



Digital Scrapper Premier 2021, Volume 5
Story Grid, Variations: Filled (Photoshop Elements)
 by Jen White

Review the Quick Steps for the Story Grid lesson and use the extra photo layer to create small popped-out photo masks.

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Quick Steps—Story Grid Template

1. Create document
2. Set guides to .35 margins, lock & snap
3. Place 1 inch square shape
4. Duplicate 9x, distribute, rename, group
5. Duplicate group 9x, distribute, rename
6. Save & duplicate template

Quick Steps—Story Grid Page

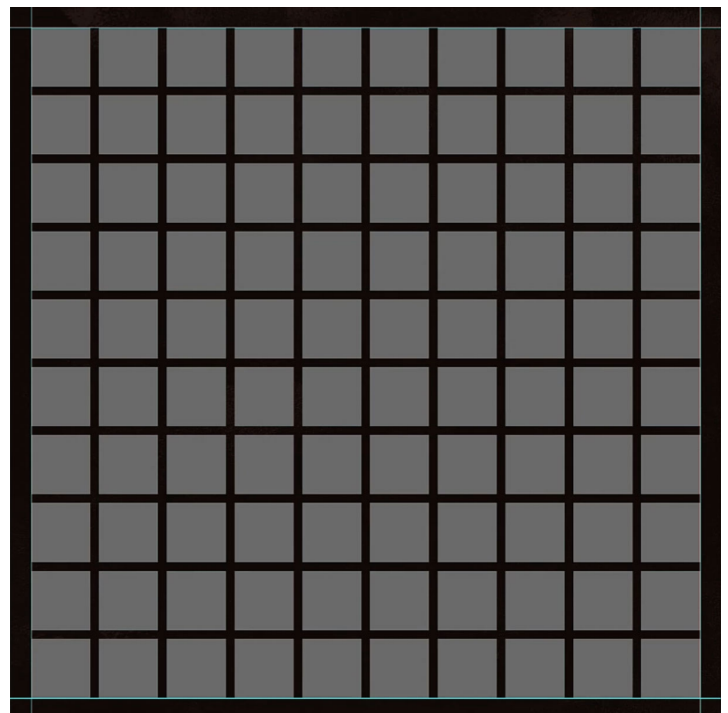
1. Always work on a duplicate
2. Choose a topic
3. Choose a title & complete worksheet
4. Add letter to mask & center
5. Clip paper (or photo) to mask
6. Add drop shadow to mask
7. Add & apply layer mask to paper/photo
8. Add background paper to template
9. Clip photos to remaining masks
10. Add elements & date
11. Crop & save

Variation: Filled

- Complete steps 1 and 2 of the Quick Steps —Story Grid Page.
- Skip steps 3 through 7.
- Complete step 8.
- Replace step 9 with the following variation.

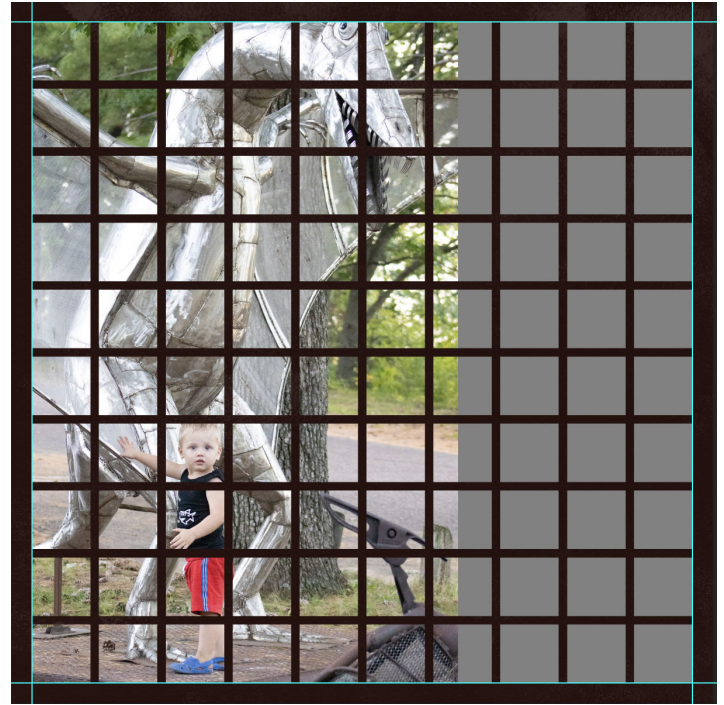
Create a Main Group

- In the Layers panel, all the groups should be collapsed, not expanded.
- Click on the top group to activate it.
- Holding down the Shift key, click on the last group.
- Click on the Create a New Group icon.
- Double click directly on the name of the new group and rename it Main Group. Press Enter or Return to commit the change.



Clip a Photo to the Main Group

- Open a photo (File > Open) you'd like to clip to a big chunk of masks.
- Get the Move tool.
- Holding down the Shift key, click and drag the photo onto the document. In the Layers panel, the photo layer should have landed directly above the Main Group. If it didn't, click and drag it there now.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Create Clipping Mask.
- Press Ctrl T (Mac: Cmd T) to get the Transform options.
- Press Ctrl 0 (Mac: Cmd 0) to fit the bounding box to the viewing area.
- To reposition the photo, click and drag inside the bounding box.
- To resize the photo, click and drag on the corner handles of the bounding box.
- Press the Arrow keys to nudge the photo into place.

