Photoshop Elements

📖 Digital Scrapper Premier 2023, Volume 1

Lesson 1, Bursting Background

Digital Scrapper Premier 2023, Volume 1

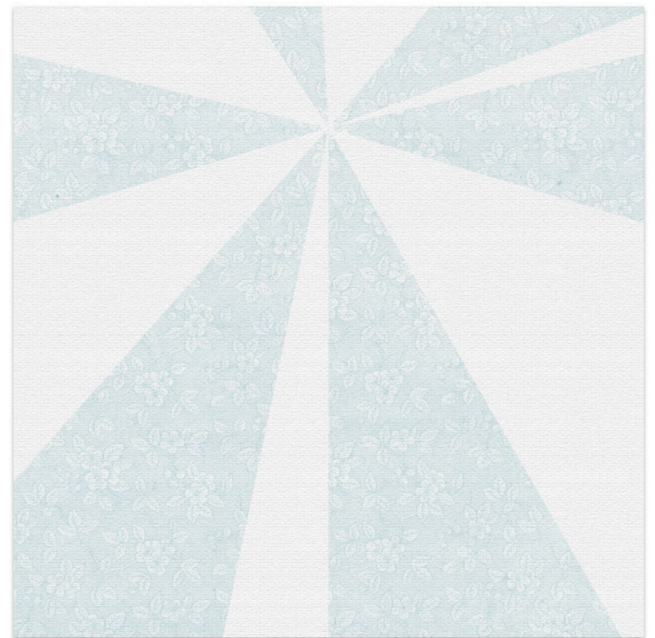## Lesson 1, Bursting Background (Photoshop Elements)
by Jen White

Combine a selection tool, a distortion filter, and a blend mode to create a background that's bursting with unique creativity.

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

For this lesson, you will need:
• paper1 from the DSP23-V1-Class-Files folder
• paper2 from the DSP23-V1-Class-Files folder

Quick Steps for Lesson 1, Bursting Background

Step-by-step instructions are below.

1. Create a 12x12 inch document.
2. Reset the Color Chips.
3. Add paper1.
4. Create a new layer and rename the layer BURST.
5. Get the Rectangular Marquee tool.
6. Create a 1x12 inch selection on the left edge of the document.
7. Fill the selection with black.
8. Randomly create 5 more 1x12 inch lines; offset the last line.
9. Select and delete 1/8" off the top of the lines.
10. Apply the Polar Coordinates filter, Rectangular to Polar.
11. Resize the burst 200% larger, rotate 180°, and offset to top-center.
12. Add paper2 and clip it to the BURST layer.
13. Set the Blend Mode of the BURST layer to Multiply.
14. Duplicate and save the BURST layer as a PSD document named Burst1.
15. Save the document as DSP23-V1-Bursting-Background.psd in the DSP23-V1-Class-Files folder.

Step-By-Step for Lesson 1, Bursting Background

Prepare Your Workspace
• Create a new 12x12 inch document (File > New > Blank File) at 300 ppi with a white background.
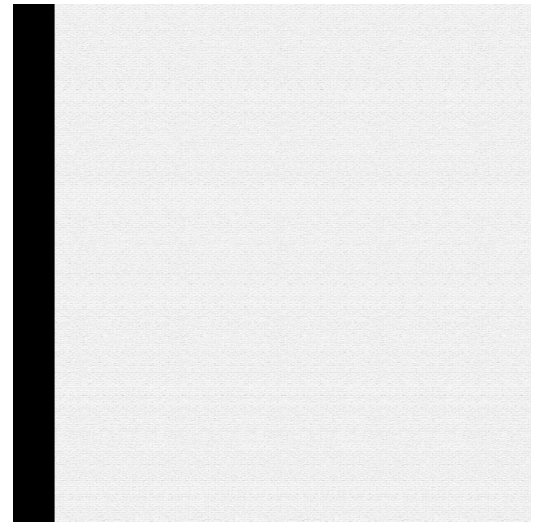NOTE: Portrait or landscape documents will also work for this lesson.
• Press the letter D to reset the Color Chips to the default of black over white.
• In the Menu Bar, choose View and place a checkmark next to Rulers.
• If your rulers are not set to inches, open Preferences (Ctrl/Cmd K) and choose Units & Rulers > Rulers > Inches. Click OK.
• Press Ctrl 0 (Mac: Cmd 0) to fit the document to the viewing area.
• Press Ctrl - (Mac: Cmd -) one time to zoom out.

