



by Linda Sattgast

## Design Beautiful Pages

### Lesson 01-01: Beautifully Blended Designs

Welcome to Beautifully Blended Designs! If you've ever gazed with admiration at blended pages, then you'll love learning more about blending!

**Blending Definition:** Artistic blending is a combination of two or more layers to create a new and more desirable effect.

It's possible for blending to create a less desirable effect, but, hopefully, these lessons will help you avoid that. This definition also tells us that, at the bare minimum, you must have two layers to achieve a blended look, but you can blend as many layers as you want on any given project.

### Blending Categories

#### Blending Category 1: Fully Blended Scrapbook Page

Usually this kind of page has one photo that covers the entire background but has some kind of artistic blending applied to it. Often the blending is quite noticeable.

With this page we can see the cracks and grunginess on the photo as well as the unusual blended outline. It has a blended word, a blended clock, and a 3-dimensional tag with type. It's instantly recognizable as a blended page.

#### Credits

Lilypads

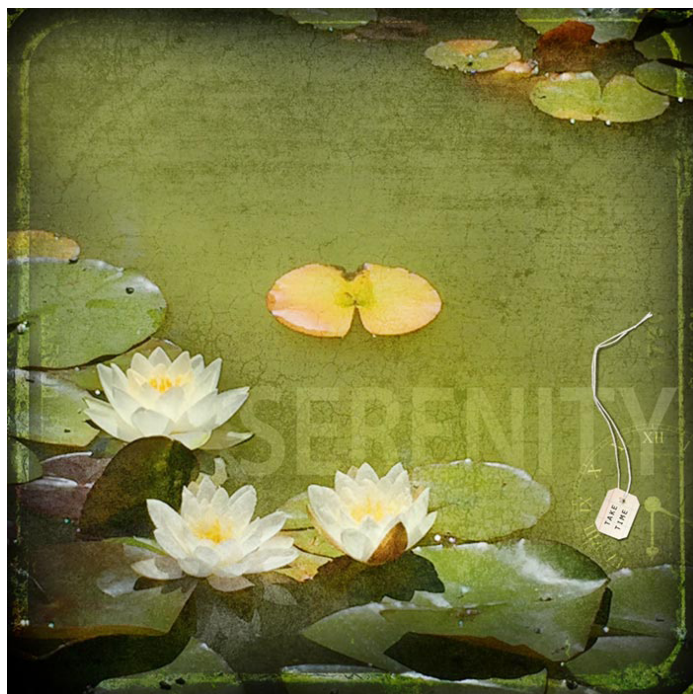
Photo by Linda Sattgast

Texture from Design Beautiful Pages

Tag from Stories 365 by Kristin Cronin-Barrow

Clock from Dream A Little Dream by Kitty Designs

Fonts: Myriad Pro and Orator Std



Some fully blended pages are more subtle. This photo has a fair amount of blending on it, but a lot of the blending has to do with the coloring. You can see the texture better if you look at the sky.

It's not unusual for a page like this to have type on the photo and nothing else, but you can also add 3D elements. It's rare to see a lot of elements, and with good reason. The blending has its own artistic look, and too many elements will distract you from appreciating it fully.

### Credits

By The Sea

Photo by Daniela Dimitrova

Page by Linda Sattgast

Texture from Design Beautiful Pages

Gull by Linda Sattgast

Elements from Summer Passport by Syndee Nuckles

Fonts: Rusty Cola Pen and Orator Std



### Blending Category 2: Blended Backgrounds

On these pages the background is blended but the rest of the page is designed as usual and contains 3D photos and elements.

Many digital papers in scrapbook kits already have texture, and some are elaborately blended, so that's one way to get a blended background, but you can create your own blended backgrounds to suit your photos and page design. You'll hear more about this in another lesson.

Here's an example of a blended background page whose overall design is a line. All the photos and elements are three dimensional.

### Credits

Courting

Photos: Heritage

Page by Linda Sattgast

Template from Design Beautiful Pages

Kit: Embrace by Laitha Designs

Font: Myriad Pro





### Blending Category 3: Layer Masks and Clipping Masks

Here's an example of the kind of page I mean. The blended look on this page was created using clipping masks and overlays.

#### Credits

Safe Harbor  
Photo by Skeeze  
Page by Linda Sattgast  
Clipping Masks from Design Beautiful Pages  
Kit: ArtPlayPalette Kinsfolk by Anna Aspnes  
Font: Orator Std



### Blending Category 4: Blended Elements

Even though a blended element isn't as noticeable, it can be an important part of your page design.