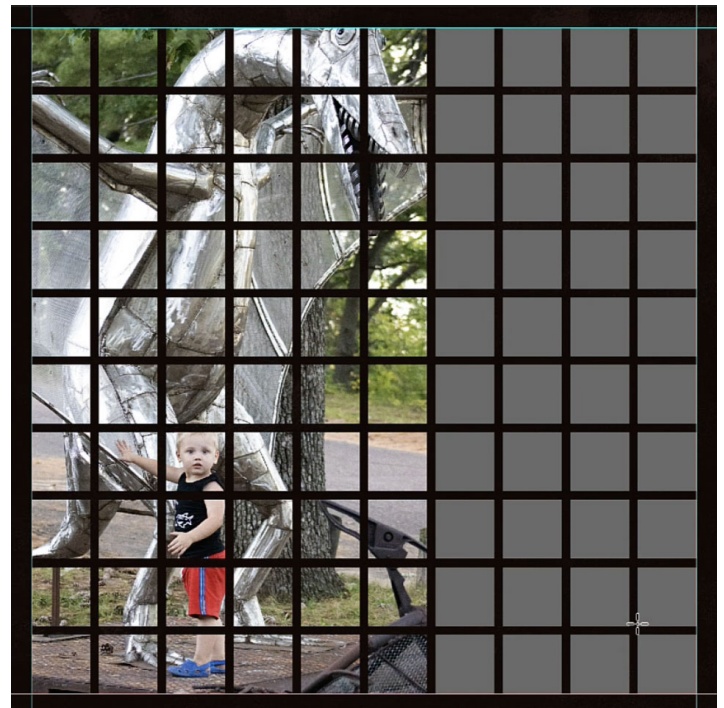


TIP: Make sure important parts of the photo's subject are showing in the masks, like faces or important details. Also, make sure the boundaries of the photo stay outside the boundaries of the masks you wish to clip to.

- Click the checkmark to commit the change.
- Press Ctrl 0 (Mac: Cmd 0) to fit the page to the viewing area.

Mask Away Unneeded Photo Pixels

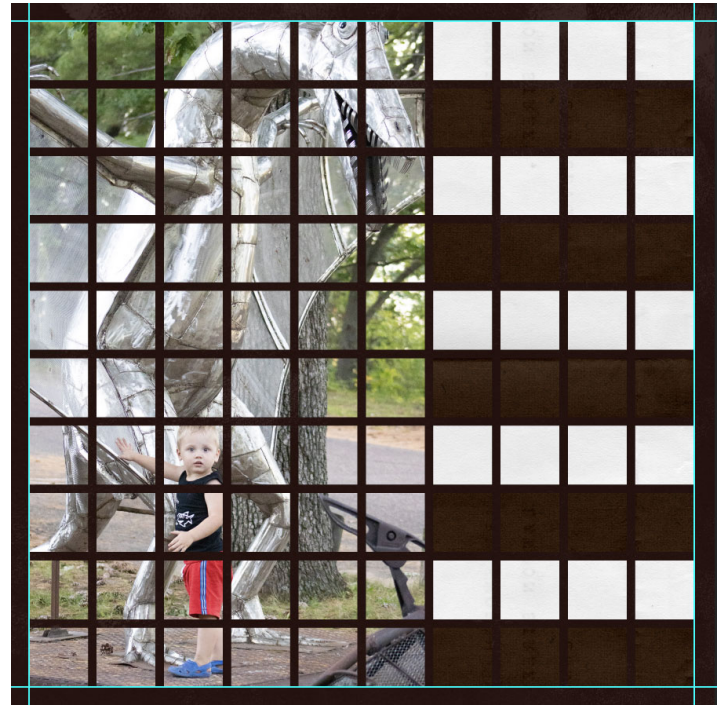
- Get the Rectangular Marquee tool.
- In the Tool Options, click on the New Selection icon. Set the Feather to 0 and the Aspect to Normal.
- On the document, click and drag a selection outline around the clipping masks you want to clip to. Do not include masks that show only portions of the photo.
- In the Layers panel, click on the Add Layer Mask icon.



Add Papers to the Remaining Masks

- Open a paper (File > Open). I'm using DSP21-V5-paper2 from the Class-Files-Download folder.
- Get the Move tool.
- Holding down the Shift key, click and drag the paper onto the story grid page.
- In the Layers panel, click and drag the paper layer directly below the clipped photo layer. The paper should automatically be clipped down and covering the remaining masks.

TIPS: Make sure all masks are completely filled with either a photo(s) or paper(s). All photos and papers should be clipped to the Main Group.



- To reposition the clipped paper, on the document, click and drag on the document.
- To duplicate the clipped paper, in the Layers panel, hold down the Alt key (Mac: Opt key) and click and drag a duplicate paper layer directly above the first one. Then on the document, click and drag to reposition.

Add a Drop Shadow to the Main Group

NOTE: If you shadow a group that has type layers in it, it will also shadow the type layers, which is highly discouraged.

- In the Layers panel, click on the main group to activate it.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Layer Style > Style Settings.
- In the dialog box, click on Drop Shadow to activate it and reveal the settings. Set the Lighting Angle to 120, the Size to 13, the Distance to 9, and the Opacity to 50. Click OK.
- Complete steps 10 and 11.

NOTE: There's no need to apply layer masks to papers and photos in order to reduce the file size of the document.



Page & Photos: Fearless by Jen White

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