Add a Background Paper
• Open paper1 (File > Open) from the DSP23-V1-Class-Files folder.
• Get the Move tool.
• In the Tool Options, uncheck both Auto Select Layer and Show Bounding Box.
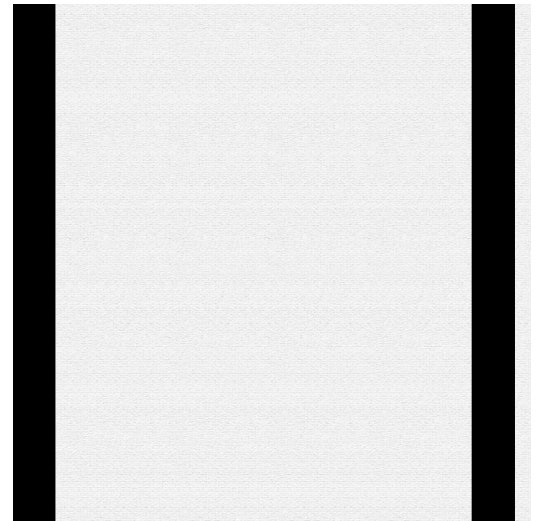• Holding down the Shift key, click and drag paper1 onto the new document.

Add the First Vertical Line
- In the Layers panel, click on the Create a New Layer icon.
- Double click directly on the name of the new layer and rename it BURST.
- Get the Rectangular Marquee tool.
- In the Tool Options, click on the New Selection icon. Set the Feather to 0 and the Aspect to Normal.
- On the document, click and drag a selection on the left edge of the document that is 12 inches tall and approximately 1 inch wide.
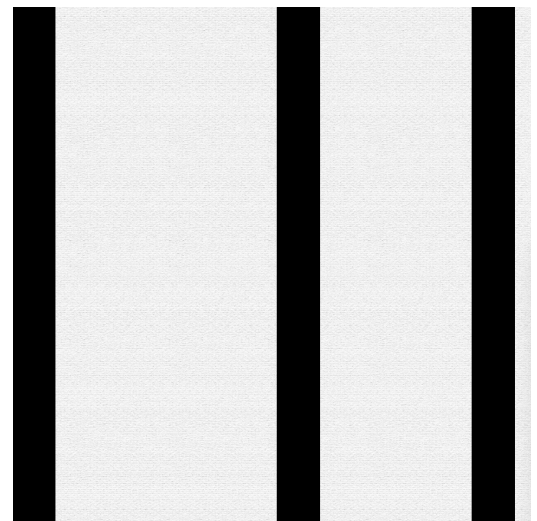- Press Alt Backspace (Mac: Opt Delete) to fill the selection with black.

Add the Second Vertical Line
- In the Layers panel, the BURST layer should still be active.
- On the document, click and drag a selection on the right edge of the document that is 12 inches tall and approximately 1 inch wide.
- Click and drag the selection approximately 1/2 inch from the right edge of the document.
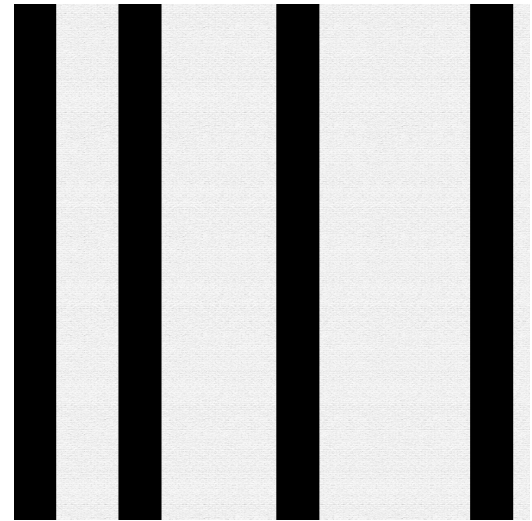- Press Alt Backspace (Mac: Opt Delete) to fill the selection with black.

