

## Design Beautiful Pages— Minimal Design

### Test Your Skills Challenge 2

#### The Power of TWO

by Linda Sattgast

In our last challenge we looked at how to work with ONE element and saw how powerful that can be. Most of the time, though, we tend to use a cluster of elements.

A cluster is simply two or more elements positioned close together for a visual effect.

Because of the **Rule of Odds** most clusters come with at least three elements, but I've also seen plenty of clusters with two elements, and they can be surprisingly effective. Creating clusters with only two elements is also a great way to dip your toe into the sometimes frigid waters of cluster design.

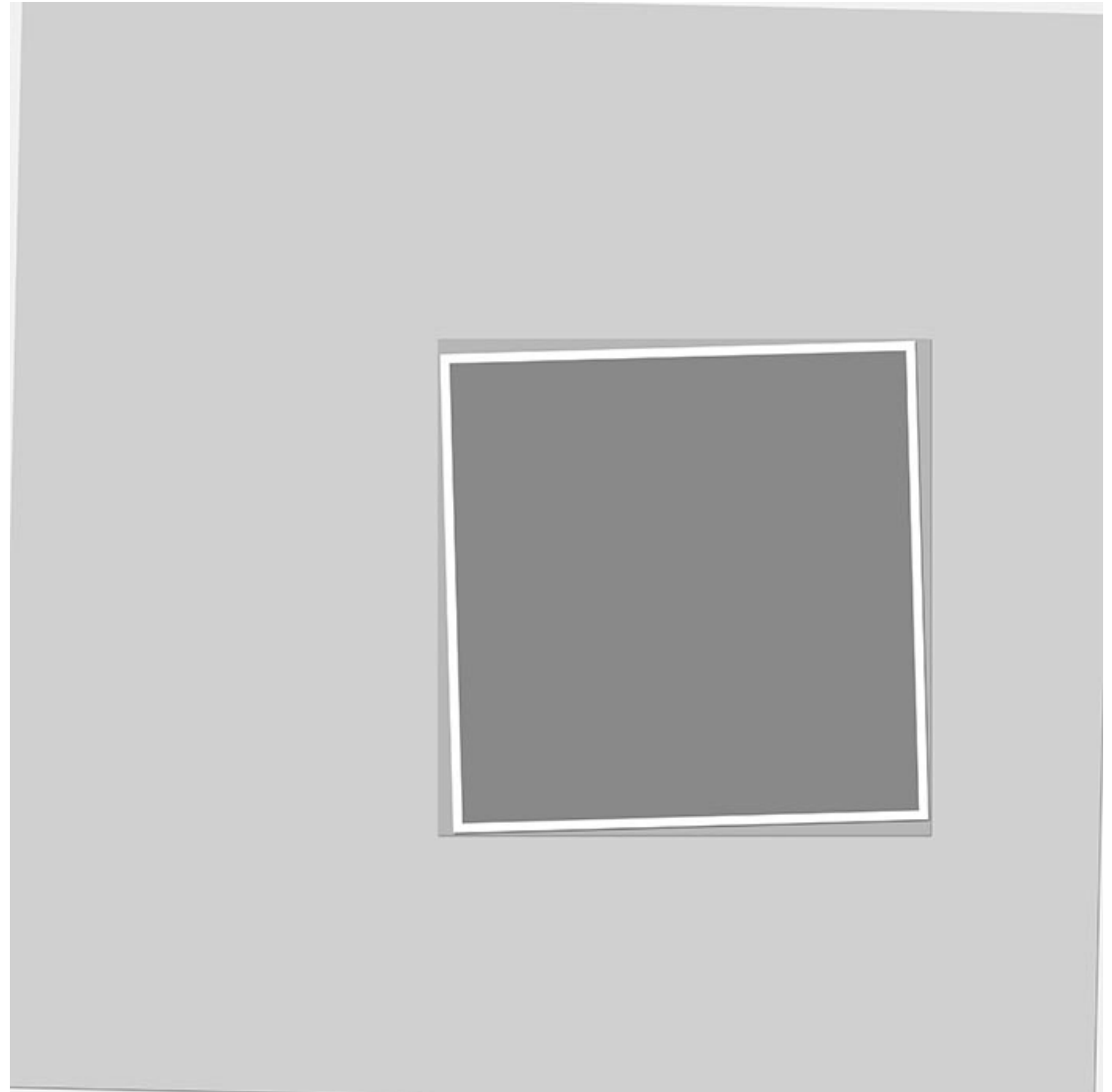
What could be simpler? Choose two elements that have some kind of connection, put them together, and you have a winner!