Here's an example of a page with blended type, a blended light burst element, and a blended light bulb, so on this page, the element blending is pretty significant. It only has two 3D elements on it, the blue and pink hearts.

#### Credits

Bright Future  
Photo by Daniela Dimitrova  
Page, rays of light, and border by Linda Sattgast  
Texture from Design Beautiful Pages  
Lightbulb from Big Ideas by OneLittleBird  
Font: Myriad Pro Bold



Here's another example where I blended the chevron into the background, and though it's only one element, it plays a major role in the page design.

### Credits

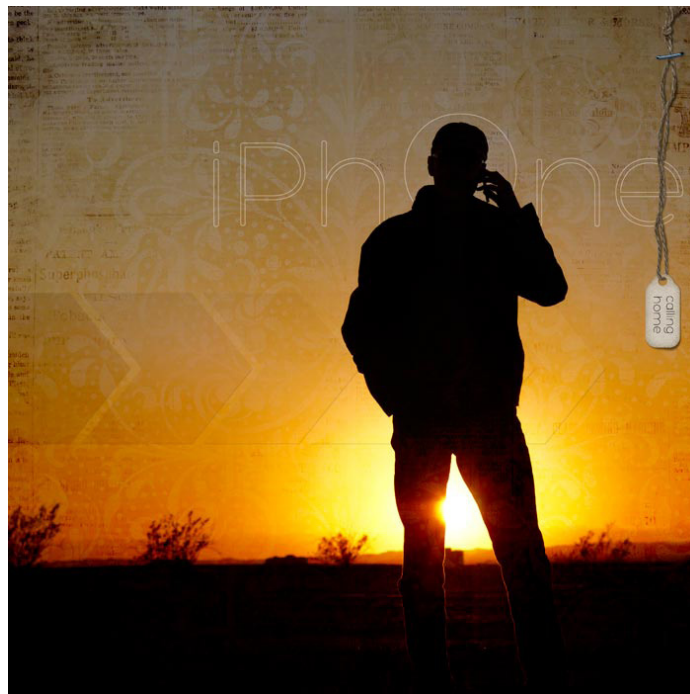
About Charlie

Photo by Linda Sattgast

Paper overlay from Harvest 1912 by JoanneBrisebois

Elements from Alphabet Soup by Digilicious, We Celebrate by Julie Mead, and Digital Scrapper Paper Strip Templates

Font: Hero Light



Here's an example of blending with masks and using blended elements. The leaf next to the title and the rose and leaf in the lower right corner are all blended.

### Credits

Rose Garden

Photo and Page by Linda Sattgast

Paper from ArtPlayPalette Kinsfolk by Anna Aspnes

Frame from ArtPlayPalette Give Thanks by Anna Aspnes

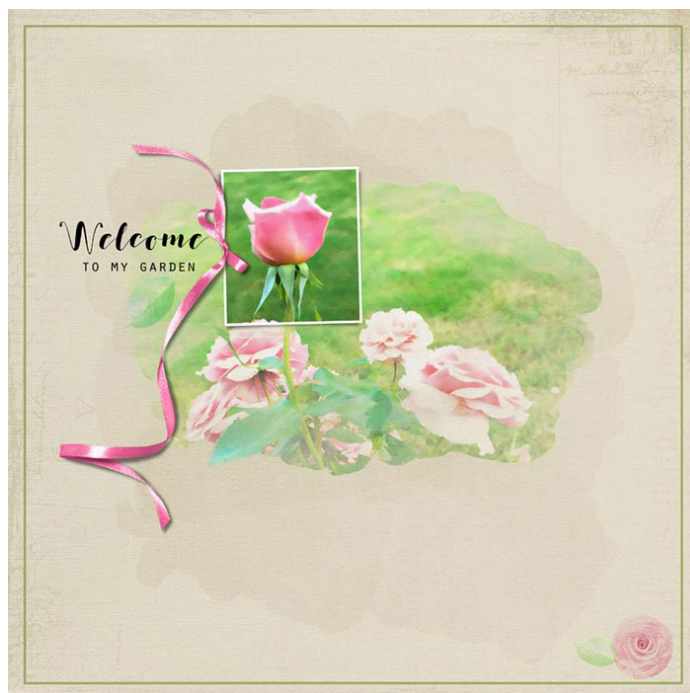
Ribbon from Duty Honor Country by Etc By Danyale

Rose from Encouragement by Cottage Arts

Overlay by Joanne Brisebois

Acrylic Effect from Enhance Photos FAST by Linda Sattgast

Fonts: SALSABILLA and Orator Std





## Blending Category 5: Blended Photos

You can apply blending to a single photo. Here's a photo before and after blending. I masked away the effect on the coffee cup so the texture mostly shows on the table and background. The effect is subtle but pleasing.



