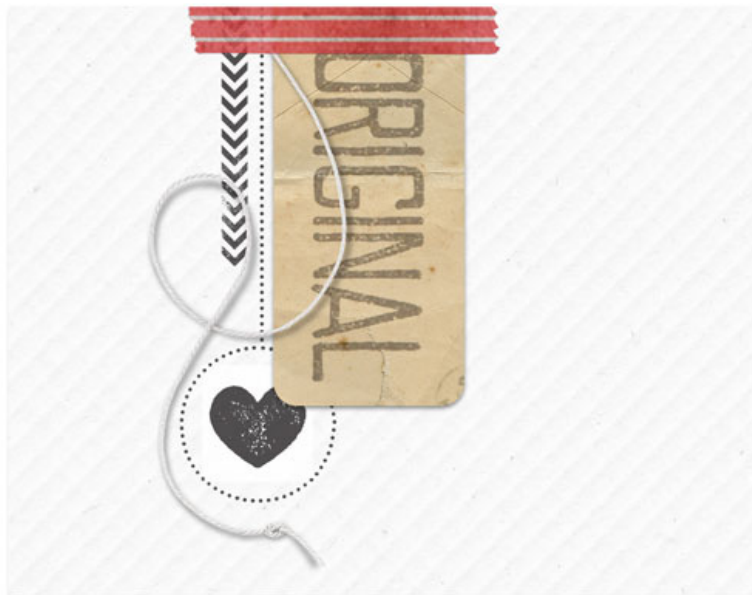




Class by Jen White

Cluster Queen

Lesson 06 Part 2: Top Edge Mini Cluster



Drop Shadows

No - stamps, washi tape

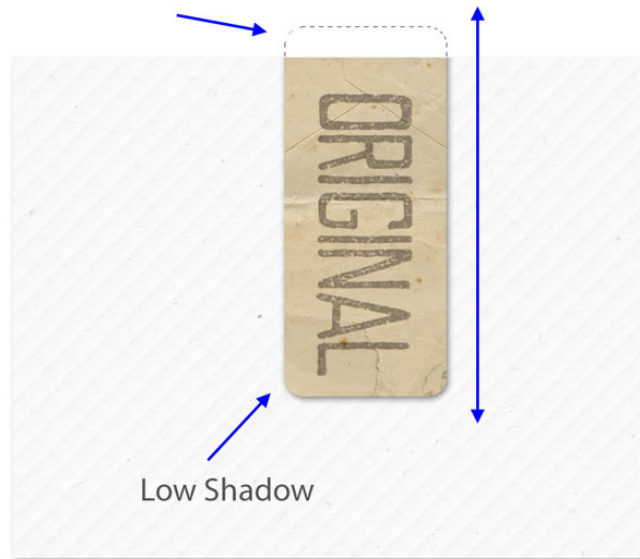
Low - tag

Custom - string

Here is one possible example of a top edge mini cluster using the five elements provided. The paper is only included to help the cluster stand out.

Evaluate My Cluster—Here's What I Did

Remember, it's okay if your process of cluster creation is different than mine.



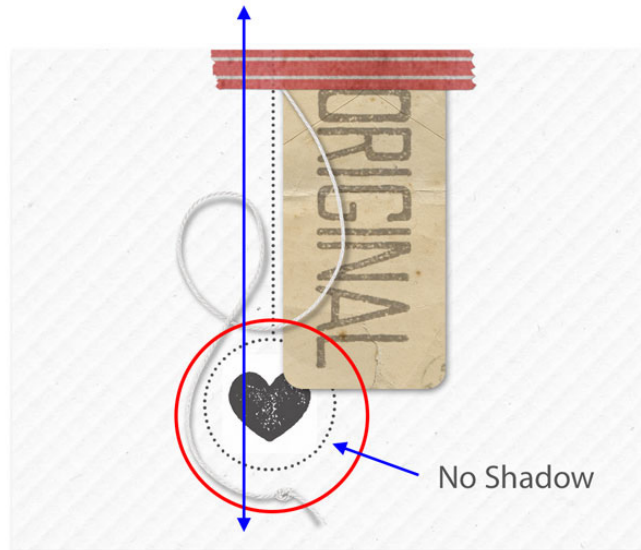
- I chose the tag element to be my focal element.
- After adding the tag to the top edge of my document, I decided to rotate it 90° to give my cluster length.
- I positioned the tag partly off the document, but I made sure I could still read what the tag says.
- Since the tag is a flat paper element, I gave it a low drop shadow.



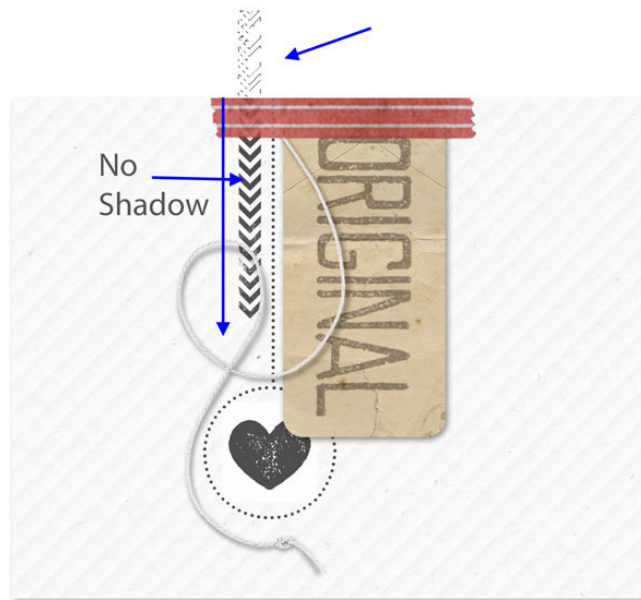
- Next, I added the Washi tape to the document.
- I positioned it so that it gives the appearance of taping down the tag.
- I made sure not to cover up too much of the word on the tag.
- I added an extremely low drop shadow.