Add the Third Vertical Line
- In the Layers panel, the BURST layer should still be active.
- On the document, click and drag a selection in the middle of the document that is 12 inches tall and approximately 1 inch wide.
- Click and drag the selection so that the left edge is approximately at the 6" mark on the ruler.
- Press Alt Backspace (Mac: Opt Delete) to fill the selection with black.
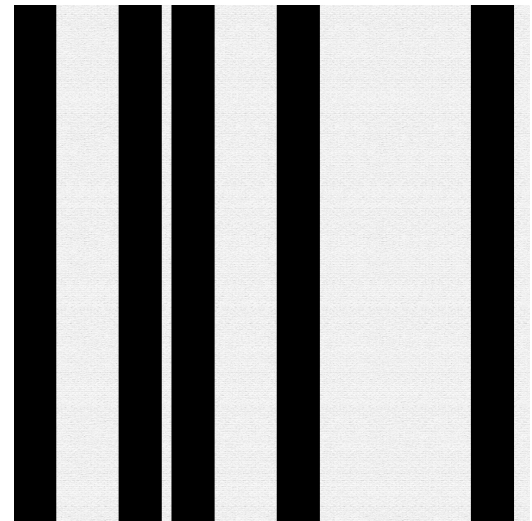
Add the Fourth Vertical Line
- In the Layers panel, the BURST layer should still be active.
- On the document, click and drag a selection in the middle of the document that is 12 inches tall and approximately 1 inch wide.
- Click and drag inside the selection so that the center of the selection is approximately at the 3" mark on the ruler.
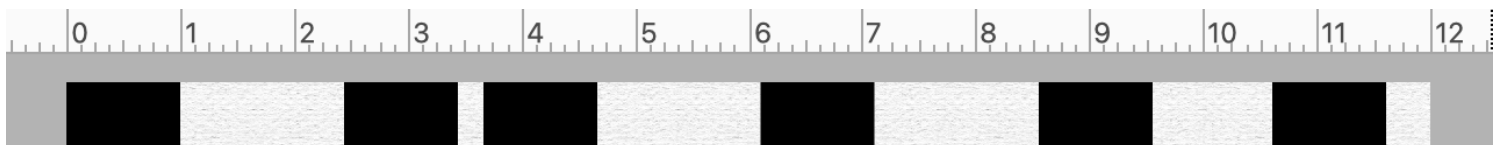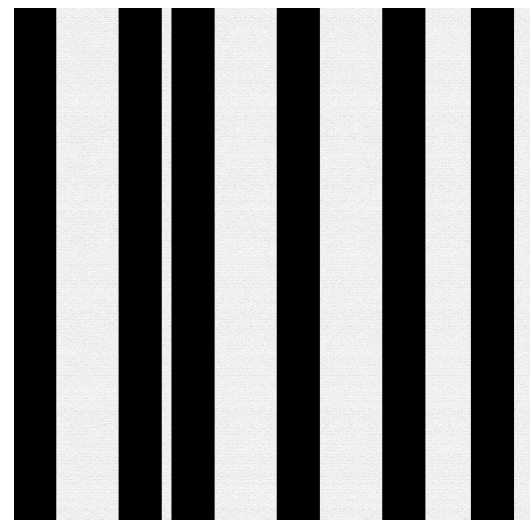- Press Alt Backspace (Mac: Opt Delete) to fill the selection with black.

Add the Fifth Vertical Line
- In the Layers panel, the BURST layer should still be active.
- On the document, click and drag a selection in the middle of the document that is 12 inches tall and approximately 1 inch wide.
- Click and drag inside the selection so that the left edge of the selection is approximately 1/4" to the right of the previous line.
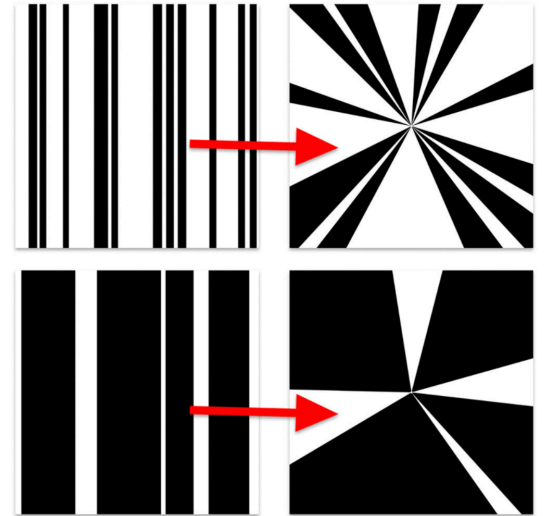- Press Alt Backspace (Mac: Opt Delete) to fill the selection with black.

