



Make It Match

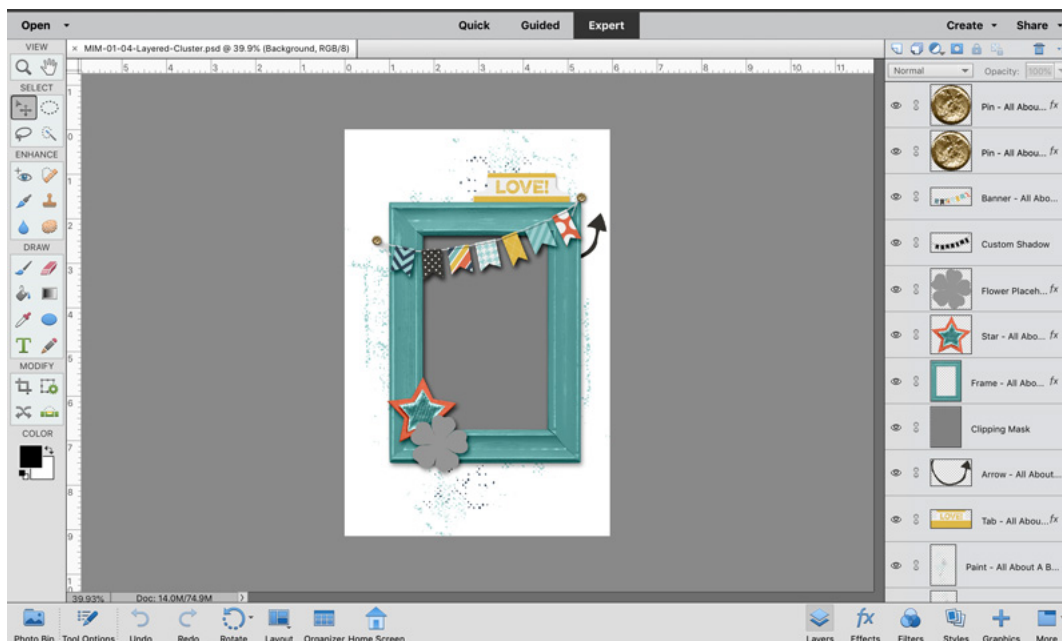
Layered Cluster Files – Manual

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In this pre-class lesson, I'm going to show you what a layered cluster file is and how to use them in a project or a digital scrapbook page. We'll be using these layered cluster files throughout the class so for those that might be new to this, I wanted to show you how these files work and how you can use them to create.

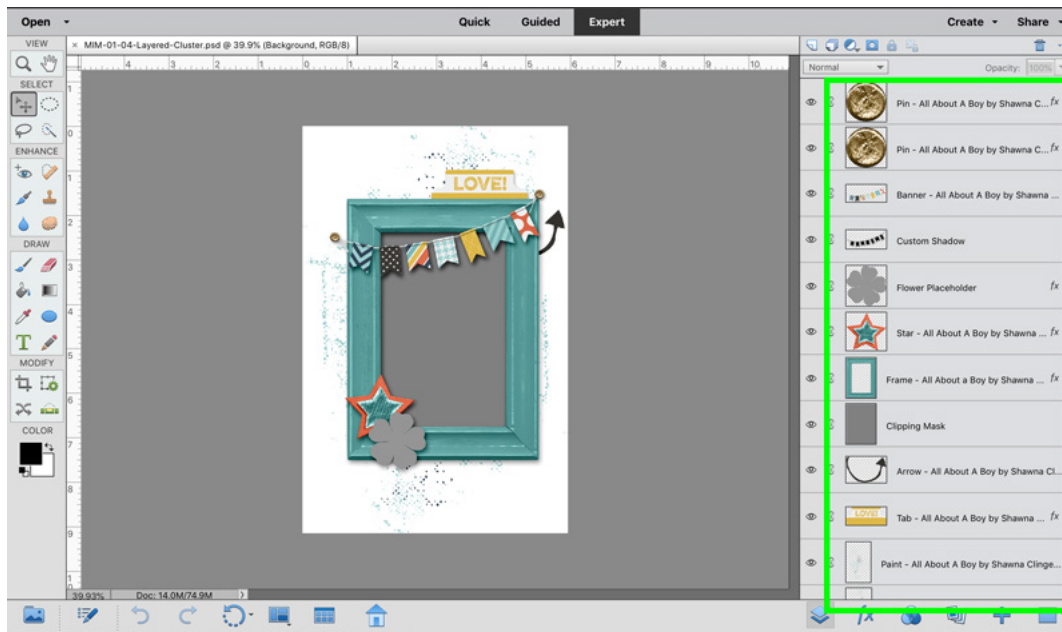
NOTE: The images are in Photoshop Elements but the files work exactly the same in Photoshop.

