



by Jen White, Linda Sattgast, and Jenifer Juris

Design Beautiful Pages

Lesson 02-01: Jen's Compelling Clusters Page

See how Jen uses a bold, gaudy paper and a gazillion weedy elements to pull together a beautiful scrapbook page designed in the element cluster style.

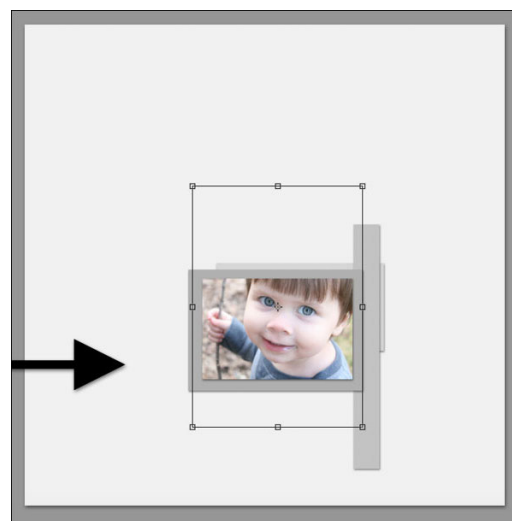
My Photo

- I used a photo that was a closeup.
- I flipped the photo horizontally.
- I sharpened and brightened the eyes.
- I recolored the shirt in the photo to match the kit using a Hue/Saturation Adjustment layer.



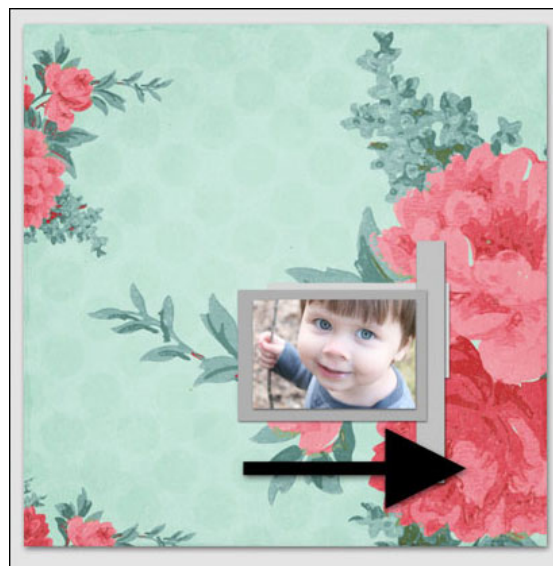
My Template

- I used a template that best matched my style of kit.
- I used a template that fit well with my subject.



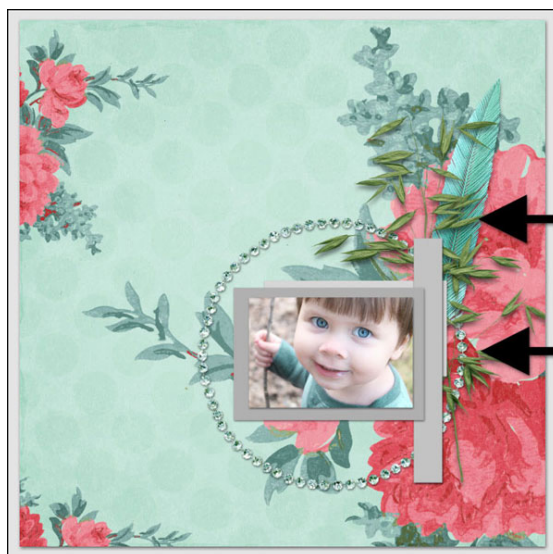
My Background Paper

- I chose a paper with a large anchor built into the design to save me time.
- I flipped the paper so that the design would work well with the template.
- I moved the template parts to the right to better utilize the built in anchor.