Add the Sixth Vertical Line
- In the Layers panel, the BURST layer should still be active.
- On the document, click and drag a selection in the middle of the document that is 12 inches tall and approximately 1 inch wide.
- Click and drag inside the selection so that the left edge of the selection is approximately at the 8.5" mark on the ruler.
- Press Alt Backspace (Mac: Opt Delete) to fill the selection with black.
- Press Ctrl D (Mac: Cmd D) to deselect.

Insight Into the Polar Coordinates Filter
- Thinner lines will produce thinner rays in the burst.
- Wider lines will produce wider rays in the burst.
- Less blank space between lines will produce less space between rays in the burst.
- More blank space between lines will produce more space between rays in the burst.
- The right edge and left edge of the document will be combined when running the filter.
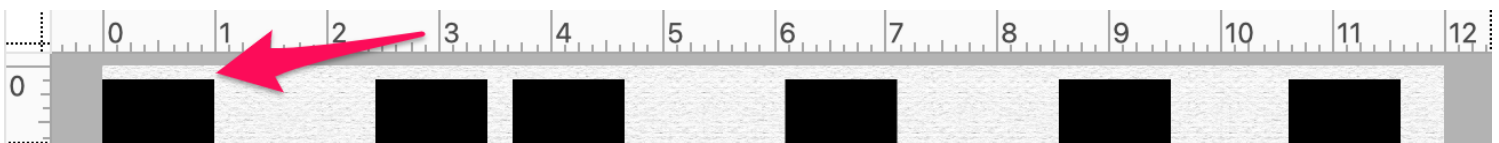
Tips for Getting a Good Burst Result
- Create vertical lines.
- Extend the lines from the top of the document to the bottom of the document.
- Do not allow the lines to extend past the edges of the document.
- Allow for blank space on the left edge, right edge, or both.

Delete the Tops of the Lines
- In the Layers panel, the BURST layer should still be active.
- Click and drag a selection across the top of the document that is 12" wide and approximately 1/8" tall.
- Press the Backspace key (Mac: Delete key) to delete those portions of the lines.
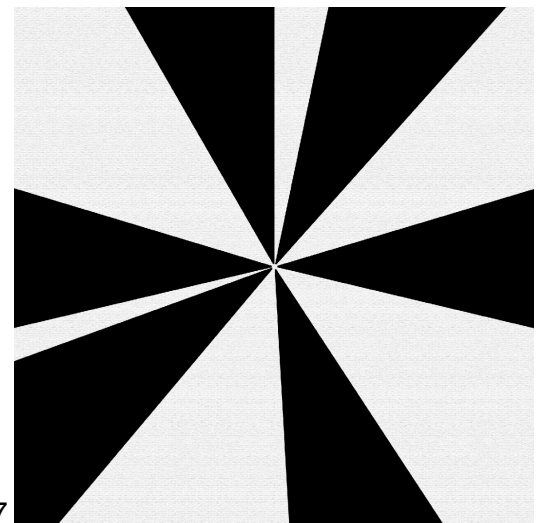- Press Ctrl D (Mac: Cmd D) to deselect.

NOTE: Taking a sliver off the top edge of the lines will assure that the bursts do not connect when you run the filter in the next step. This will make it easier to individually select the bursts for the Variations for this lesson.

Apply the Polar Coordinates Filter
- In the Layers panel, the BURST layer should still be active.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Filter > Distort > Polar Coordinates.
- In the dialog box, choose Rectangular to Polar and click OK.

NOTE: Different widths and positions of the lines will produce different results.
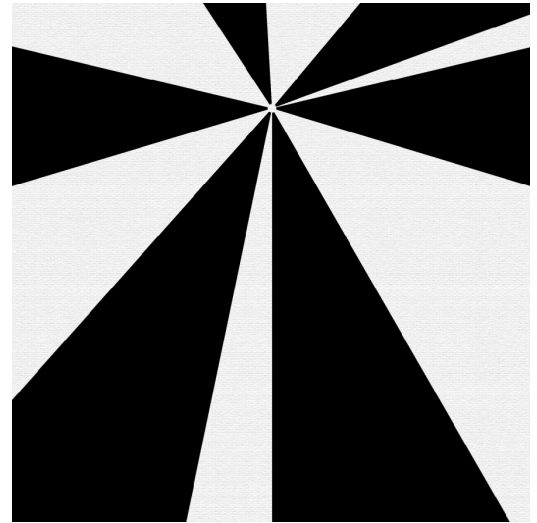
Learn More