So here I have a layered cluster file from the class open and ready to use.

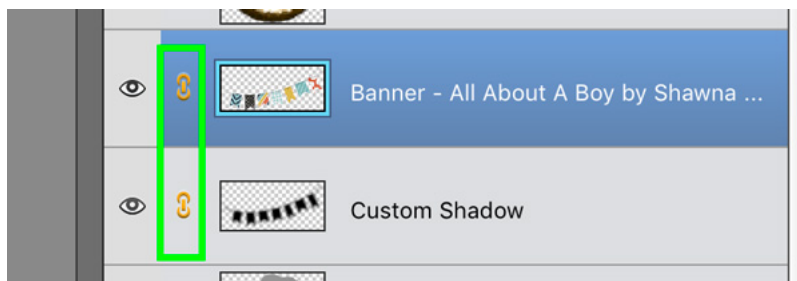


As I previously stated, for those that might be new, I just wanted to show you a little bit about how this works.

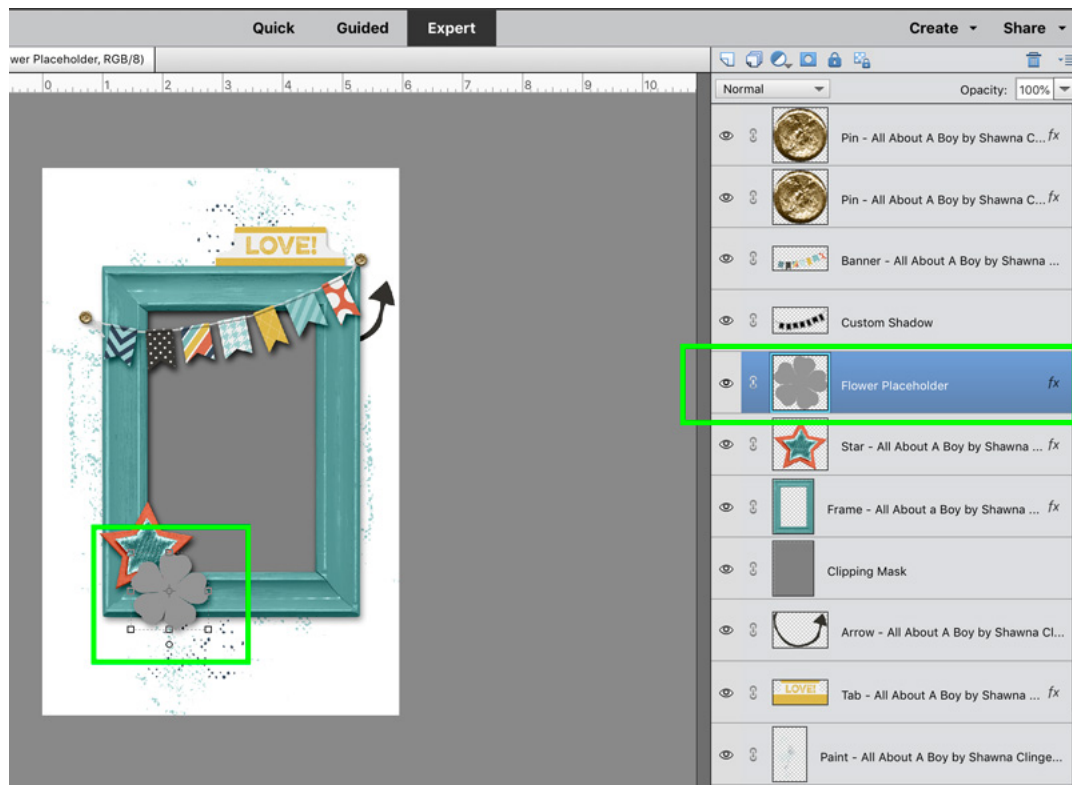
Layered Cluster files are PSD files that have a cluster pre-made for you. Each item is on it's own layer and each layer has the name of the kit and designer for easy crediting.