Original



Blended

A enhanced photo like this can easily be added to a scrapbook page as a regular 3D photo and ultimately makes the page more attractive.

So those are the blending categories we'll be looking at in the remaining blending design lessons:

- Fully Blended Scrapbook Pages
- Blended Backgrounds
- Layer Masks & Clipping Masks
- Blended Elements
- Blended Photos

### Credits

Coffee With Kate

Page by Linda Sattgast using stock photo

Texture from Design Beautiful Pages

Paper from Christmas Wishes by Kristin Cronin-Barrow and Family Tree by Joanne Brisebois

Elements from: A Love Story and Mother Is A Verb by Krystal Hartley, Being Me by Eva Kipler, Jubilee by OneLittleBird, English Garden by Jenny Binder

Font: DJB Another Mandy67



## Lesson 01-02: Four Ways to Blend Layers

To review, here's the definition of blending: The artistic combination of two or more layers to create a new and more desirable effect."

Here are the two papers we blended in the video demo. We put the brown lined paper above the pink paper in the Layers panel. The blending is always applied to the top layer.

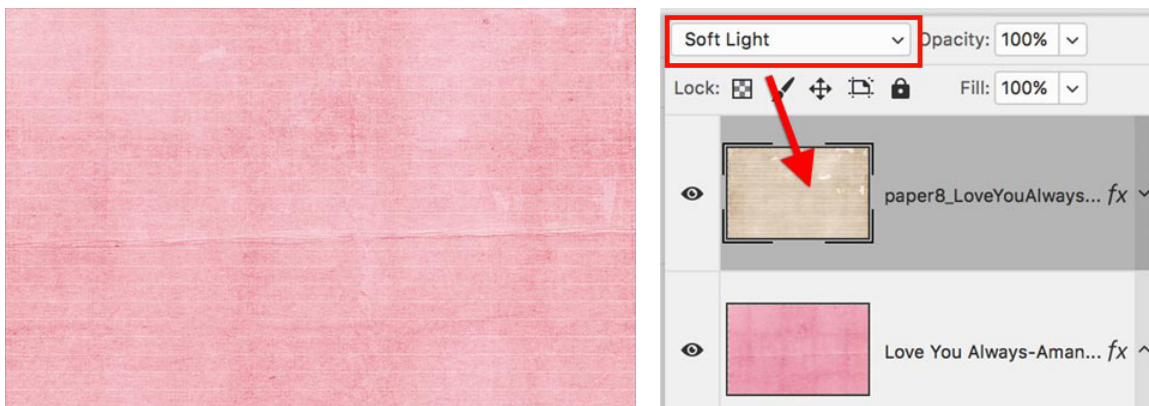


When blending two layers you can:

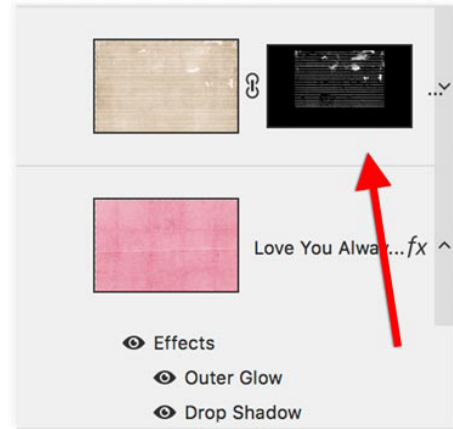
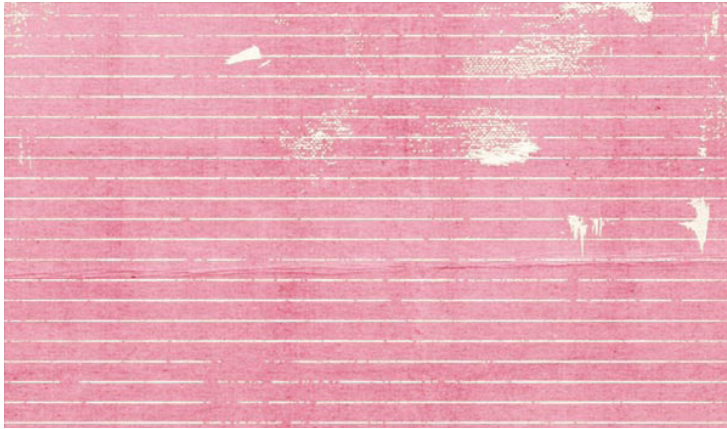
Reduce the opacity of the top layer. We reduced opacity to 50%.



