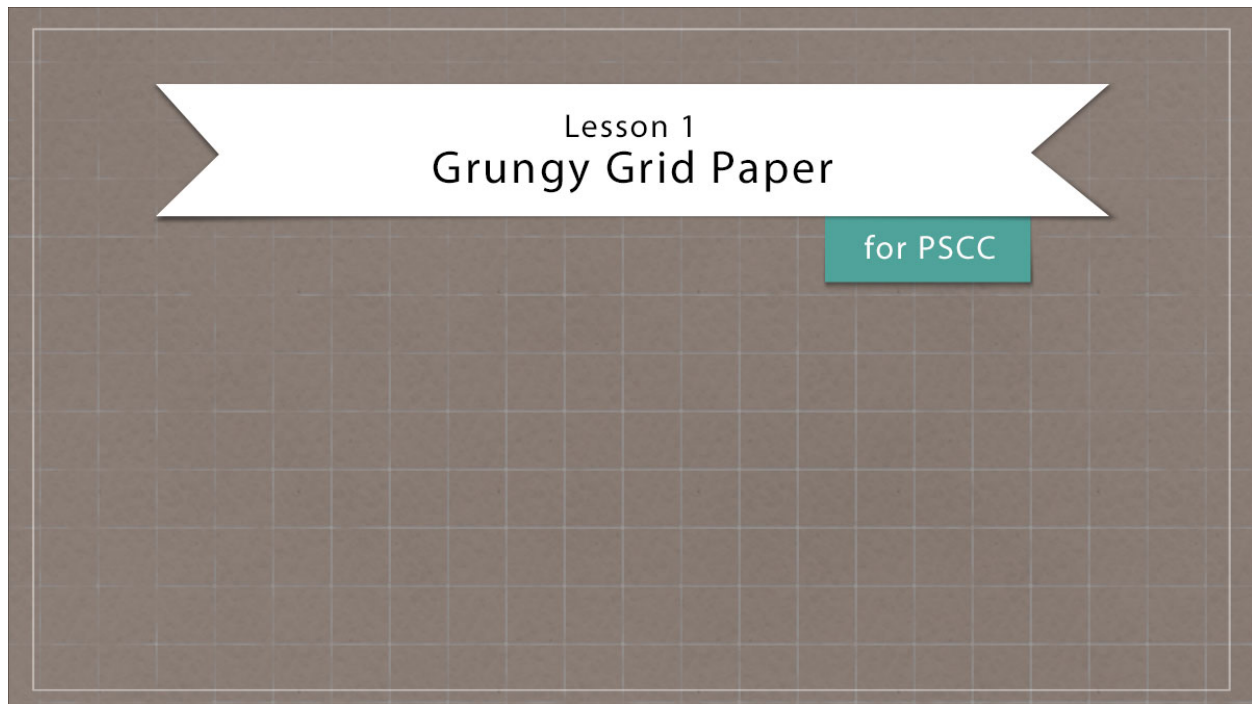


MA2-L01-ps-Grid-Paper-transcript



Digital Scrapbooking Mastery, No. 2

Lesson 1: Grungy Grid Paper for Adobe Photoshop

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It's hip to be square. You know that right? Since you and I will be building our Mastery 2 scrapbook page from the ground up, we'll start by grooving through the steps to create a grungy grid style background paper. Believe it or not, this lesson will start you on the right track to thinking outside the box.

Begin in Adobe Photoshop by creating a new 12 X 12 inch document at 300 ppi with a white background. Then, press the letter D to reset the Color Chips to the default of black over white. In the Layers panel, click on the Create New Fill or Adjustment Layer icon and choose Pattern. In the Pattern Fill dialog box, open the Pattern Picker, then open the flyout menu, and choose Grayscale Paper. When asked if you want to replace the current patterns, click OK. Then, scroll down the list of patterns and click on Pebbled. I'll set the Scale of this pattern to 150% and then click OK.

Next, we'll blend some color with this pattern. In the Layers panel, click on the Create New Fill or Adjustment Layer icon again, and this time choose Solid Color. And here is where you're going to choose a basic color for your grid paper. You could do that by choosing a medium to dark color from the swatches that you loaded earlier in this class. You could also click on one of the color chips here in the Swatches panel, like a dark brown. Or, you can

choose a color from the Color Picker. I'm going to use Hex #8d7f77, then click OK. As noted before, medium to dark colors are going to work best for this effect and it's also going to be best if you use something that's more neutral in color. Then in the Layers panel, change the Blend Mode of the Color Fill layer to Multiply. If you zoom in, you should now be able to see that pebble texture coming through the color that you created, but let's add a little additional texture.

