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Picture Perfect Gift Books—Shutterfly Part 2 Making Books with the Shutterfly Book Editor

Lesson 10-04: Shutterfly Online Editor Part 1

If you don't know how to use Photoshop or Photoshop Elements, you can still create beautiful books using digital photos and the book editor on Shutterfly.

There's always a learning curve with any new piece of software, so by the time you learn how to use the templates on Shutterfly to get exactly what you want, you probably could have learned the basics of Photoshop or Photoshop Elements.

BUT, if you prefer to use the online editor, you can certainly create beautiful books. You can even create spot art, as long as you can photograph objects against a white background and adjust them in either Photoshop or Photoshop Elements as I teach how to do in the How To section of this class.

Shutterfly's Kid Book Category

Shutterfly has a kids photo book category. To get to the kid's books:

- Click on Photo Books.
- Click on Custom Path.
- Choose the size of your book. The 8 x 8 inch size is the smallest book that comes with a hard cover.
- Click on Kids in the Book Ideas on the left.

You can explore some of the kid book possibilities, but I'm going to show you how to make one from scratch that's exactly what you want.

- Near the bottom of the Kids book templates, you'll see the DigiScrap option, which allows you to build your pages from scratch. This option is used for pre made pages created with Photoshop or Photoshop Elements, but you can also use it to create your own layouts using just your digital photos.
- Click on the DigiScrap template to select it.
- Make sure you have the right size and cover.
- Click Select this photo book.
- Click on the X to remove the tour invitation pop up.
- Click on the X again to remove the second pop up.
- In the strip across the bottom, click on the Pages tab.
- If you scroll to the left you'll see the cover page and the title page. I'll start with pages 2 and 3, the first spread.

A Simple Picture Book

The first picture book example has type on the left and one photo that fills the page on the right. That is a very common design for a children's picture book. Go to the library and you'll see this design repeated over and over.

- All the pages in the DigiScrap book template have a gray full bleed placeholder for pictures, so leave the right page the way it is.
- On the left page, hover your mouse over the gray area, and you'll see two Xs.
- Don't click on the X in the upper right corner because it will remove the page.
- Click on the X in the middle to remove the photo place holder.

Add Photos To Your Project

- Click on the Photos tab in the strip at the bottom.
- Click on the Add Photos button to add photos to your project. There's also another Add photos link at the top of the book editor.
- Upload some photos from your computer or choose photos from other areas. I have mine in a Shutterfly album, so that's what I'll click.
- You can choose individual photos or choose Select All in the upper right corner.
- Click the Add to project button.
- In the next screen, choose the Photos tab option and click OK.

Add A Photo To Your Book

- Click and drag a photo thumbnail to the gray placeholder on the right.
- Click once on the photo to get a photo editor where you can reposition the photo. Click Done when you're finished.

Add Type To Your Book

- Click on the left page to make it the active page. You can tell which page is active because the page number at the bottom will be highlighted.
- At the top of the book editor, click Add text box, and you'll get a warning that you're entering the Customize Page mode where you can adjust the template. It also tells you to click "Exit Customize Page" to exit. You can click Do not show again, once you get comfortable using the customization option.
- Notice the "Exit customize page" link is on the right above the book editor.
- You can also enter or exit the customization option from the Pages menu.
- Click inside the text box outline to activate it.
- Click and drag any of the bounding box handles to resize it.
- Double click inside the text box to get the Text Editor.
- Type the words you want. You won't get a preview of your type, so initially you just have to guess what size it's going to be.
- Choose a font. I chose Gill Sans.
- Some fonts have more than one style you can choose, but Gill Sans only has the Regular style.
- For the type size, click the plus or minus sign, or click once on the number for a pop up menu.
- Keep the default color of Black.
- Choose left alignment.
- You can choose to place the type in one of three locations on your page, and you can choose different amounts of spacing between lines of type. I chose to stay with the default for the those two options. When you're finished, click Done.

- Not until you click done can you see what your type will actually look like.
- If you need to adjust the type, double click on the text box again to edit it. I used 36 for the size and adjusted the text box to make the line break where I wanted it to.

This creates a very simple, but elegant, children's picture book double spread. Normally you would use the same style for each spread throughout the entire book.

Lesson 10-05: Shutterfly Online Editor Part 2

In this lesson we'll look at some other picture book styles.