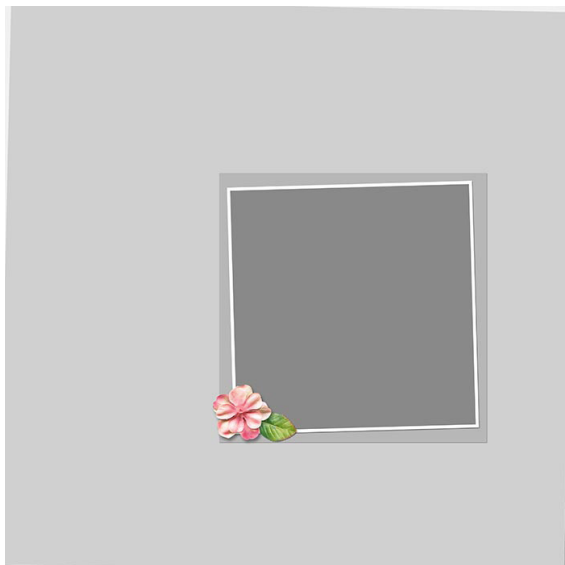
I'll use this template to demonstrate. (FYI: I did remove one paper strip.)

#### Credit

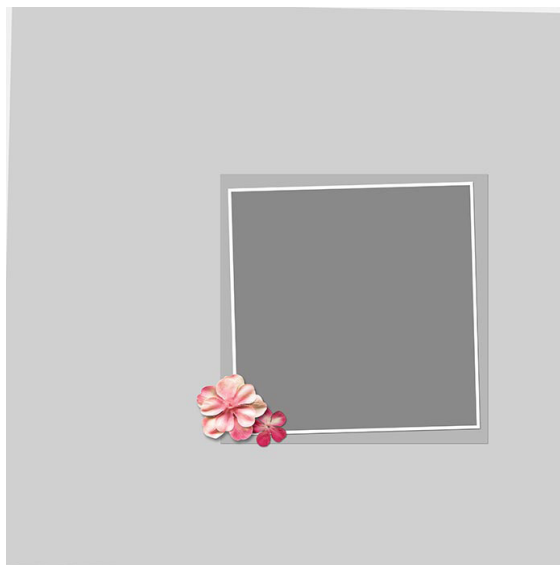
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Look at the images below to get some great ideas! I'm using elements from Time Teller by EtcByDanyale and Dear Mom by Kristin Cronin-Barrow.

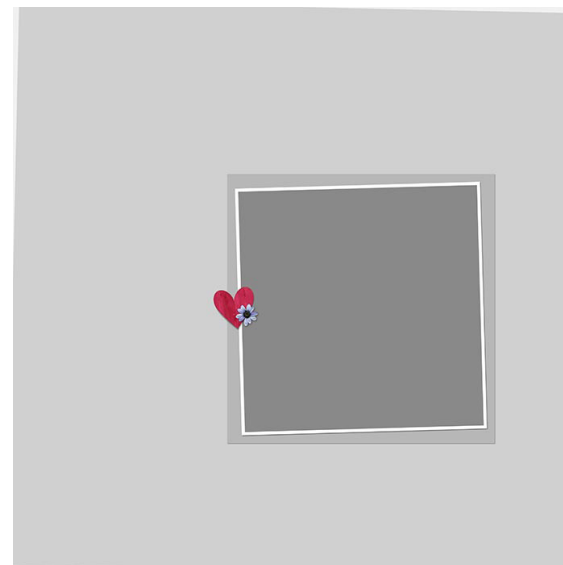




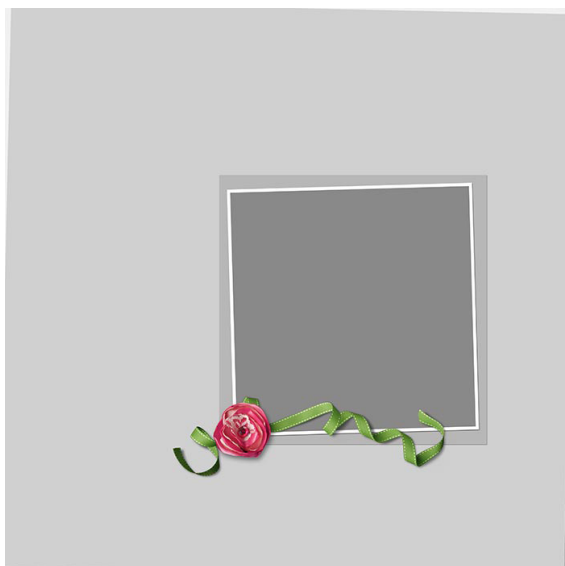
I'll start with flowers since it's such a common element. Adding one leaf to a flower takes the element up a notch and creates a small cluster.