My Large Cluster

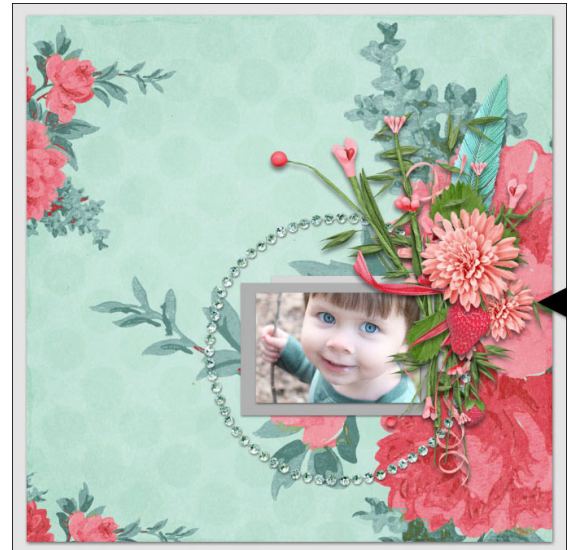
- I started by placing large anchor pieces behind the photo grouping.
- The pieces were angled at varying degrees.
- I used the built in anchor as a guide.



- I replaced one template piece with additional long and stringy elements.
- I placed the second cluster grouping slightly overlapping the photo grouping.
- I masked away areas that were covering the subject of the photo.



- I added a third cluster grouping to draw the main focus to the top right corner of the photo.
- This grouping added depth to the page and width to the overall cluster.
- This grouping also added color.



My Photo Mat

- Element cluster pages need matted photos.
- I chose a darker mat to bring out the subject and to lift the photo off the page.



My Finishing Touches

- I added a title, journaling tag, and a few more elements.
- I applied a custom shadow to the photo and the mat.

Credits

Page: Nettie by JenWhite

Photo: Jen White

Template: QwikLearn | Design Beautiful Page

Kit: Shady Berry Bend by Krystal Hartley

Font: DJB Coffee Shop



Lesson 02-02: Jen—Watch Me Scrap

There is no manual segment for this video.

Lesson 02-03: Linda's Compelling Clusters Page

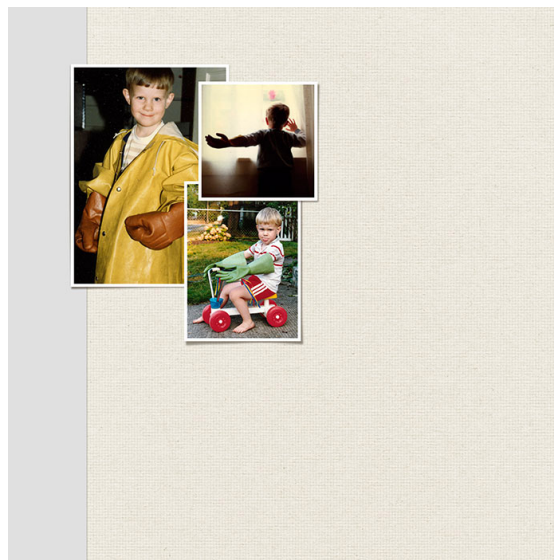
When my son was somewhere around age 4 to age 7, he became obsessed with rubber gloves—mostly the kind of gloves you find under the kitchen sink. He would wear them for hours at a time and was obviously creating an elaborate story in his head, though I never knew exactly what the story was. I wanted to remember this curious phase of his life, so I decided to use these photos for my cluster page.

I chose template 11 because the cluster seemed to go well with my photos. There were only three photo clipping masks, and I had five photos, but I thought I might be able to add the extra two photos somewhere.