Change the blend mode of the top layer.



Use a layer mask to hide part of the top layer.

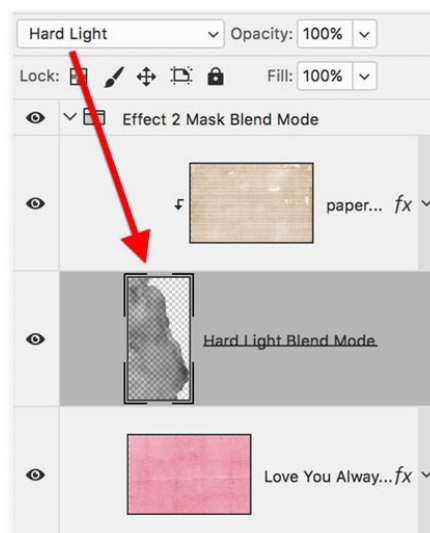


Use a clipping mask to hide part of the top layer.



You can use more than one method on a single layer. We already had one method applied to the top layer—a clipping mask—so we added the following three blending methods:

Changed the mask to Hard Light

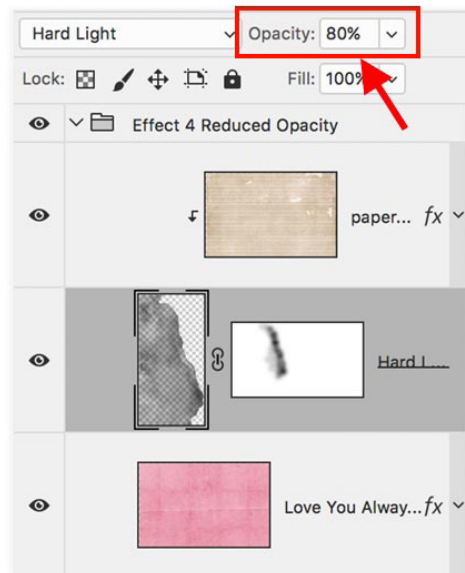




Added a layer mask and brushed to hide part of the mask:



Changed the opacity of the clipping mask layer to 80%



Here's the final result of our blending:

#### Credits

Papers from Love You Always by Amanda Rockwell





## Lesson 01-03: Blending Tips And Tricks

Let's take a look at some tips and tricks to help you improve your blending.

In your downloads you'll find a set of 20 textures you can use to practice your blending. The Blending Tips And Tricks video shows several ways to use textures to blend with photos. I've included the photo I used so you can follow along.

### Prepare Your Document

- Open the photo called child-with-hat.jpg from the dbp10-01-03-extras folder.
- Open the texture called dbp10-texture-01.jpg from the dbp10-texture folder.
- Get the Move tool and move the texture image onto the photo image while pressing the Shift key to center the texture on the photo.

### Change The Blend Mode

All the blend modes are listed in the Blending menu at the top of the Layers panel, but rather than open the menu and choose a new blend mode over and over, it's easier to use a keyboard shortcut:

- Make sure the Move tool is selected. (Some tools have a Blending menu in Tool Options. If one of those tools is active, the shortcut will affect that menu instead of the Blending menu in the Layers panel.)
- Hold down the Shift key and press the Plus (+) key repeatedly to toggle to the next blend mode in the menu.
- Press Shift Minus (-) to go to the previous blend mode.
- Windows only: You can also click on the Blending menu to activate it and press the up or down Arrow key to move to next or previous blend mode.
- Your goal is NOT to find the perfect look, though that does happen occasionally. Your goal is to find a blend mode that has promise, that you might be able to tweak to make it look right.