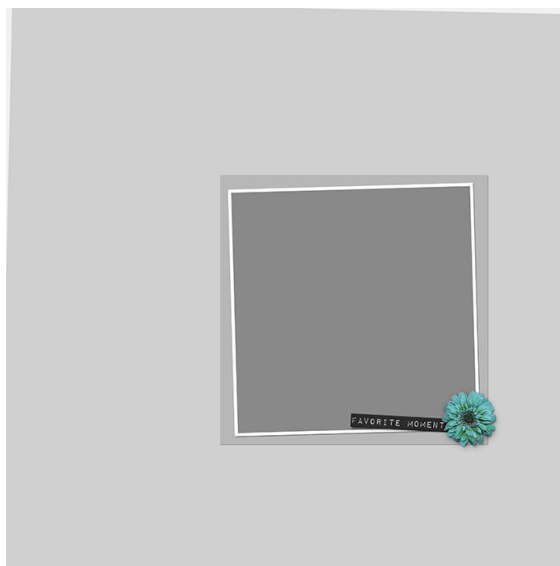
You can also add a second flower. It looks more balanced if the flowers aren't the same size.



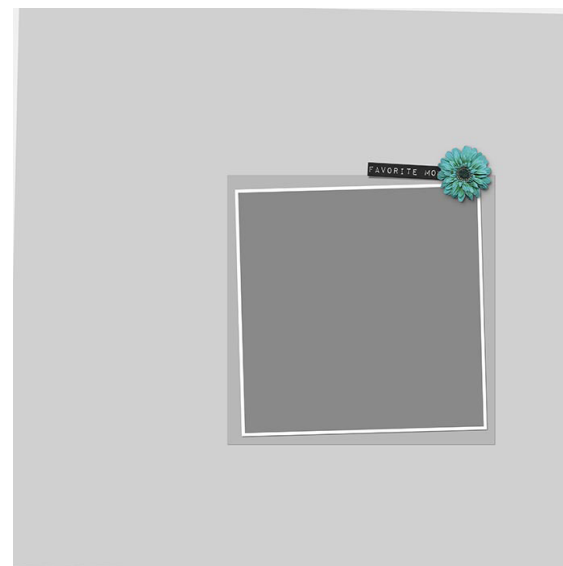
Here's another flower + element, with the element being more prominent.



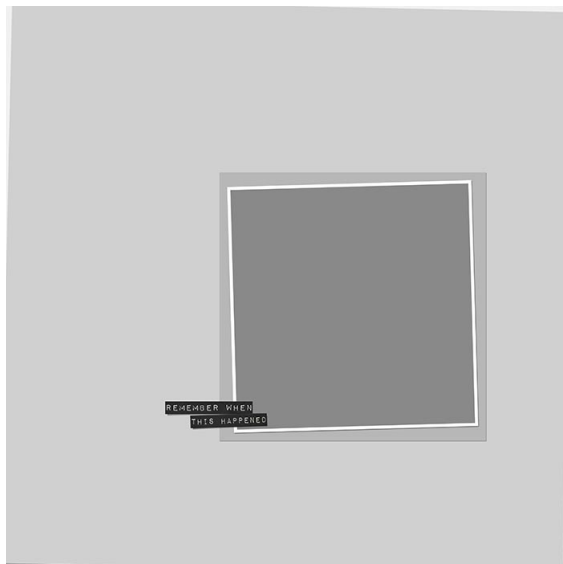
A ribbon and flower are a match made in heaven!



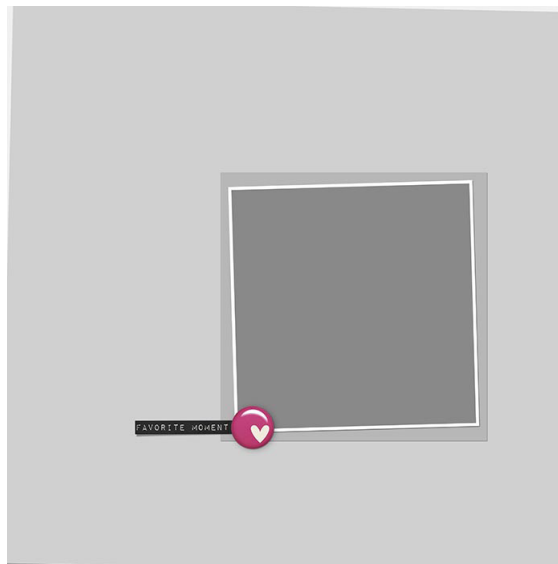
A flower goes well with a journaling strip.