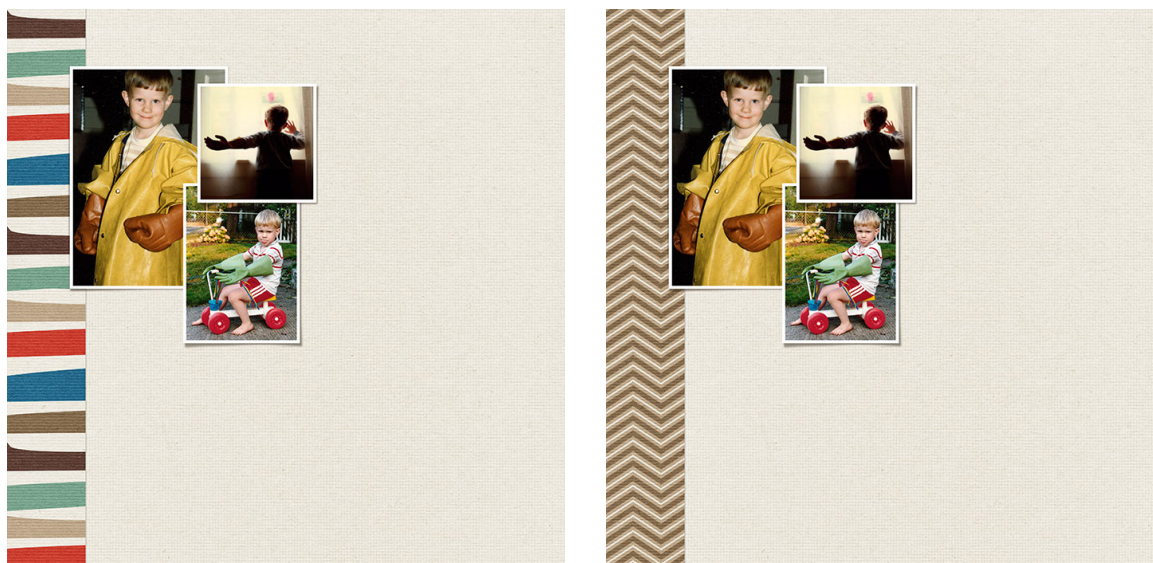


As I arranged the photos, though, I realized it was more important to use the strongest photos that worked the best together, so I resized the photos and added stroke outlines and custom shadows. I think that sometimes we SO want to use all the photos we have that we end up with a page that isn't quite as compelling. I'm learning to be willing to sacrifice the less interesting photos for the best photos that still tell the story well.

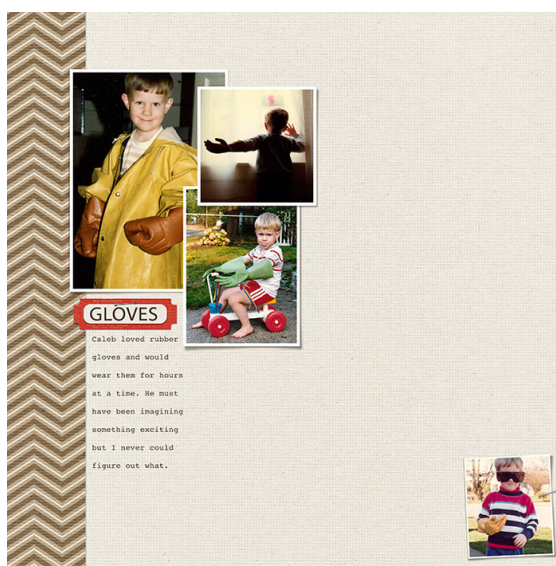
Since I knew I wanted to use patterned paper on the left paper strip, I chose a neutral plain paper for the background.



For the patterned paper strip along the left side, it came down to two possible options—a fun, boldly colored pattern, and a more subdued colored pattern. I really like both of them, so it was a hard decision, but I finally chose the more subdued brown pattern because I thought it would be easier to work with and also to let the photos be the main attraction.