Many of the layered cluster files will have layers that have a custom drop shadow below it. These custom drop shadow layers have been linked with the layer above it. This means that if you move one of the linked layers, both of the layers will move together.



Now take notice of this layer called Flower Placeholder. Throughout the class, these Placeholder layers are always going to be gray-scale. These Placeholder layers are used as a guide. In lessons throughout the class, we'll be recoloring papers or elements to be used in these clusters to finish them off. The placeholder layer is a guide for placement and size of the recolored item.

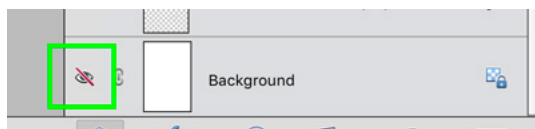


With this specific layered cluster file, once you add the recolored flower to replace the Flower Placeholder layer, and clip a photo or a paper to the clipping mask layer, this cluster is finished.



Once you have a finished a cluster, it's up to you how you want to use it in a project. I'm going to use this cluster in a digital scrapbook page so here's how you can move these clusters to a new document.

The first thing you have to do is hide the white background layer. The reason I kept the white background layers in the Layered Cluster files is it's just plain easier on the eyes and easier to see any paint in the background that might be there. But because I left the white background layers in the Layered Cluster files, you will have to hide them. To do that, in the Layers panel, click on the Visibility icon of the Background layer to hide it.



Then you'll press Ctrl A (Mac: Cmd A) to Select All. This selects the entire document which is why we have to hide the white background layer or it would select that, too.

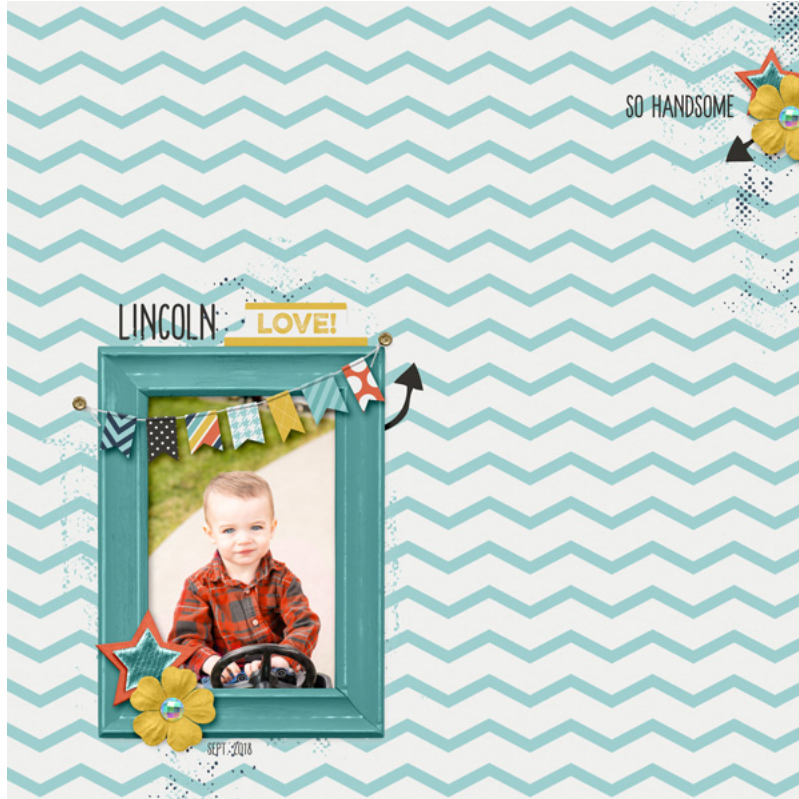
Once you have the selection, press Shift Ctrl C (Mac: Shift Cmd C) to create a merged copy.

Go to your current project document.

Press Ctrl V (Mac: Cmd V) to Paste the layered cluster.



Get the Move tool and move the layered cluster into position.



So that's how you use the layered cluster files from this class. I can't wait for you to get started with class!

Credits:

Page & Photo: Jenifer Juris

Kit: All About a Boy by Shawna Clingerman

Layered Cluster: Jenifer Juris

Font: Euphoria Sans