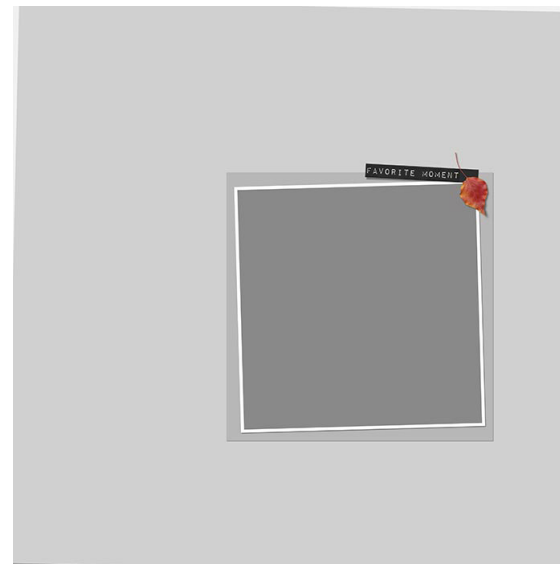
Try different locations to find the best fit.



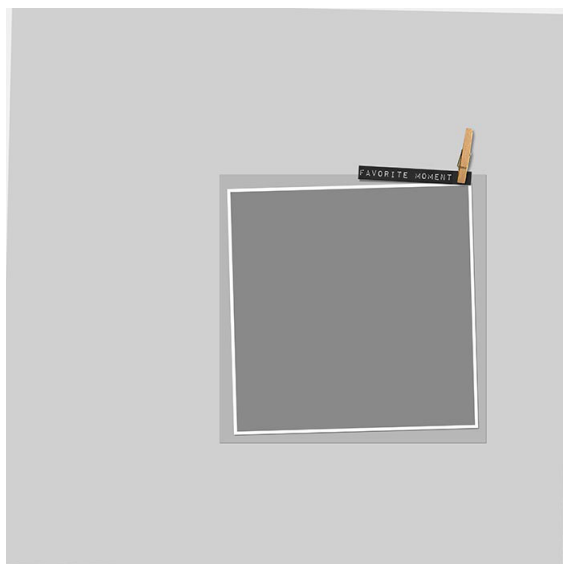
Speaking of journaling strips, you can place two of them side by side to create a cluster.



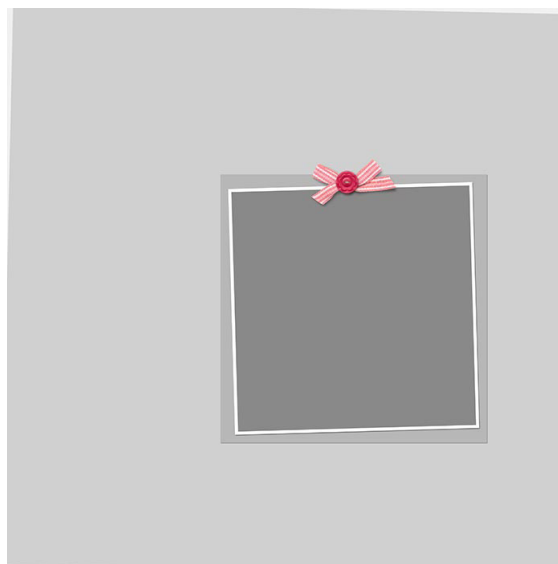
Journaling Strips go well with lots of elements. It looks great with a flair...



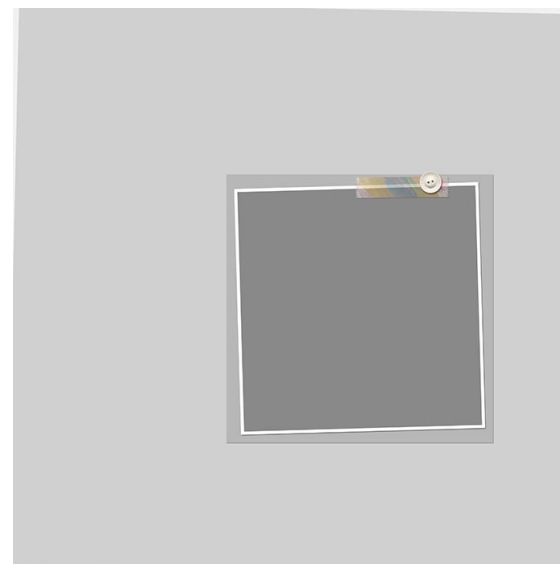
...a leaf...