To learn more about page design, I highly recommend our signature course, Design Beautiful Pages. Use coupon code 30DSP23 to save 30% on <u>Design Beautiful Pages</u>. Coupon expires May 31, 2023.
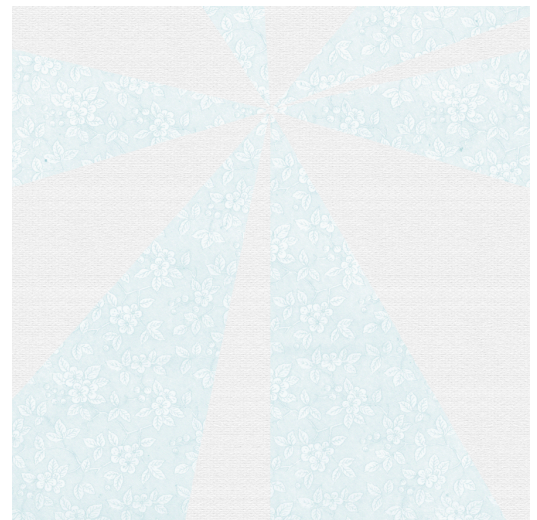
Resize, Reposition, and Rotate the Burst
- In the Layers panel, the BURST layer should still be active.
- Press Ctrl T (Mac: Cmd T) to get the Transform Options.
- In the Tool Options, set the Width and Height to 200%. Set the Angle to 180˚.
- On the document, click and drag on the center of the burst to reposition it to the top center of the document.
- Click the checkmark to commit the change.

Clip a Patterned Paper to the Burst
- In the Layers panel, the BURST layer should still be active.
- Open paper2 (File > Open) from the DSP23-V1-Class-Files folder.
- Get the Move tool.
- Holding down the Shift key, click and drag paper2 onto the document.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Create Clipping Mask.
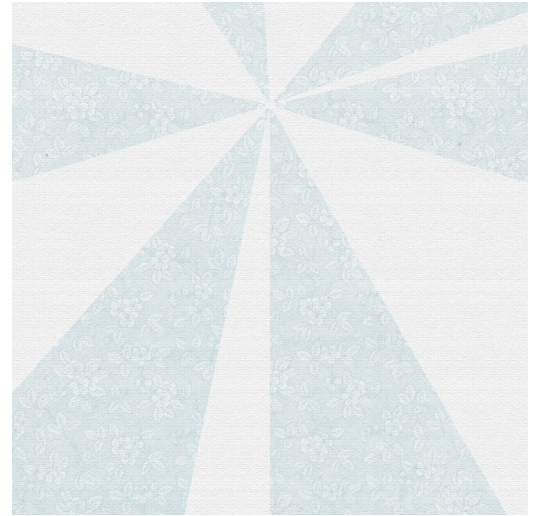
Option 1: Add a Drop Shadow
- In the Layers panel, click on the BURST layer to activate it.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Layer Style > Style Settings.
- In the dialog box, set the Lighting Angle to 120. Click on Drop Shadow to activate it and reveal the settings. Set the Size to 15, the Distance to 10, and the Opacity to 25. Click OK.

NOTE: The opacity is a low number because we're using very light papers. If you use darker papers, you'll need to increase the opacity value.

Option 2: Blend the Burst Layer
• If you added a drop shadow in the previous step, in the Layers panel, click and drag the style (FX icon) to the Trash icon.
• In the Layers panel, click on the BURST layer to activate it.
• Set the Blend Mode to Multiply.

NOTE: Different papers may require a different Blend Mode in order to allow the texture of the background paper to show through. Try different Blend Modes and see what you like best.

Save the Burst Layer As an Overlay
• Right click (Mac: Ctrl click) on the BURST layer (not the thumbnail) and choose Duplicate Layer.
• In the dialog box, set the Destination Document to New. Name the destination document DSP23-V1-Burst1. Click OK.
• In the Layers panel, set the Blend Mode of the BURST layer back to Normal.
• Save the new document (File > Save) as a layered PSD file in the DSP23-V1-Class-Files folder. Click OK.
• Close the new document (File > Close).

Save the Bursting Background Document
• The working document should now be active.
• Save the document (File > Save) as DSP23-V1-Bursting-Background.psd in the DSP23-V1-Class-Files folder.