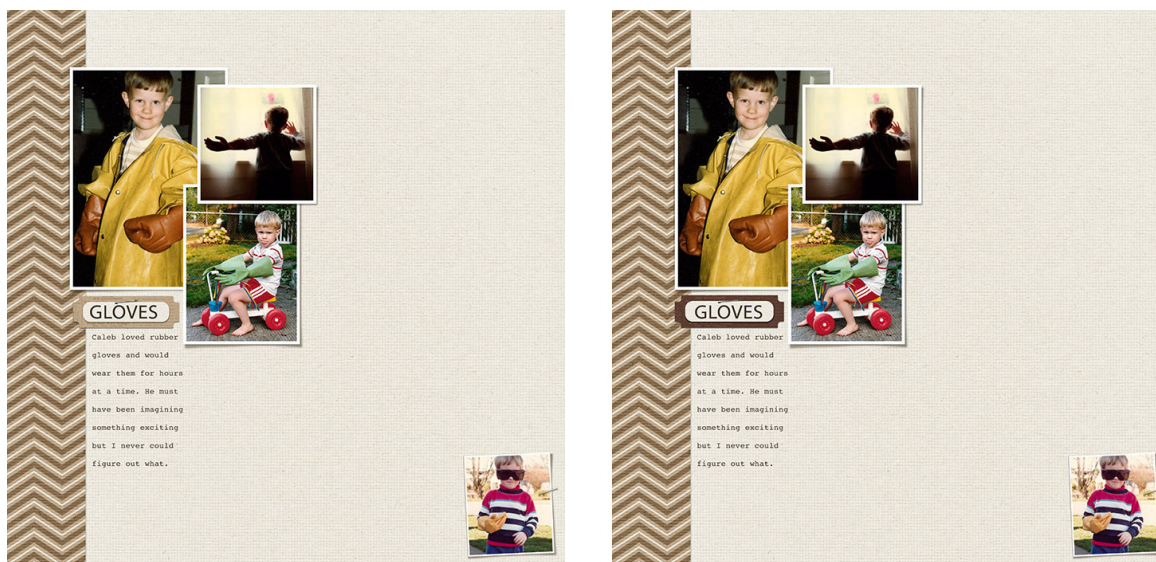


Next I added the journaling and title. I kept the title font pretty plain but placed a journaling tab behind it for extra oomph. I also decided to add one more of the glove photos to the lower right corner. This gave my page a diagonal flow which I really liked.

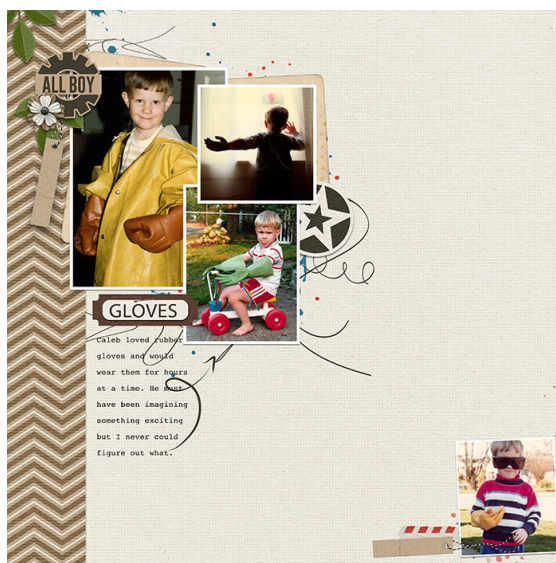


I also played around with the color of the title tab. I really liked the red because it popped out, but then I began to wonder if it attracted *too* much attention. I tried the beige tab, and that was too blah.