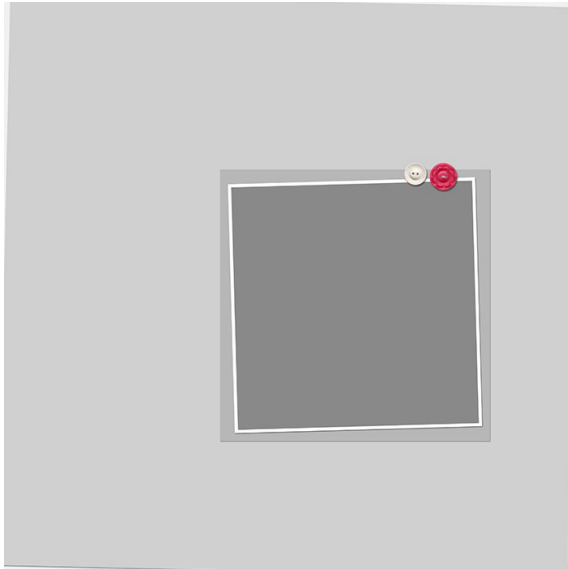
...and most kinds of fasteners.



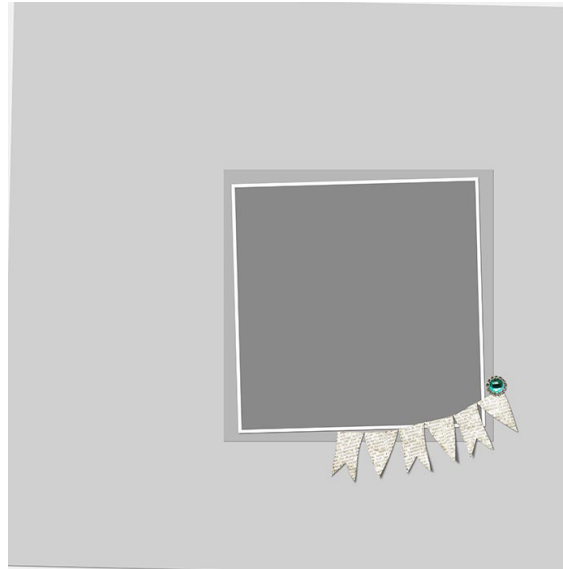
Here are some miscellaneous ideas. I got this one from Instructor Jenifer Juris. Isn't it cute? Every time I see a bow and button on one of her pages I love it!



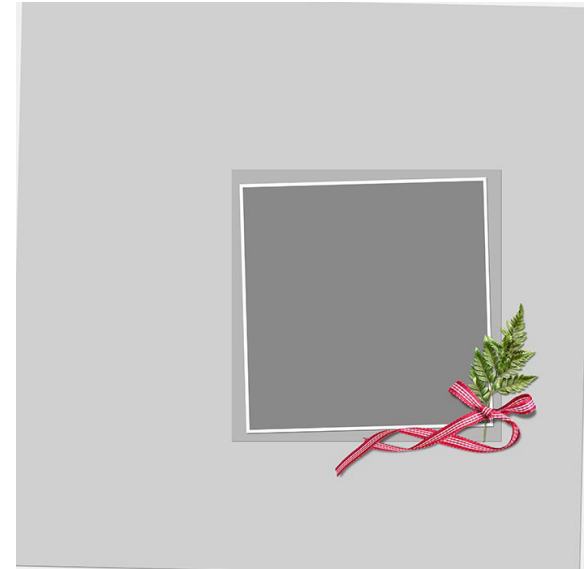
Here's another button idea: pair it with tape...