### Best Blend Modes

- Your go-to blend modes are Soft Light and Overlay.
- To lighten try Screen.
- To darken try Multiply or Color Burn.
- Most of the time Overlay and Soft Light work the best, especially if you use textures that aren't too dark or too light.
- When you see a blend mode you like but think it's a bit too much, adjust the opacity of the texture layer to reduce the intensity.
- If a blend mode looks good but isn't quite strong enough, press Ctrl J (Mac: Cmd J) to duplicate the texture layer to increase the effect. Adjust the opacity of the duplicate layer as needed.

I often start with Overlay and Soft Light, but if I'm not satisfied with the result, I'll start at the beginning and toggle through all the blend modes. If I don't see a single blend mode with promise, it probably means that the texture isn't the best choice for that particular image.



## Adjust The Position

- Remove or hide Texture 01
- Open Texture 08 and move it onto your document, centering it above the photo in the Layers panel.
- Set the blend mode to Overlay.
- If the texture isn't in the right place, you can flip it.
- Press Ctrl T (Mac: Cmd T) to get the Transform tool.
- Right click on your image and choose Flip Horizontal.
- Click on the check mark to commit the transform.

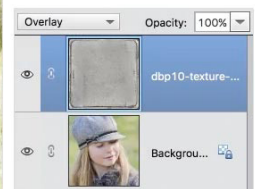
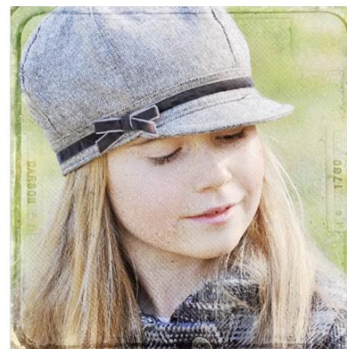
## Light & Color

- If you like the texture but you want to adjust the lighting, clip a Levels adjustment layer to the texture layer and adjust the sliders under the Histogram.
- You can also clip a Hue/Saturation adjustment layer to a texture layer. If you want to reduce the effect of the color, move the Saturation slider to the left until it looks good to you or move it all the way to left to completely desaturate the texture.

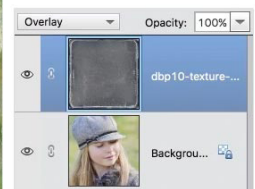


## Invert A Texture

- Remove or hide Texture 08.
- Open Texture 14 and move it onto your document, centering it above the photo in the Layers panel.
- Change the blend mode to Overlay. The effect will be quite nice.

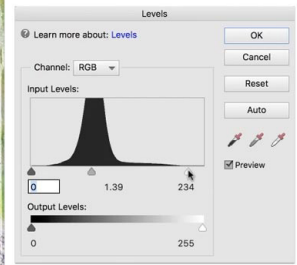


- To invert the texture layer press Ctrl I (Mac: Cmd I). Inverting a texture may or may not work for your particular photo.



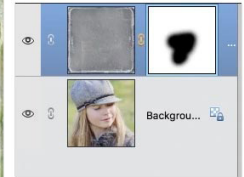


- If needed, you can adjust the lighting with Levels.
- If you don't want to bother clipping a Levels adjustment layer to the texture layer, you can simply press Ctrl L (Mac: Cmd L) to bring up the Levels dialog box and adjust the sliders that way. Click OK when you're satisfied.



## Masking

If you don't like the effect of a texture over part of an image add a layer mask and paint the texture away where you don't want it. If you don't know how to use a layer mask watch the pre-class video on Layer Mask Basics.



Remember, blending is a lot like learning how to paint. You just have to get in there, mix the colors, and try new things. You'll eventually land on something that looks great!

Here's my final scrapbook page.

## Credits

Sweet  
Photo by Petra  
Page by Linda Sattgast  
Texture from Design Beautiful Pages  
Element from Love Mom by Karla Dudley  
Font: Arcon



## Lesson 01-04: Photo Blending Formula

When it comes to blending photos, there's a logical progression of steps that I call the "Blending Formula."

- Choose a photo.
- Choose a texture you want to try and place it above the photo.
- Choose an appropriate blend mode.
- Make any desired adjustments to the texture layer.