- To access the next spread, click on the pages tab and click on the next thumbnail in the thumbnail strip at the bottom, or you can click the arrows just below the editor.
- Place a full bleed photo on the right page, using the instructions I gave you in Part 1.
- Make sure the left page is selected. If it isn't, click on it.
- If you're not in the Customization mode, in the Menu Bar choose Page > Customize page.
- In the Customization mode you won't see an x to click on to delete a photo place holder. Simply click on the photo place holder and press the Delete key to remove it.
- For this page style, we'll be adding a single photo and changing the type size and color. I want to choose a photo size I can repeat over and over without having to resize it manually, so the easiest way to do that is to find a layout in the size you want.
- The layouts are shown on the left when the Layouts tab is selected.
- There are other tabs you can choose as well. We'll look at some of them later.
- To hide all the tabs, click on the arrow below the tabs. This will give you more work space. Click the arrow again to reveal the tabs.
- On the Layouts tab, at the top, choose the number of photos you want per page. I chose one photo per page.
- If you don't see a layout you want, at the bottom you can click to get more layout options.
- The first few templates are double spreads, so avoid those because they'll change both of your pages into one double spread.
- The double spread layouts have no space between the left and the right page—just a line down the middle.
- If you click on one by mistake, click the Undo arrow at the top.
- The single pages have a small space between the left and the right thumbnails.
- You can use a single page layout on either the left or the right page.
- You can click and drag a layout thumbnail to a page, or simply click on the thumbnail to apply it to the active page.
- If you change your mind, click the Undo icon or click on a different layout. I chose a layout with a small square photo.
- From the Photo strip at the bottom, click and drag a photo into the photo place holder.
- Click on the photo to adjust the position. Click Done.

Add A Frame

- To add a black stroke outline around the photo, click on the Embellishments tab.
- At the top of Embellishments, you can click on either Stickers or Frames.
- Click on Frames to see a few default frames. You can access more frames by clicking "Get more frames" at the bottom.
- The frame I want is already listed: Black Fine Line.
- Click on the thumbnail to apply it to every photo on the page.

Text

- To change the type, double click on the type outline to get the type editor and type what you want to say.
- I found out by trial and error that 48 was a good size.
- Click on the Color swatch and choose a color. I chose a bright green to go with the red apple in the photo.
- Click and drag the type to reposition it. Note: In order to move the type, you need to be in Customization mode: Pages > Customize Page, or use the shortcut Ctrl A (Mac: Cmd A).
- If you're making an ABC book, you can add another text box for the letters.

Spot Art

If you wish, you can replace the photo with a piece of spot art. I have a tutorial on how to photograph objects on a white background, such as a white sheet or white art board, so that's what I did with an apple. Usually you need to adjust the spot art in Photoshop or Photoshop Elements using a very simple technique I show you in my video about spot art, which you can find in the How To section of the classroom.

- To change photos, click and drag a new photo over the old one, and the book editor will replace it.
- You can leave the stroke outline if you wish, or you can remove it by clicking on None in Frames.
- You may see a faint edge where the photo isn't quite white enough, but no one is going to be bothered by that—and certainly not the child.
- Double click on the photo to adjust the position. For my apple photo, I zoomed in a bit more. Click Done.
- You may need to adjust the position of the type as well.

Lesson 10-06: Shutterfly Online Editor Part 3

In this lesson we continued to explore some other options for children's picture books.

Add Stickers

- To add a sticker to a page, click on the Embellishments tab and click on Stickers at the top.
- Click on Get more stickers at the bottom.
- You'll be told how to save your favorite stickers.
- Click the close button.
- Choose a category. I clicked on Categories and clicked on Animals.
- Click on the sticker you want. I chose a paw print.
- Click Add to project to exit the pop up and place your selected sticker in the Stickers tab.
- Click on the sticker to add it your layout. You can resize it, but if you plan to add several paw prints it's best to add as many stickers as you want and then resize them together.
- Position the paw prints as desired.
- With one paw print selected, Shift click on additional paw prints.
- Use the bounding box to resize and rotate the stickers.
- Click outside the bounding box to deselect the stickers.

Another Layout Example

- In this case, in the Layouts tab, I chose 4 photos per page and found a layout I liked for the right hand page.
- I filled each photo place holder with a photo.
- To give all four photos a black stroke, make sure the page is the active page.
- Click on the Embellishments tab and click on Frames.
- Click on Black Fine Line to add it to all the photos.

- If a black line seems too heavy, especially with that many photos all together, choose a lighter frame.
- Click on Get more frames at the bottom.
- Scroll down and select any frame you want to add to your project.
- If you think you might want to use the frame on more than one project, click on the heart to add it to your favorites.
- When you're finished, click Add to project.
- Click once on a thumbnail to add the frame to all the photos on the active page.