In the Layers panel, click on the Create a New Layer icon. And then in the Layers panel, double click on the name of that new layer and we'll name it Clouds. Then in the Menu Bar, choose Filter > Render > Clouds. As a side note, every cloud render you create will be different, so yours should never look the same as mine. Next, press Ctrl T, Cmd T on a Mac, to get the Transform options. Then in the Tool Options, set the Width or the Height to 300%. Then, click the checkmark to commit. In the Layers panel, set the Opacity of the Clouds layer to 50%. Later in this lesson we'll reduce the opacity even lower. But for now, I want to use the random pattern of the clouds layer for visual reference.

The next step is to add some white grid lines. In the Layers panel, click on the Create New Fill or Adjustment Layer icon and choose Pattern again. In the Pattern Fill dialog box, open the Pattern Picker, then open the flyout menu, and choose Patterns. Click OK to replace the patterns and then choose the Tiles-Smooth pattern. I'll set the Scale to 175% and Link with Layers is checked, then click OK. Because we clicked Link with Layers in the last step, we can now get the Move tool, and then using your keyboard Arrow keys, click to nudge the pattern into place so that it's centered on the document. Then, in the Layers panel set the Blend Mode of this grid pattern to Lighten. You shouldn't have seen much of a change because the Lighten blend mode blends dark pixels and leaves the light ones alone.

Next, I want to change the black grid lines to white grid lines, and how we do that is to go back into the Layers panel and click on the Create New Fill or Adjustment Layer icon. And this time choose invert. Then in the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Create > Clipping mask. Or you could also click on the Create Clipping Mask icon in the Properties panel. Now I'll go back to the Layers panel and here is where we're going to use the clouds layer to grunge up the white lines. We'll do that by getting the Brush tool and in the Tool Options, open the Brush Picker and in the Legacy Brushes, open the Natural Brushes. Then navigate to the Stipple 54 px brush. I'll set the Size of this brush to 775 px, the Mode should be Normal, the Opacity I'll lower to 50%, and then Flow and Smoothing should both be 100%. In the Layers panel, hold down the Shift key and click on the Grid Pattern layer. Now two layers should be active. Click on the Create New Group icon and rename this group White Grid. Then, click on the Add Layer Mask icon. The Foreground Color Chip should now be black. If it's not, press the letter X. Then on the document, click to stamp the brush in areas where the clouds are the lightest. So, I would click around here. Don't click and drag, just create a series of clicks. You can see those clicks showing up on the layer mask as you're going about this, do not click in the areas where there are no clouds. So, that would basically be the dark areas. And know, that because the brush is set to 50% the more times you click in a single area, the more of that part of the grid is going to be masked away. If you'd like to see more clearly what's going on with the grid lines, one thing you can do is to zoom away in. In Photoshop, you can do that by holding down the letter Z and clicking several times on your page. And then when you let go of the letter Z, you'll be back on the Brush tool. To see exactly how those grid lines are being

masked away, in the Layers panel you can click on the Visibility icon of the Clouds layer to temporarily hide it. Here were the grid lines before I started adding a mask, and here they are now. So I'm going to turn my Clouds layer back on and continued to mask away some of the grid lines on my document. When you're finished masking away the grid lines, you should notice in the Layers panel the layer mask should slightly mimic the clouds layer on your document.

So now, let's soften that effect. In the Layers panel, lower the Opacity of the White Grid group to 60%. Then, click on the Clouds layer to activate it and lower the Opacity of the Clouds layer to 10%. And then finally, set the Blend Mode of the Clouds layer to Soft Light. The grid lines are not real apparent when you're zoomed way out. So if you zoom way in, you'll see that they're there and they're nicely grunged.

And at this point, if you would like to have the grid lines a little bit more pronounced, open the White Grid group and then click on the Pattern Fill layer. Then, change the Blend Mode from Lighten to Screen. That's all simply a matter of taste and it could be changed anytime during the process of creating your scrapbook page.

Now let's group these paper layers together. In the Layers panel, click on the White Grid group to activate it. Then holding down the Shift key, click on the bottom Pattern Fill layer. Now there should be four layers active. Click on the Create New Group icon and we'll rename this group Grungy Grid Paper. And then finally, I'm going to crop the document by pressing Ctrl A, Cmd A on a Mac, to select the entire boundary. And then, in the Menu Bar, choose Image > Crop. Then, press Ctrl D, Cmd D on a Mac, to deselect. You'll want to save this document as a layered PSD file with a unique name in an easy to find location. We'll be building upon this exact document in the remaining lessons of this class. Before continuing on however, I'd recommend that you visit the Archiving Layers section for this particular lesson, and then as an added bonus of extra fun, visit the alterations section of this class to see what you can do with the layers of the Grungy Grid paper. As always, I would love to see what you've created in this lesson. Post a saved JPEG image of your paper in the Facebook group, or you could even zoom in here as I have my paper and take a screenshot to post. That way we can see it nice and close up. This has been Jen White with Digital Scrapbooking Mastery.