



Make It Match

Layered Cluster Files – Transcript

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In this preclass video, I'm going to show you what a layered cluster file is and how to use them in a project or a digital scrapbook page. We'll be using these layered cluster files throughout the class, so for those that might be new to this, I wanted to show you how these files work and how you can use them to create. I'm filming this video in Photoshop elements, but the instructions are exactly the same for Photoshop except where noted. Also, this is the only video in this class where that happens. The rest of the class will have separate videos for each software.

So here I have a layered cluster file from the class open and ready to use. As I previously stated, for those that might be new to this hobby, I just wanted to show you a little bit about how this works. Layered cluster files are PSD files that have a cluster premade for you. Each item is on its own layer and each layer has the name of the kit and designer for easy crediting. Many of the layered cluster files will have layers that have a custom shadow below it. These custom drop shadow layers have been linked with the layer above it, and this means that if you move one of the linked layers, both of the layers will move together like that.

Now take notice of this layer called flower placeholder. Throughout the class, these placeholder layers are always going to be gray scale. These placeholder layers are used as a guide. In lessons throughout the class, we'll be recoloring papers or elements to be used in these clusters to finish them off. The placeholder layer is a guide for placement and size of the recolored item with this specific layered cluster file. Once you add the recolored flower to replace the flower placeholder layer and clip a photo or paper to the clipping mask layer, this cluster is finished. Once you have a finished cluster, it's up to you how you want to use it in a project. I'm going to use this cluster in a digital scrapbook page, so here's how you can move these clusters to a new document.

The first thing you have to do is hide the white background layer. The reason I kept the white background layers in the layered cluster files is that it's just plain easier on the eyes and it's easier to see any paint in the background that might be there. But because I left the white background layers in the

layered cluster files, you will have to hide them. To do that, in the layers panel, click on the visibility icon of the background layer to hide it. Now you can press control A in windows or command A on a Mac to select all, and this selects the entire document, which is why you have to hide the white background layer or it would select that too. Then once you have the selection, press shift control C in windows or shift command C on a Mac to create a merged copy. And then go to your current project document and then press control V in windows or command V on a Mac to paste the layered cluster. Now get the move tool and then on the document click and drag the layered cluster into position about there.

So that's how you use the layered clustered files from this class. I can't wait for you to get started and see what you make with them. This is Jenifer Juris with make it match.