### Options For Texture Adjustment

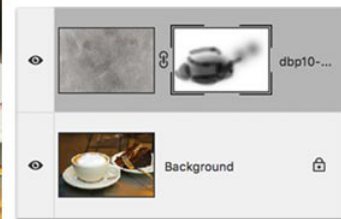
- Use Levels to make the texture lighter or darker.
- Use Hue/Saturation to adjust the color or remove the color.
- Invert the texture by pressing Ctrl I (Mac: Cmd I).
- Mask away any unwanted texture.
- Sometimes no change will be needed



Before



After



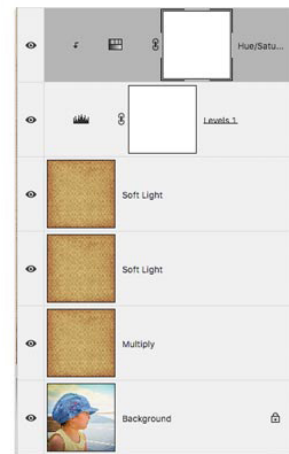
Not every fully blended page or blended photo will be easy to work with. You may have to experiment with multiple layers and adjustments to get the look you want. If you're interested in expanding your blending know-how, check out my class on advanced blending.



Before



After





Here's my final page with blended type and elements added.

### Credits

Bright Future  
Photo by Daniela Dimitrova  
Page, rays of light, and border by Linda Sattgast  
Texture from Design Beautiful Pages  
Lightbulb from Big Ideas by OneLittleBird  
Font: Myriad Pro Bold



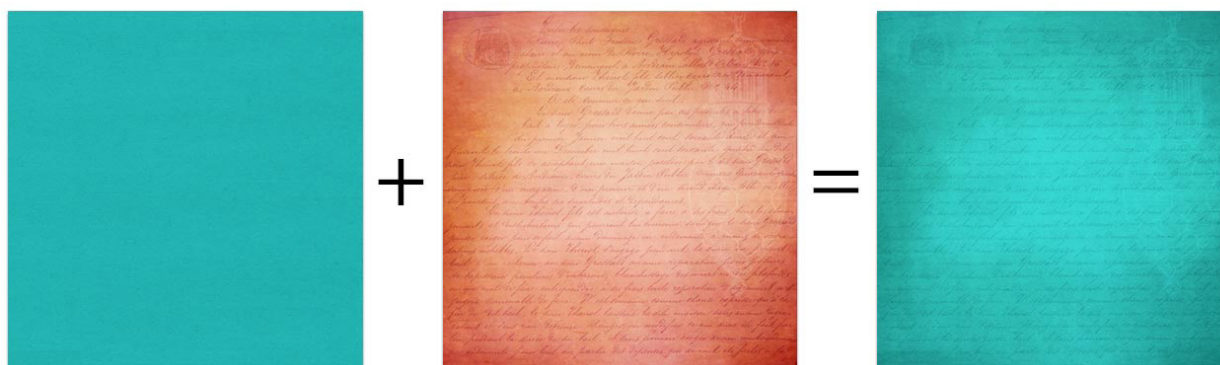
## Lesson 01-05: Blended Background Tips

### Simple Blended Background

The simplest way to create a blended background is to open a solid lightly textured background paper, add a texture image above it, and change the blend mode. In this example I changed the blend mode to Overlay, but sometimes a different blend mode will work better.

Adjust the Hue/Saturation if you need to. I lowered the Saturation quite a bit to around -75 to remove most of the color. This preserved the original background paper color.

You can also adjust the lighting. I used Levels to darken the texture layer a bit, making it more visible. So this is a quick way to create a very pretty blended background on which to build a scrapbook page.



### Credits

Paper from Thankful by Karla Dudley  
Texture from Design Beautiful Pages

## Blended Backgrounds—Masks

You can also use masks to create a blended background. One of the templates available in your downloads contains two large masks in the background. Of course, you could clip some paper to each of those masks, but you can also simply change the blend mode.

Add whatever background paper you plan to use and change the blend mode of the masks to suit the paper. I used Color Burn with the two larger masks and Screen for the mask behind the photo on my finished scrapbook page.

### Credits

Spring Robin

Photo: Stock and Page by Linda Sattgast

Template from Design Beautiful Pages.

Paper: Mother Is A Verb by Krystal Hartley

Daisy from Summer Chills by Vero

Banner: Scalloped Banner Template by Linda Sattgast using Stitching from Happy Harvest by Susan Bartolini

Pink paper from Love You always by Amanda Rockwell

Green Paper from Thankfully by Krystal Hartley

Orange Paper from Escape to Nature by Eva Kipler

Staples by Linda Sattgast

Fonts: Amigirl Sans Swash and Myriad Pro



## Artistic Masking

Another style of blended background is exemplified by Template 06 in your downloads. Remember that one way to blend a layer is to clip it to a mask. Masks don't have drop shadows, so the background appears to be a solid background made up of various pieces artistically arranged.

