

BMC-S2-L5-1-el-Finishing-Photos-manual



A Beautiful Mess Simplicity Challenge
Section 2, Lesson 5, Part 1 - Finishing Simple - Photos & Masks
Manual for Photoshop Elements

Finishing simple is much more simple when you have a plan. Here in Part 1 of Lesson 5 we'll finish the photo and the masks on your simplicity challenge scrapbook page. Let's get started with the photos.

- Learn how to clip photos: [A Scrapper's Guide to Clipping Masks](#)

For this lesson you will need:

- 3 closeup photos from the same event or subject

Choosing the Right Photos

- Choose 3 photos that represent the same subject or event
- The photos should be closeups so they work well with small masks.
- The photos should work well cropped to a square or circle.
- Avoid photos with lots of far away details.
- Avoid photos of big groups.
- Use colored photos.



Prepare Your Workspace

- Begin in Expert Mode of Photoshop Elements.
- Opening the scrapbook page (File > Open) that you ended with in Lesson 4.
- Press the letter D to reset the Color Chips to the default of black over white.

Clip Photos to the Clipping Masks

- Clip photos to the photo clipping masks on your scrapbook page.
- For help clipping, see [A Scrapper's Guide to Clipping Masks](#).

Lighten and Soften the Photos

- In the Layers panel, hold down the Alt key (Mac: Opt key) and click and drag a duplicate of one of the photos directly below it. Both photos should now be clipped to the mask.
- Click on the original (top) photo layer to activate it.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Filter > Adjustments > Gradient Map.
- In the dialog box, open the Gradient Picker and choose the Foreground to Background gradient from the Default Gradients. To see the names of the gradients, open the flyout menu and choose Large List. Click OK.
- In the Layers panel, set the Blend Mode of the photo layer to Screen.



- If the effect is too light, in the Layers panel, lower the Opacity of the screen layer.
- If the effect is not light enough, in the Layers panel, hold down the Alt key (Mac: Opt key) and click and drag down a duplicate of the screen layer.
- Repeat the lightening and softening process with the other two photos.

Add Color to the Messy Masks

- In the Layers panel, click on one of the messy masks to activate it.
- In the Layers panel, click on the Add New Fill or Adjustment Layer icon and choose Solid Color.
- Click okay to close the Color Picker. The background should now be black.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Create Clipping Mask.
- In the Layers panel, double click on the thumbnail of the Color Fill layer to open the Color Picker again.
- On the document, click to sample a color from your images. I'll sample a pink from her lips.

TIP: Choose a color that complements the subject, not what's behind the subject.

- Click OK to close the color picker.
- Repeat the steps for the second messy mask.

The first week of October 2011 I had the awesome privilege of spending the weekend Nettle. That girl just makes me smile. We were fortunate to have great weather that weekend so we could play outside a lot. Nettle loves her swing set in the backyard so we made sure to play on it a lot. She would go back and forth on the teeter totter so many times it made my head hurt. While she was on the move, there was always lots of giggling and unging. I didn't always know what she was saying but I knew she was happy! This weekend she surprised me striking a new pose every time I pointed the camera at her. As soon as she saw the camera, she'd stop what she was doing put a hand on each side of her face, and look up at me with the cheesiest grin she could muster up. It was hilarious. With all the playing outside, bedtime came early and fast each night. We laid on her bed before lights out and sang songs and told stories and read books. We even watch a little Disney movie. Nettle was the perfect companion for a sleepover with Auntie Ann. I sure enjoyed my time with her and I'm looking forward to doing it again.



So ARE YOU?

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