



Digital Scrapper Premier 2023, Volume 7 Lesson 3, Overlays & Color Fills

Digital Scrapper Premier 2023, Volume 7

Lesson 3, Overlays & Color Fills (Photoshop Elements)

by Jen White

Use blending and adjustment layers to add beauty and depth to the letter grid.

© 2023 Digital Scrapper
Terms of Use

NOTE: Please complete the lessons in the order they are provided.

For this lesson you will need:

- the V7-Lesson-Page from the Class-Files folder.
- overlay1 from the Class-Files folder.
- overlay2 from the Class-Files folder.
- overlay3 from the Class-Files folder.
- overlay4 from the Class-Files folder.



Quick Steps for Lesson 3, Overlays & Color Fills

Step-by-step instructions are below.

- Open the V7-Lesson-Page from Lesson 3.
- Convert the letter grid into individual photo squares.
 - Select a letter grid square.
 - Copy the selection from the photo layer.
 - Paste the selection onto a new layer.
- Link the pasted photo grid layers.
- Colorize two of the pasted photo grid squares.
- Blend overlays to five of the pasted photo grid squares.
- Save the page for Lesson 4.

Step-By-Step for Lesson 3, Overlays & Color Fills

Prepare Your Workspace

- Open the V7-Lesson-Page (File > Open) that you saved at the end of Lesson 2.
- Press the letter D to reset the Color Chips to the default of black over white.

Make Sure Your Letter Grid Is on the Photo

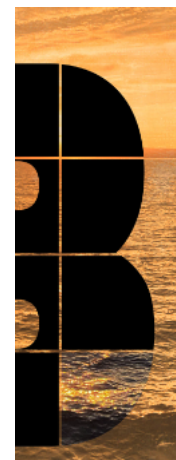
Before you begin this tutorial, make sure your letter grid is entirely on the blended photo.

- In the Layers panel, open the HARD LIGHT PHOTO group.
- Holding down the Ctrl key (Mac: Cmd key), click on the thumbnail of the photo layer to get a selection outline.
- Make a note of where the photo's boundaries are, then press Ctrl D (Mac: Cmd D) to deselect.
- If you need to move the letter grid, get the Move tool and click and drag the photo grid inside the boundaries of the photo. Make sure the letter is also overlapping part of the photo's subject.



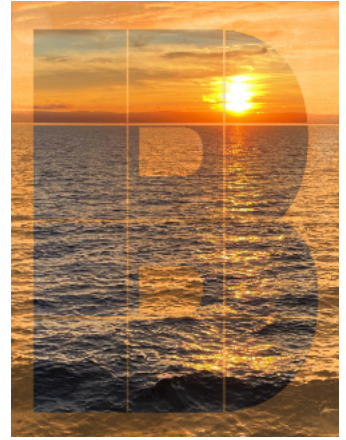
Make the First Photo Grid Square

- Get the Magic Wand tool.
- In the Tool Options, click on the New Selection icon. Set the Tolerance to 32. Check both Anti-alias and Contiguous, but uncheck Sample All Layers.
- In the Layers panel, the type layer should be active.
- On the document, click on the bottom-right square of the grid to select it.
- In the Layers panel, open the HARD LIGHT PHOTO group.
- Click on the photo layer to activate it.
- Press Ctrl C (Mac: Cmd C) to copy the selected part of the photo.
- In the Layers panel, click on the top layer to activate it.
- Press Ctrl V (Mac: Cmd V) to paste the selected part of the photo onto a new layer.



Make the Remaining Photo Grid Squares

- In the Layers panel, click on the letter grid layer to activate it.
- On the document, click on the next piece of the grid (going from right to left and bottom to top) to select it.
- In the Layers panel, click on the photo layer to activate it.
- Press Ctrl C (Mac: Cmd C) to copy the selected part of the photo.
- In the Layers panel, click on the top layer to activate it.
- Press Ctrl V (Mac: Cmd V) to paste the selected part of the photo onto a new layer.
- **Repeat** this step until each photo grid square is on its own layer.

