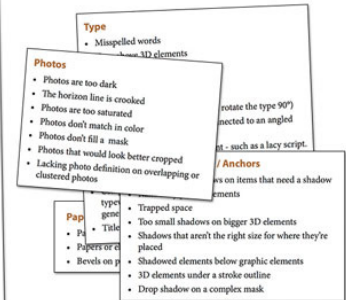
Feel free to mix and match any and all the framing types.

Include the type of framing technique you are utilizing in your layout when posting in the gallery.

Lesson 01-04: Framing—Photo Tips

Fix Your Photos

- Your photos are the single most important part of your scrapbooks.
- Use our checklist to make sure your photos are fully edited.
- Cut the checklist up into recipe card size chunks, if necessary.



Coordinate Photos with Framing Types

- All types of photos are good for framing.
- Think through how to effectively frame your photos.
- Try going down the list of framing types taught in this lesson.
- See if your photos would coordinate well with each particular type of framing.



Dependent Frame

- make a bold statement
- set off one photo in a group

Outer Frame

- stroke outline, grungy overlay
- edge elements, paper stacks

Independent Frame

- frame part of a photo
- frames as anchors
- frames as edge elements
- morphing frames

Credits

Page: My Monarch by Jen White

Photos: Jen White

Frame Type: Dependent Frame - Set Apart

Kits: Grace by Brandy Murry, Beautiful Blooms by DRB Designs

Fonts: Amastery Script, DJB ANNALISE 2011



Credits

Page: Patrick's Camp Shirt by Jen White
Photos: Jen White
Frame Type: Dependent Frame - Set Apart
Kits: Effortless by Angie Briggs
Fonts: Oh wonder, DJB BEAN POLE



Credits

Page: Explore by Jen White
Photo: Jen White
Frame Type: Independent Frame - Morph
Kits: Real Life by Calista's Stuff, Simplify by Angie Briggs
Fonts: Oh wonder, DJB BEAN POLE

