Design Beautiful Pages

Lesson 02-01: Jen's Mask Potential Page

Jen White has chosen a favorite photo and a complimenting template, see how she puts it all together and the decisions that are made along the way.

Credits

Page: The Marvelous Mr Jackson by Jen White
Photo: Jen White
Class/Template: QwikLearn - Design Beautiful Pages
Kit: Art Play Palette Airy by Anna Aspnes
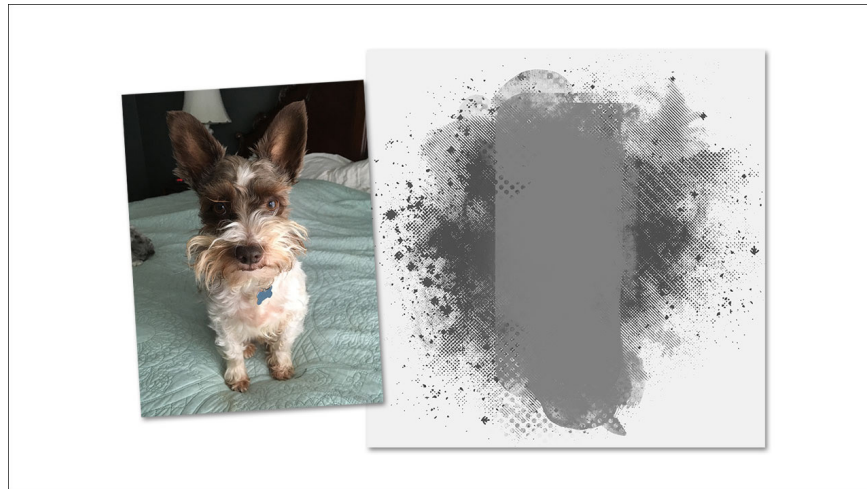Font: Courier

Meet Jackson

He's 4 years old.
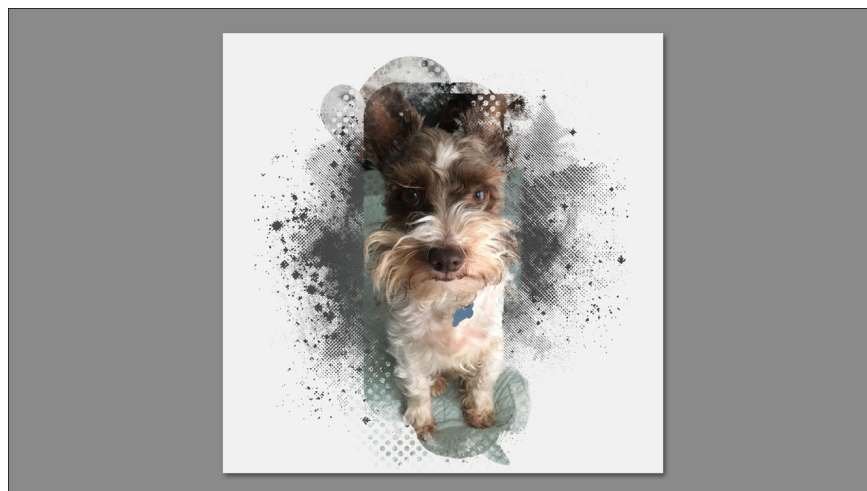
He adores me and I adore him.

Photo Meets Template

I knew instantly which template to use with my photo.

This is one of the 20 simple templates offered this month.

Clipping the Photo

I clipped the photo to the photo mask.

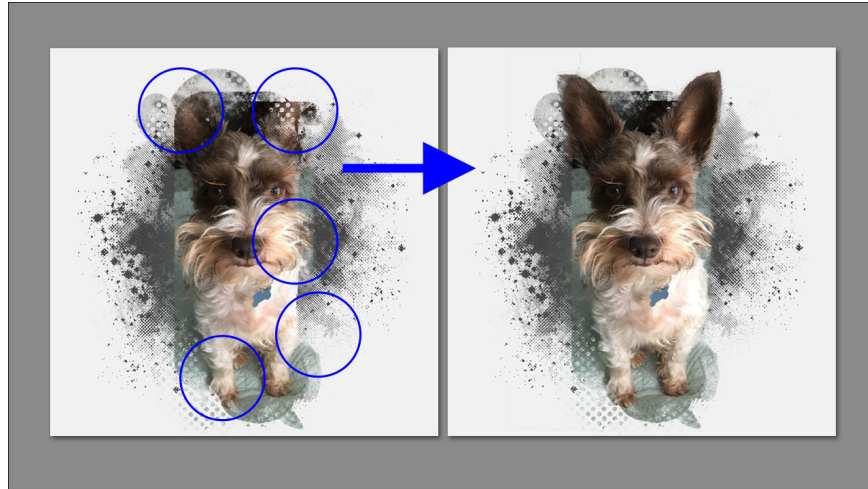I knew right away that I wanted an out-of-bounds look.

Select and Mask

I used the Quick Selection Tool and Refine Edge, Select and Mask in Photoshop, to roughly select Jackson out of the photo.