Use good judgement when choosing papers for this kind of artistic background. Even papers from the same kit can be too wild in color or pattern to play the role of a background. There's nothing wrong with the papers themselves in the right context, but the focus should always be on your photos. It's better to use papers that blend well and don't steal the spotlight.

Then you can use it as an artistic background for your photos.



Template

Not Ideal

Good Choices

Finished Page

### Credits

Courting

Photos: Heritage

Page by Linda Sattgast

Template from Design Beautiful Pages

Kit: Embrace by Laitha Designs

Font: Myriad Pro



## Pre-designed Backgrounds and Overlays

Some designers provide completely finished artistically blended background papers, and may even offer overlays so you can design your own artistic page. The blend mode on these overlays is Normal but since they act like a mask, they blend into the paper naturally.

You can then create your page over your custom background.



### Credits

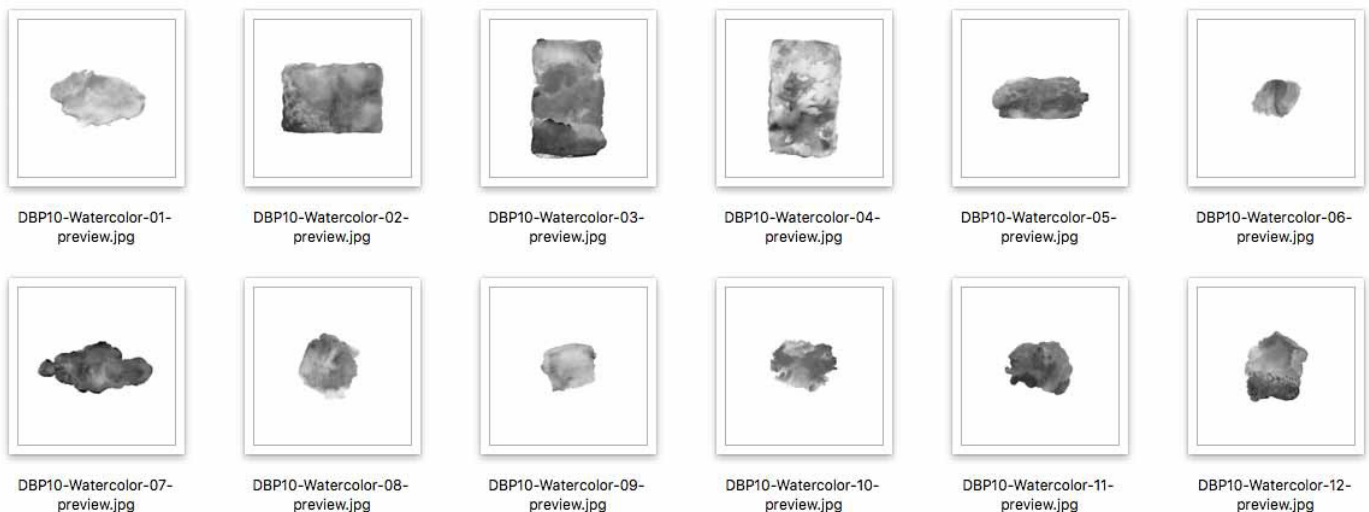
Safe Harbor  
Photo by Skeeze  
Page by Linda Sattgast  
Clipping masks from Design Beautiful Pages  
Kit and overlays: ArtPlayPalette Kinsfolk by Anna Aspnes  
Font: Orator Std

## Lesson 01-06: Photo And Element Blending

### Clipping Mask Options

You have more than one option when you stack several masks. You could use the top mask for the photo and change the blend modes of the bottom two masks to create an anchor element or you could clip the photo to all three layers.

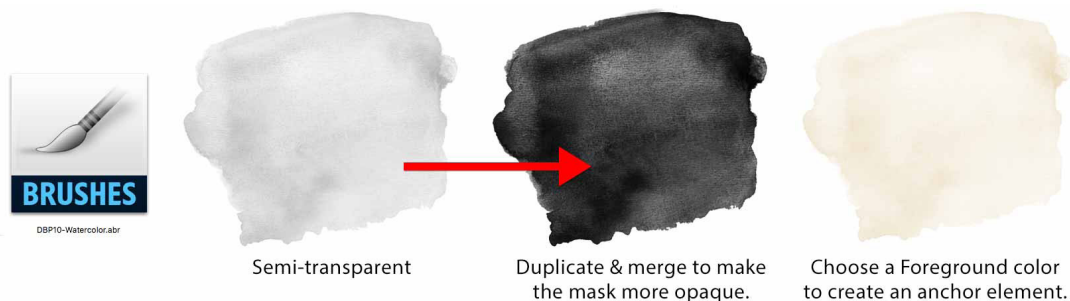
In your downloads you'll find a set of clipping masks you can mix and match to create blended photo layers.