Alphabet Stickers

- If you want to use stickers for the alphabet, select the Embellishment tab and click on Get more stickers.
- Click on Styles and select ABCs.
- Click on any alphabet sticker to select it. There's no need to add the Shift key. It'll tell you at the top how many are selected.
- When you're ready, click Add to project.
- Make sure the correct page is active.
- Click once on a sticker to add it to the selected page.
- Resize as needed.
- Click on Add text box.
- Double click on the text box to enter the sentence you want. I wrote "is for aardvark" using 36 points and black type.
- Repeat with the other letters.

This would be a good book for an older child. You might want to feature only one letter on the left with one photo on the left and more photos on the right—all starting with the same letter. It would take more work, but might be a lot of fun, especially if you get the child to help you hunt down the letters.

Up to this point, I've been showing you an alphabet book, but the same skills can be used for any kind of children's picture book.

Lesson 10-07: Shutterfly Online Editor Part 4

In this lesson we'll look at one more picture book spread and learn a few more tricks.

Add a Background

- If you want a colored background, click on the Backgrounds tab. The DigiScrap book style has only one color of background—white—so click on Get more backgrounds.
- If you have a particular color in mind, click on the + sign next to Colors.
- Click to put a check mark next to the color you want. I chose Pink.
- Hover over a thumbnail to see a Preview.
- Click on a thumbnail to select it.
- Uncheck the color you chose and check a different color. I chose blue, and picked a nice teal color.
- When you're done, click Add to Project.
- Click on a template page to activate it.
- Click on the thumbnail of the background you want to add.
- Select the other page and add a background in the same way.

Add a White Frame

A white frame would look great on a photo that's over a brightly colored background.

- Click on the photo to select it.
- Click on the Embellishments tab and make sure Frame is active.
- Click on White Heavy Line to add a white stroke outline to your photo.

Type On Colored Backgrounds

- If the background makes it difficult to read the type, you can change the type to white.
- Double click on the type and choose white for the color. Click Done to apply the change.
- Another option, however, is to leave the type black and put white behind the type.
- I created a 12 x 12 inch JPEG image of a white document, which is in the same download as the manual for this series of lessons. If you upload white.jpg as one of your photos, you can use it for a variety of purposes. One is to create a white background.
- Click and drag white.jpg onto the page and position it over the type.
- In the Menu Bar choose Layer > Send Backward.
- Adjust the white image size as necessary
- Click outside the bounding box to commit the change. It makes a nice white background for type.

Lesson 10-08: Shutterfly Online Editor Part 5

Usually the cover is the last thing I do for a book. Covers can be designed in many different ways, just as the inner pages can, but I would advise you to keep it simple.

- Click on the cover thumbnail in the Thumbnail Strip to select the cover spread. The spine doesn't show up in the Customize Mode, so if that's the mode you're in, press Ctrl A (Mac: Cmd A) to exit.

Front Cover

- Click on the front cover on the right to make it the active page.
- Click on the Layouts tab to find a good layout for your cover. The layouts change depending on which part of the cover is selected. I chose one large tipped photo for my cover.
- Click and drag your photo into the frame. Double click on the photo to adjust it.
- Click on the Embellishments tab, choose Frames, and click on Gray Fine Line for the photo.

Title and Author

- Double click on the text box and type in your title. I called my book Anna's Alphabet. You'll be warned if your type is too large.
- When I clicked on the Color swatch, it remembered the colors I chose before, which is quite handy. I chose green for the title. Click Done.
- Add text to the second text box. I added the author name.

Back Cover

- Click on the left side to access the back cover.
- In the Layouts tab, choose a layout.
- Move a photo into the photo place holder and adjust it by double clicking on it.
- Add a medium gray outline.
- Double click on the type outline and add some type. I used the same green as the title for the color.

Spine

- Click on the spine to select it.
- Double click on the type outline and type the title and author.

Cover Background

- Click on the Backgrounds tab.
- Click on Get more backgrounds and select some possible cover background papers or colors.
- Click on any paper thumbnail to add it to the selected page. I chose a patterned yellow background for the front and back covers.
- When I added green paper to the spine, the color didn't seem to match. It looked a lot darker.
- If that happens to you, go to the Layouts tab and click on the white spine to see the true color of the paper.