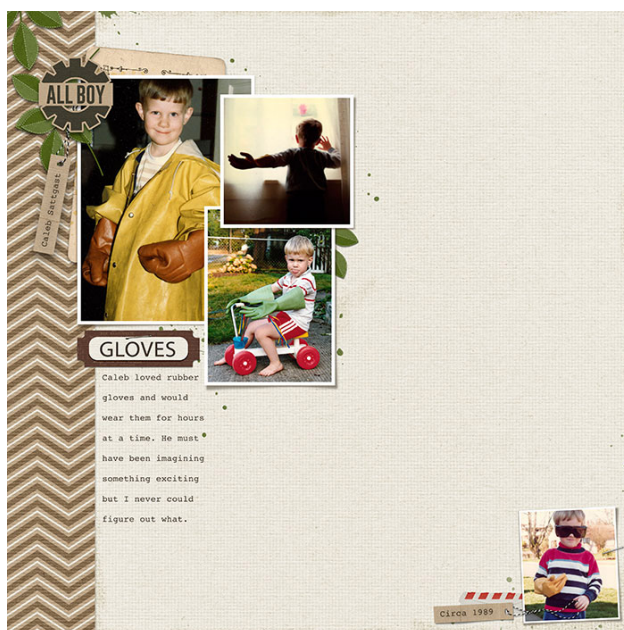
Then I tried the dark brown tab, and I really liked it, especially the way it matched some of the colors in the photos. Although I could have easily stayed with the red, and it would have been fine, I decided to go with the dark brown, mainly because I felt like the red title was the first thing my eye looked at and I wanted the photos to be the main attraction. Again, neither one was right or wrong—just a choice of focus.



Now it was time to start thinking seriously about the elements. I worked way too long trying to use elements that I thought I *should* use and that would work well with a page about a boy. The resulting page isn't terrible, but it felt kind of chaotic to me. I started hiding element layers in the Layers panel to see what I would like better.



I ended up with this. A tighter, less chaotic page with a strong diagonal flow. Depending on your tastes, you could use more or fewer elements. And for me, it also depends on whether it's a stand alone page or part of a double spread.



Let me share a favorite quote by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry:

“In anything at all, perfection is finally attained not when there is no longer anything to add, but when there is no longer anything to take away, when a body has been stripped down to its nakedness.”

With this page I kept taking elements away, and even altering them until I felt like I couldn't take any more elements away and achieve what I was after. I'm very happy with how the page turned out because the focus is on the photos and the journaling is there to explain why my son loved to wear gloves—which is, I have no idea! He just had a lot of imagination!

Credits

Page: Glove Obsession
Photos and page by Linda Sattgast
Class/Template: QwikLearn-Design Beautiful Pages
Kit: Epic by Just Because Studio
Staple by Linda Sattgast
Fonts: Courier and Myriad Pro

Lesson 02-04: Jenifer's Compelling Clusters Page

In this video, I walk you through how I created my photo cluster scrapbook page.

The Photos

This design is such a fun way to showcase multiple photos in a great looking way! I chose my three photos for a few reasons:

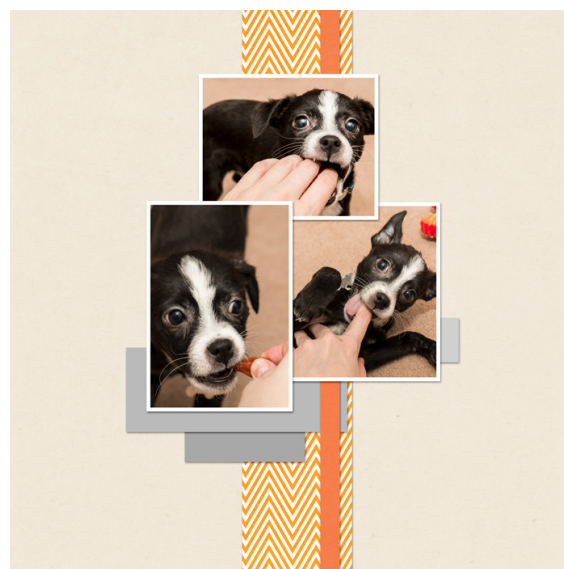
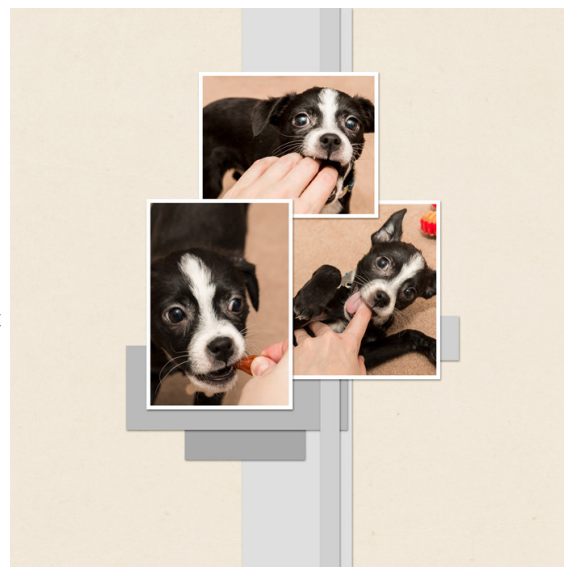
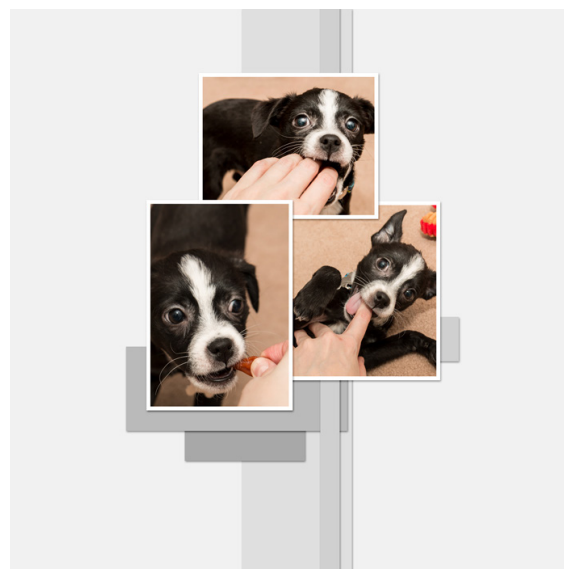
- #1 they were all taken on the same day...
- #2 ...which means they all have similar lighting, white balance, and colors.
- #3 they also all represent the topic of my page in a fun way!

I placed the photos so that my puppie's eyes would all be looking inwards toward the page, not away or to the edges.

The Papers

Because the photos have a lot of contrast with the black and white coloring of my puppy's face, I wanted to keep the background paper light and simple. The photos are the showcase here, and I didn't want anything to distract from that. So, I went straight for the lightest color of plain paper this kit had.

The accent paper strips...now that wasn't so easy! The first paper I was drawn to was the chevron orange and cream paper. Since I liked it the most, I wanted to place it in the biggest piece of accent paper on the template. Because I chose to do that, I needed to pick a complimentary solid paper for the thin strip that ran along on top of it, so I chose to use a solid matching orange paper.



Now that I had those two things figured out, the last few pieces of accent paper took some time. I knew I wanted to bring in the colors from the rest of the kit so it wasn't all orange hues but I wasn't sure which paper would do that in a way that would still coordinate w/ the color choices I had made so far. In the end, I chose this striped paper because even though it had the accent colors I wanted, it still had more of the orange tones so it didn't clash with the other papers I had already chosen.

For the last two smaller accent pieces, I added the same solid paper to bring it all together.

The Elements and Text

I knew I wanted the cluster to bring in the colors of the rest of the kit so I picked elements that fit the theme of the page and brought out the colors I wanted. I used the blue arrow button to strategically point to the story I was going to add and then I layered the rest of the items around the intersection of the two bottom photos.



Then, I added the journaling and the titles. We have many nicknames for Bilbo and I wanted to show that in a fun way by using the available spaces created by this fun photo cluster.

The Custom Shadows

As Jen mentioned in her teaching videos, using custom shadows can really make your photo cluster pop! The page above has generic shadows and the page on the right has some added custom shadows. It's a subtle difference but it sure adds realism to the page.

Credits

Photos: Jenifer Juris

Kit: Such a Trip by Mommyish

Fonts: Veteran Typewriter, Hello Sunshine