We also turned the clipping masks into a brush set for those who prefer to use them that way. If you use black for the Foreground Color Chip your mask will turn out black if the mask is fully opaque or gray if the mask is semi-transparent.

To make the mask more opaque, duplicate the mask layer until you get the density you want and then merge the duplicated layers. I do this sometimes when I want the photo to show up better.

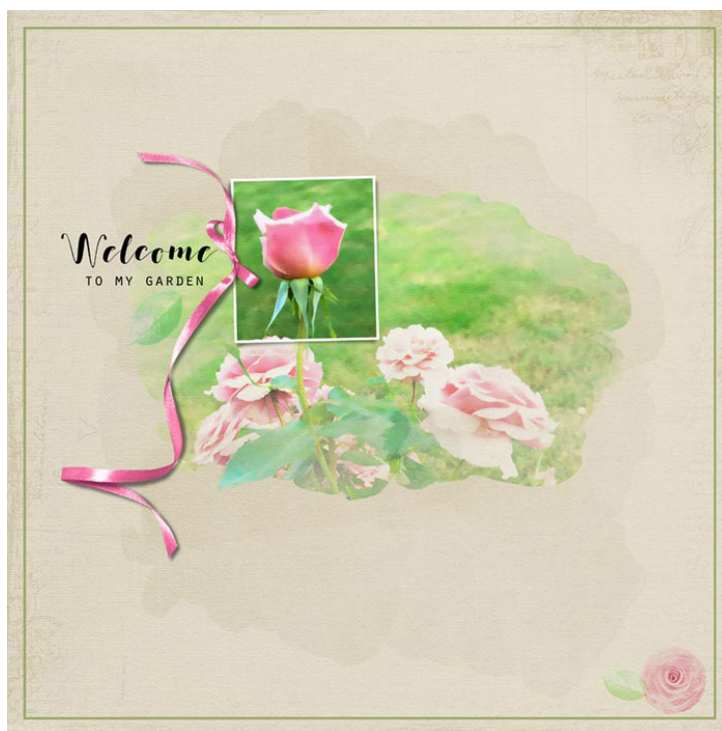
Another option is to choose a Foreground Color that matches your page. Create a new layer and click on your document with the Brush tool to add a nice anchor element behind your photo.



Here's a finished scrapbook page that uses two photo clipping masks and two anchor element masks.

#### Credits

Rose Garden  
Photo and Page by Linda Sattgast  
Watercolor brushes from Design Beautiful Pages  
Paper from ArtPlayPalette Kinsfolk by Anna Aspnes  
Frame from ArtPlayPalette Give Thanks by Anna Aspnes  
Ribbon from Duty Honor Country by Etc By Danyale  
Rose from Encouragement by Cottage Arts  
Overlay by Joanne Brisebois  
Acrylic Effect from Enhance Photos FAST by Linda Sattgast  
Fonts: SALSABILLA and Orator Std





## Blended Elements

Our final look at blending will be blended elements. Elements can be displayed in the traditional way as a 3D element with a drop shadow and no blending.

Another option is to apply a blend mode and adjust the opacity to obtain the look you desire. This kind of blending usually works better on a light neutral background, and most of the time a blended element won't have a drop shadow.



### Credits

Rose from Encouragement by Cottage Arts

Leaf from Cherish This Moment by Digital Scrapper Designs

While rare, there can be exceptions to the no-shadow rule on blended elements. I used a small drop shadow on a chevron and changed the blending to create an artistic look on this scrapbook page, so use your judgment when blending elements.

I hope these examples have given you some good ideas for your own blending!



### Credits

About Charlie

Photo by Linda Sattgast

Paper overlay from Harvest 1912 by JoanneBrisebois

Elements from Alphabet Soup by Digilicious, We Celebrate

by Julie Mead, and Digital Scrapper Paper Strip Templates

Font: Hero Light