Preview and Order

Once you're finished with all your pages and the cover, you're ready to click the Preview button. When you're completely satisfied, you're ready to order your book.

I hope you have lots of fun creating children's picture books, but even if you're making other kinds of books, the skills you've learned in the last few lessons will help you get just the look you want!

Lesson 10-09: Shutterfly Online Editor Part 6

Grandma's Garden Tips

I want to show you how to get the result in Shutterfly that others get when creating this page of Grandma's Garden in Photoshop or Photoshop Elements.

- Choose an 8 x 8 inch DigiScrap book template.
- Even though the DigiScrap layouts are for a single page, you can adjust the layouts to make a double spread.
- Click on the Layouts tab.
- I needed two photos for the spread, so I clicked on the number 2 at the top.
- Click on the closest template you can find for your page. The templates at the top are all double spreads, which is what I needed.
- The top option was very close to what I needed, so I'll clicked on that.
- In the menu at the top, choose Pages > Customize Page.
- Click on the large photo place holder to select it. Click and drag the right handle to the right edge of the spread.
- Add your photos to the photo placeholders and adjust them as needed.
- In my original design, the smaller image had a white border. To copy that effect:
- Click on the photo to select it.
- Click on Embellishments and choose Frame at the top.
- Click on the White Heavy Line frame to apply it to the photo.

The white outline looks great where it overlaps the other photo, but the part of the stroke that's over the background disappears into the white. Here's a workaround to keep the white border from fading into the background:

- Use the white 12 x 12 inch JPEG that came packaged with the manual for these lessons.
- Drag the white JPEG onto your page over a blank area of the background, not over a photo, or it will replace the photo.

- Click on the Embellishments tab and click on Frames at the top. Click on a light gray thin frame, which will apply it to the white JPEG and to the smaller photo.
- Click and drag the white photo over the smaller photo.
- In the Menu Bar choose Layer > Send Backward.
- Adjust the white photo to be just a bit bigger than the smaller photo, which will give the appearance of a white frame, but will add a small gray line around it that separates it from the background.
- Include some journaling, and you're done with the page!

Lesson 10-10: Shutterfly Online Editor Part 7

Senior Yearbook

In the Senior Yearbook example and templates, I used stroke outlines to give the book an elegant air. Sometimes I placed a stroke around each photo, and other times I placed a stroke around a group of photos. Let me show you how to do that using Shutterfly's book editor.

- Start with the "DigiScrap" template option in a 12 x 12 inch size.
- To get rid of the full bleed background on the left page, hover over the page until you see the X in the center, and click on it to delete the photo place holder.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Pages > Customize Page.
- Drag the first photo onto your page and resize it.
- When you drag the second photo onto your page, place it near the first one. A line will appear when the tops of both photos line up.
- Click and drag from a bottom corner handle to make the bottom of the second photo line up with the first one. Again, a line will appear when you're in the right place.
- You can click and drag from a side handle to match the size of the first photo. It won't distort your image.
- Continue to add photos and line them up as desired.
- When you have a row of photos, you can adjust them to be equal in size and distance.
- Click on the first photo and Shift click on additional photos to select them all.
- In the Menu Bar choose Match > and choose whichever parameter you want to match. I chose Match tallest width.
- I selected the photos again and chose Match widest height.
- I selected the photos again and chose Space > Even out horizontal spacing.

Add A Stroke Outline

- To add a stroke outline around the grid of photos, use the white 12 x 12 inch JPEG that came packaged with the manual.
- Drag the white image onto your page over a blank area of the background, not over a photo, or it will replace the photo.
- Resize the white paper so it's larger than the grid of photos.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Send to Back to place it behind all the photos.
- Resize the white photo so it's a little larger than the group of photos, evenly spaced all the way around.
- To add a stroke outline, click on the Embellishments tab, choose Frames at the top, and choose a light gray fine line for a frame. It won't be one of your default frames, so you may need to click on Get more frames if you haven't already added this frame.
- Click off the outline to remove the bounding box.
- This adds a stroke outline to all the photos as well as the white image. If you don't want a stroke outline around the photos, click and drag the "None" frame thumbnail onto each photo.

Title

- Click on “Add text box” in the Menu Bar.
- Resize the text box to the size you want your title to be.
- Double click on the text box to get the text editor and type your title. I typed Senior Portraits.
- Choose the attributes you want: I chose Copperplate for the font at a size of 48. I chose a light gray color called Silver Lining, used middle alignment, and clicked Done.

So that's how to use the white paper to create an elegant outline around photos.