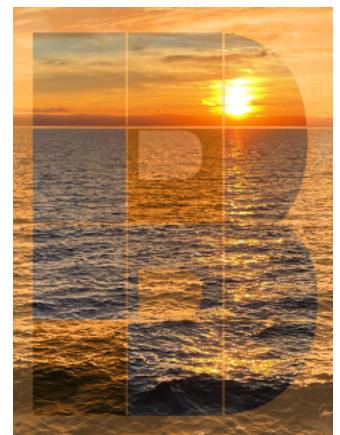


Link the Photo Layers

- In the Layers panel, click on the top photo grid square to activate it.
- Hold down the Shift key and click on the bottom photo grid square.
- Hold down the Ctrl key (Mac: Cmd key) and click on the photo layer.
- Click on the Link Layers icon.
- Click on the Visibility icon of the big letter layer to hide it.
- Click to close the HARD LIGHT PHOTO group.

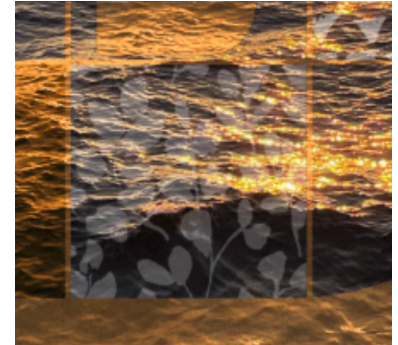
Colorize Two of the Photo Grid Squares

- In the Layers panel, click on any layer to activate it all by itself.
- Get the Move tool.
- In the Tool Options, uncheck both Auto Select Layer and Show Bounding Box.
- On the document, hold down the Ctrl key (Mac: Cmd key) and click on the photo grid square you want to change.
- In the Layers panel, click on the Create New Fill or Adjustment Layer icon and choose Solid Color.
- In the Color Picker, click OK.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Create Clipping Mask.
- In the Layers panel, set the Blend Mode of the Color Fill layer to Color.
- Double click on the thumbnail of the Color Fill layer to open the Color Picker.
- On the document, sample a color from part of the subject that's clipped to the letter grid. I'll use Hex #fa9f25.
- In the Color Picker, click OK.
- If it's too strong, in the Layers panel, lower the Opacity of the Color Fill layer. I'll lower mine to 80%.
- Press Ctrl J (Mac: Cmd J) to duplicate the Color Fill layer.
- Click and drag the duplicate Color Fill layer above another photo grid square.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Create Clipping Mask.



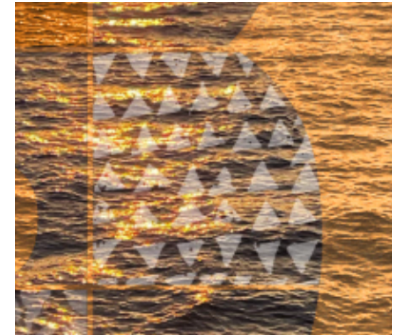
Blend Overlay1 to a Photo Grid Square

- On the document, hold down the Ctrl key (Mac: Cmd key) and click on the photo grid square you want to add an overlay to. This will activate that layer in the Layers panel.
- Open overlay1 (File > Open) from the Class-Files folder.
- Holding down the Shift key, click and drag the overlay onto the lesson page.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Create Clipping Mask.
- (Optional) Press Shift Ctrl Backspace (Mac: Shift Cmd Delete) to fill the overlay with white.
- Press Ctrl T (Mac: Cmd T) to get the Transform options. Click and drag the corner handles of the bounding box inward until the overlay is about 75% smaller. Click and drag inside the bounding box to reposition the overlay over the photo grid square. Make sure the boundaries of the overlay stay outside the boundaries of the clipping mask. Click the checkmark to commit the change.
- In the Layers panel, set the Opacity to 30%.