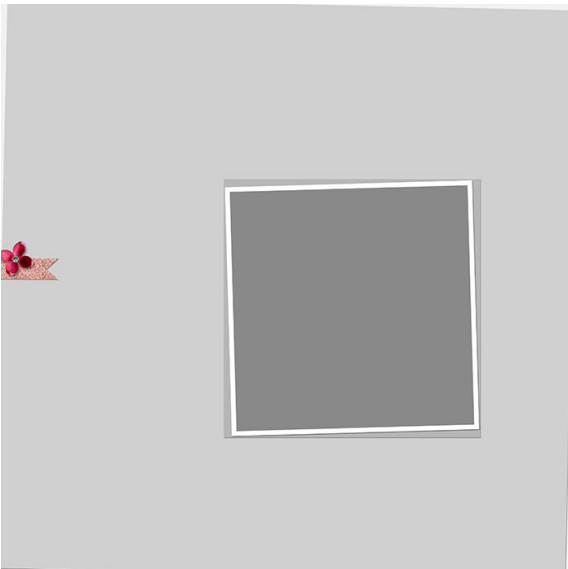
...or with another button.



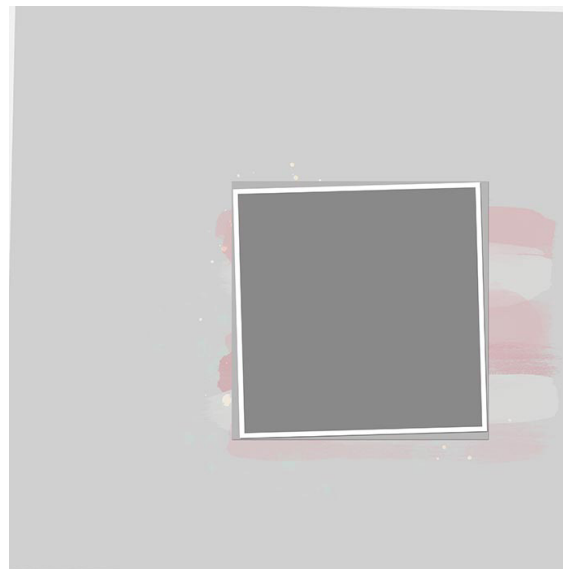
How about a banner and one fastener?



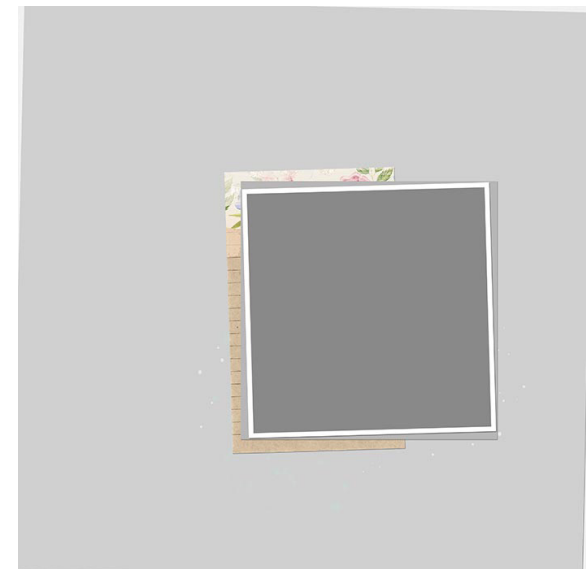
And here's a pretty ribbon tied to a leafy branch.



Of course you can also put a two element cluster on the edge of your page.



You can use two elements as an anchor. Here I used a paint overlay at 30% opacity and a paint splatter element. They are both flat elements, but you can use 3D elements as anchors, too.



Here I used a mat (3D) with the paint splatter (flat).

Now that we have all these mini clusters made up of two elements, let's choose one to go on our template as a dependent cluster, meaning we'll place it on or near the photo.

I've added a photo, so all that's left is to choose which cluster we think would go best with the photo. Actually, that may be the hardest part since so many of them would work, but go ahead and decide which one you would choose.



I decided to go with the ribbon and rose colored flower, which matches the color of the dog collar. I also added my title and journaling.



Next I picked the papers. The pink mat and darker pink background color are a repetition of the flower and dog collar colors. Even the dog's pink tongue adds to the repetition of pink color!

This Minimal page could end right here and be perfectly fine, but what if we added ONE anchor element and ONE edge element?





See how adding an anchor and edge element give the page a little bit of extra punch?

### Credits

Photo: Stock

Template: Design Beautiful Pages

Page by Linda Sattgast

Kit: Dear Mom by Kristin Cronin-Barrow

### Challenge!

Now it's *your* turn.

- Choose a Minimal Design template from your downloads.
- Pick a favorite kit with plenty of elements and see how many elements you can pair up to make a cute mini cluster with only two elements.
- Add a photo to the template.
- Choose one of your clusters and create a quick Minimal page.
- If you wish, add ONE anchor element and ONE edge element.

Have fun!

