CG2-JW-01-ps-Snowflakes-Background-manual

Christmas Greetings 2 — Classic Snowflakes Card
Black Weave Background & Design (Adobe Photoshop)
by Jen White

Get off to a great start on building a Classic Snowflakes card card from the ground up.
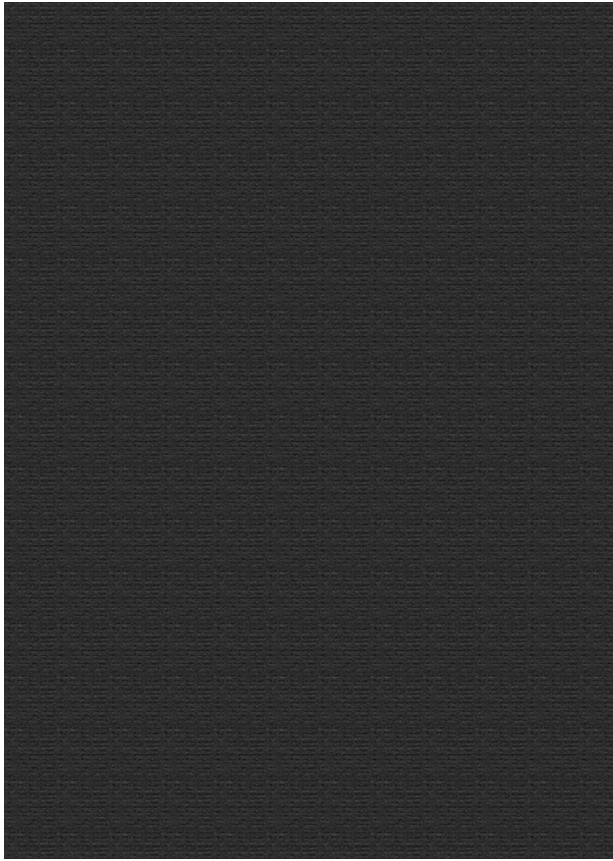This is part one of a three part video series.

Step One: Prepare a Document

- Begin in Adobe Photoshop.
- Create a new 5 x 7 inch document (File > New) at 300 ppi with a white background.
- In the Layers panel, click on the Lock icon to unlock the Background layer and make it editable.
- Press the letter D to reset Color Chips to the default of black over white.

Step Two: Create a Plain, Textured, Dark Background

- **(Not in Video-New for PSCC2020)** In the Pattern panel (Window > Patterns), open the flyout menu and choose Legacy Patterns and More.
- In the Layers panel, click on the Add New Fill or Adjustment Layer icon and choose Pattern.
- In the dialog box, open the Pattern Picker and choose Black Weave from the Legacy Patterns and More > Legacy Patterns > Grayscale Paper. If you don't see Black Weave, click on the Settings icon and choose Large List.
- In the dialog box, set the Scale to 100% and click OK.

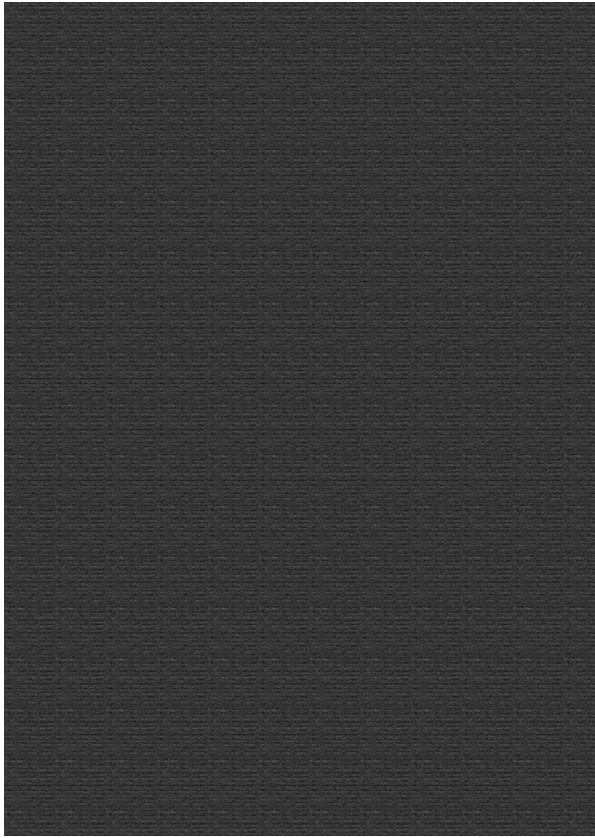**Background Option 2 - Use a Paper Instead of a Pattern**
If you'd like to use a paper <u>instead</u> of the pattern in Step Two, follow these instructions.

- Open a plain, dark, textured background paper (File > Open).
- Get the Move tool.
  Holding down the Shift key, click and drag the paper onto the card document.

Step Three: Lighten or Darken the Background
If you like the shade of your pattern or paper, you can skip this step.

- In the Layers panel, click on the Add New Fill or Adjustment Layer icon and choose Brightness/Contrast.
- In the Properties panel, move the Brightness slider to the right to lighten the pattern or to the left to darken the pattern. I'll stop at +30. Close the Properties panel.
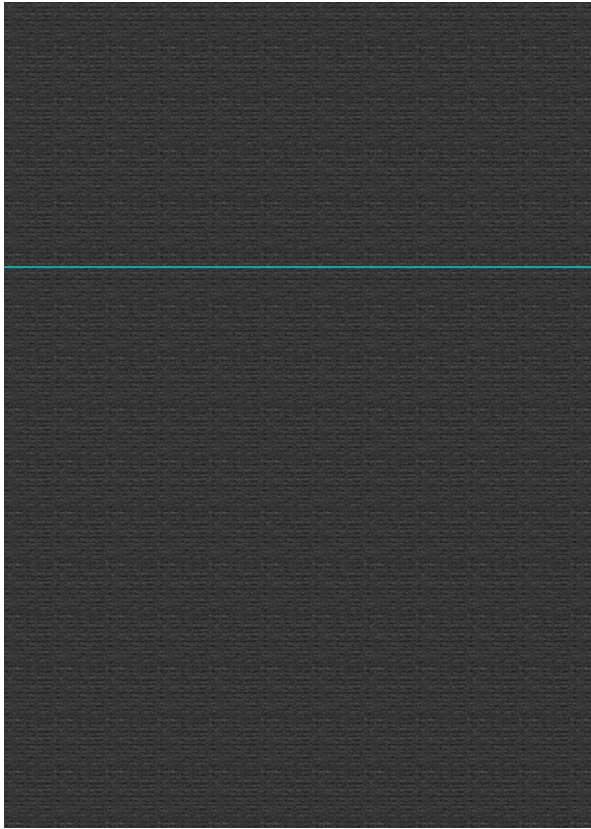
Step Four: Group the Background Layers

- In the Layers panel, the top layer should be active. Hold down the Shift key and click on the bottom layer. Now three layers should be active.
- Click on the Create a New Group icon.
- Double click directly on the name of the group and rename it Black Weave Background.

Step Five: Set a Guide Line

- In the Menu Bar, choose View > New Guide.
- In the dialog box, set the Orientation to Horizontal and the Position to 2.25 inches. If your Rulers are set to Pixels, enter 700 px. Click OK.

Step Six: Save the Document

- Save the document (File > Save As) a layered PSD file in an easy to find location. I'm naming my file CG2-SnowflakeCard.psd.