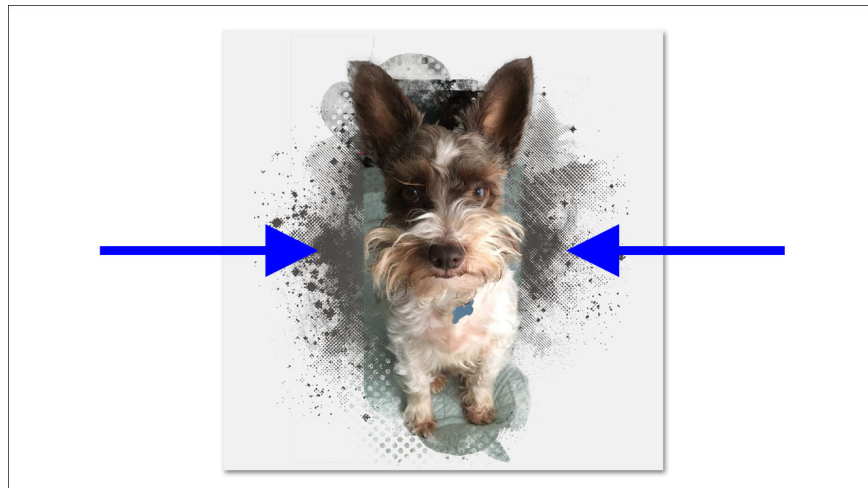I didn't spend a lot of time selecting him out.

Rough selections sometimes look okay with grungy mask pages.

Filling the Paper Mask

I tried clipping different papers to the grungy background mask.

I ended up just changing the mask color to match Jackson.

Choosing a Background Paper

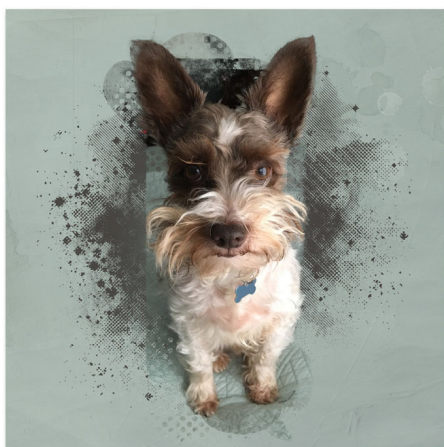I wanted a solid background paper.

The one I chose helped to blend the background of the photo into the paper.

Don't Stop Now!

Artsy pages seem done at this point.

Every scrapbook page needs data.

just the facts,

ma'am

just the facts

Adding Data and Flow

Use the concept of proximity when adding a title and journaling.

Add additional subtle background elements to create flow, if needed.

Tighten with a Stroke

A stroke outline will always help to tighten a page.

A stroke outline can also work to connect elements with the subject.

Lesson 02-03: Linda's Mask Page

A mask deserves a great photo, and I had the perfect photo from my son's wedding. I decided to use the 12 x 12 version of template #15 for this photo.
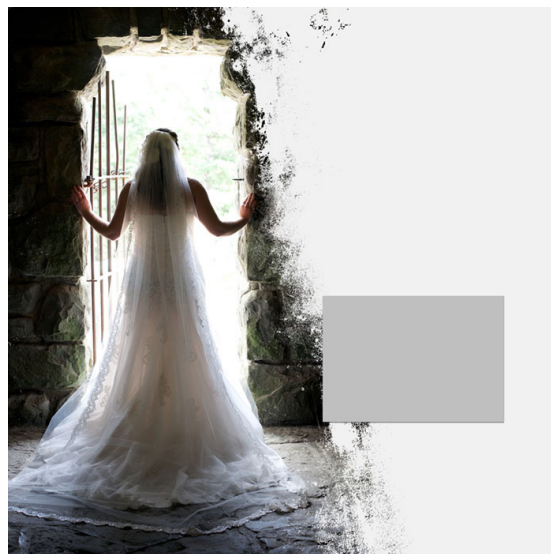

I flipped the template horizontally and vertically to better fit my photo. I moved the smaller photo over a bit and removed a template piece for a paper strip.

One thing I didn't like was the way her hand landed on the mask with the background showing through. There were also some of the dots on her dress. The dots are easy to fill in. You just paint on the mask to fill the holes, but I used a different method for the border.

Use the Lasso tool to select a portion of the mask edge. Press Ctrl J (Mac: Cmd J) to copy a selection to a new layer and press Ctrl T (Mac: Cmd T) to get the Transform tool so you can move it and rotate it to fill in the edge as needed. Press Enter to commit the change and press Ctrl E (Mac: Cmd E) to merge down. You may need to do this more than once to fill in the edge. I was much happier with the look of my photo on the template!

Next I clipped a photo to the small template piece. and added a light beige paper to the background.

Then I added a corner cluster using 7 elements for the rule of odds, and then I also added some word art.

At that point I had to decide whether I was done or not. I certainly could have left it exactly like this, but I felt like it needed a little something more, so I put a heart banner with a custom shadow in the upper right corner.

I also decided to also add a custom shadow to the small photo. Custom shadows are one of the best things you can do to add realism to your digital layouts.