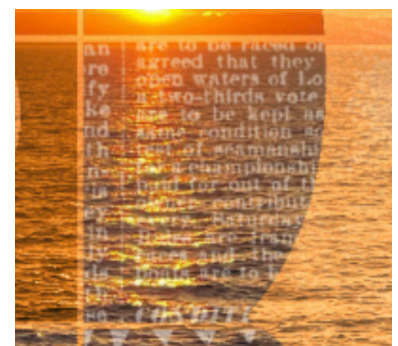
Blend Overlay2 to a Photo Grid Square

- On the document, hold down the Ctrl key (Mac: Cmd key) and click on the photo grid square you want to add an overlay to.
- Open overlay2 (File > Open) from the Class-Files folder.
- Holding down the Shift key, click and drag the overlay onto the lesson page.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Create Clipping Mask.
- (Optional) Press Shift Ctrl Backspace (Mac: Shift Cmd Delete) to fill the overlay with white.
- In the Layers panel, set the Opacity to 50%.



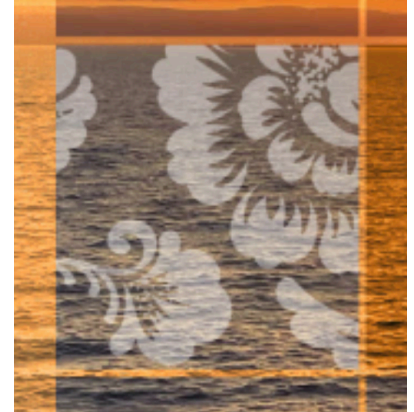
Blend Overlay3 to a Photo Grid Square

- On the document, hold down the Ctrl key (Mac: Cmd key) and click on the photo grid square you want to add an overlay to.
- Open overlay3 (File > Open) from the Class-Files folder.
- Holding down the Shift key, click and drag the overlay onto the lesson page.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Create Clipping Mask.
- (Optional) Press Shift Ctrl Backspace (Mac: Shift Cmd Delete) to fill the overlay with white.
- In the Layers panel, set the Opacity to 50%.
- (Optional) On the document, click and drag to slightly reposition the pattern.



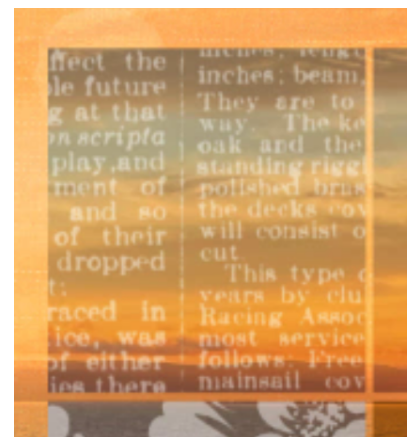
Blend Overlay4 to a Photo Grid Square

- On the document, hold down the Ctrl key (Mac: Cmd key) and click on the photo grid square you want to add an overlay to.
- Open overlay4 (File > Open) from the Class-Files folder.
- Holding down the Shift key, click and drag the overlay onto the lesson page.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Create Clipping Mask.
- (Optional) Press Shift Ctrl Backspace (Mac: Shift Cmd Delete) to fill the overlay with white.
- In the Layers panel, set the Opacity to 50%.
- (Optional) On the document, click and drag to slightly reposition the pattern.



Blend Overlay3 to an Additional Photo Grid Square

- In the Layers panel, click on an overlay layer you want to duplicate. I'll click on overlay3.
- Press Ctrl J (Mac: Cmd J) to duplicate the layer.
- In the Layers panel, click and drag the duplicate layer above a different layer.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Create Clipping Mask.
- (Optional) On the document, click and drag to slightly reposition the pattern.



Save the Page

- Save the document (File > Save) for use in the next lesson.