I'm always asking myself the question, "What would happen if I…?" So this time I wondered what kind of anchor element or elements would look good with this page. It would have to be subtle! Here's what I did:

I added two copies of a torn newspaper element behind the smaller photo and over to the edge. To keep the effect subtle, I changed the blend mode to Color Burn, and lowered the opacity to 40% on each newspaper layer. And finally I added some white paint behind the smaller photo and cluster and behind the heart tab, and reduced the opacity a bit. So that's how I made my decisions for my Mastering Mask Potential page.
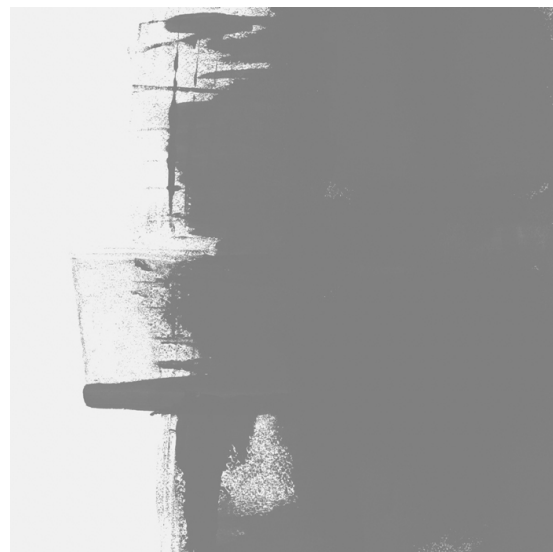
Lesson 02-03: Jenifer's Mask Page

Let me walk you through the decisions I made when putting together my scrapbook page.
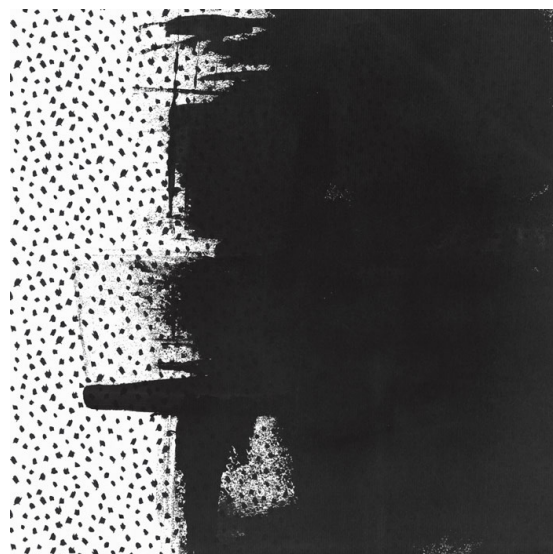
Here is the template I chose to work with:

Because the mask took up a large portion of the page, I clipped a paper to this mask instead of using a photo. I used this plain black paper clipped to the mask as it created a wonderful, dramatic effect.

I spent some time trying different papers behind the mask but it came down to two options. This first option was a fun black and white patterned paper. I love the random ink blots on here.

The second choice was a plain light cream paper. Both options are good here but in the end, I chose the plain cream paper because I wanted the photo to be the focus and I felt the cool ink blots were a bit too distracting once I put my photo on the page.
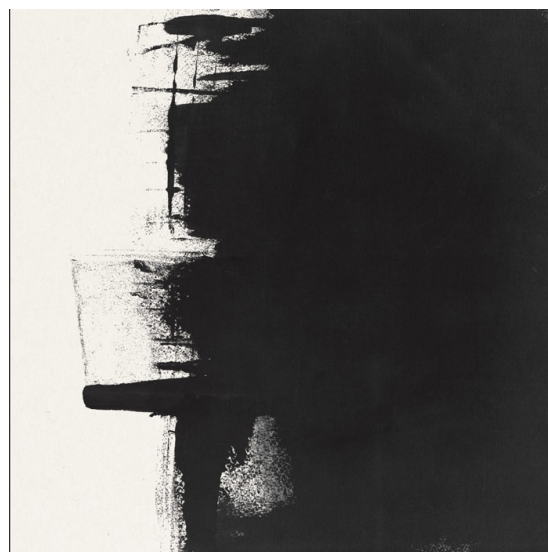
Next, I placed the elements.

Once I saw that the papers I used were versions of black and white, I knew I wanted to keep my elements very neutral as well. I also knew I was making a page of a baby boy so I didn't want things to get too girly or cute.

The first thing I decided to use was the ink blot banner element. Because I had eliminated the ink blot paper to use in the background, I really wanted to use it as an accent on the page. The other banner in the kit was also black and white so I layered them in the upper right corner.

Another fun piece in this kit was the layered photo pocket. I really wanted to use this here as the gray pocket played into the neutral color theme I was going for. I also made the photo black and white with just a hint of sepia so that it would coordinate well w/ the rest of the page. I added the love tag with the black ribbon on top of the right side of the photo pockets.

Then I used two cork elements. I used the arrows to point towards the top-right corner where I placed the cork heart. Placing the arrows this way helps draw the eye around the page.

Here's where I placed the text.

I kept the title and the date with the left cluster and I placed the journaling along the right edge to help balance out the layout.