- Only about 1/3 of the tape is showing on the document.

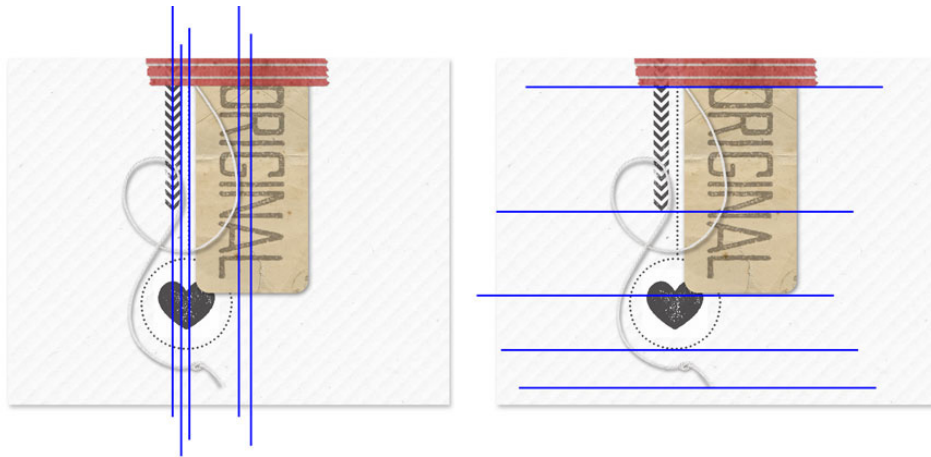
- Page 3 Cluster Queen © 2018 Jen White, all rights reserved.



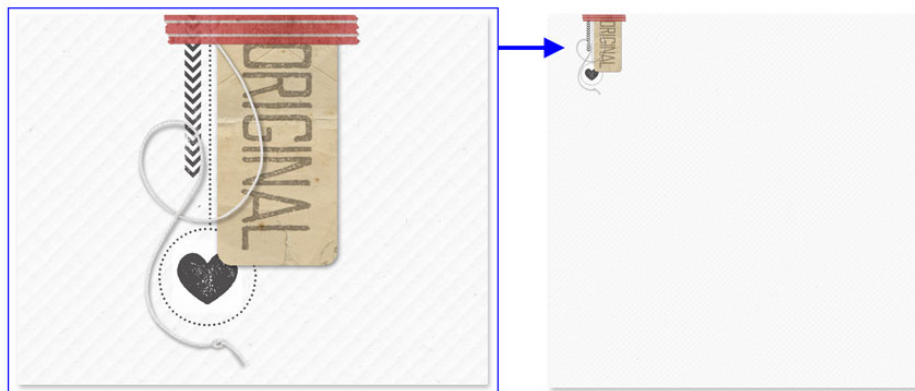
- Next, I added the heart target to my document.
- This element does not get a shadow because it's a stamp.
- Since it's behind the tag, it also appears to be going under the Washi tape.
- The target is hanging vertically to mimic the tag and the string.
- The position of the target is in very close proximity to the tag, but it's being slightly overlapped.
- Even though the target is partially hidden, you can still tell what it is.
- Notice that the round section of the target is nuzzled inside the curve of the string.



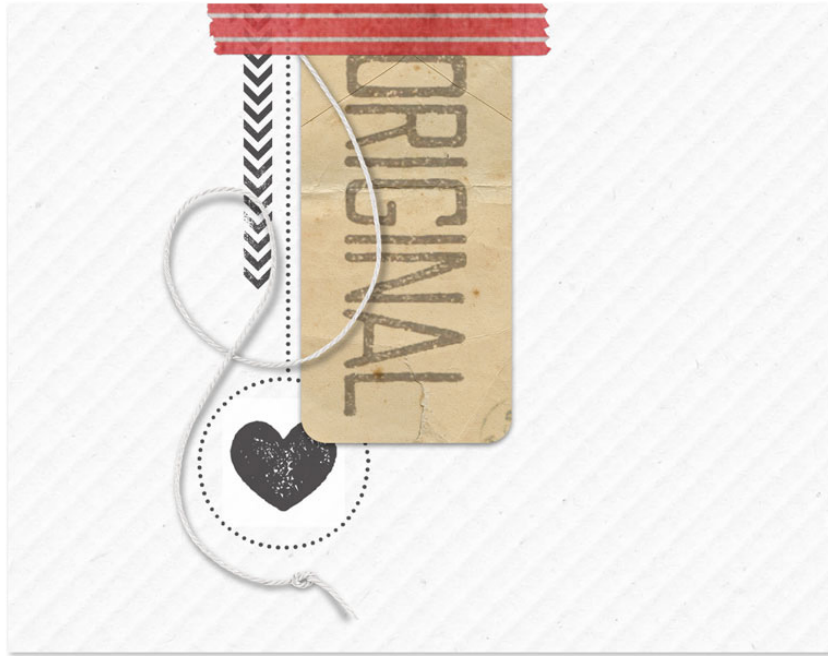
- Finally, I added the chevron stamp coming out from the Washi tape.
- This element does not get a shadow.
- The chevrons are positioned partly off the document and they are in close proximity to the target.
- I rotated the chevrons to point down. This not only helps the linear design of the cluster, but it also gives the cluster a feeling of downward movement.



- Clusters need to contain variety.
- See the variety of vertical centers on the left and the variety of vertical lengths on the right.
- The totally length of the cluster does not matter. What matters is that there's variety of length.



Here is my top edge mini cluster in comparison to my 12x12 page. It is very small. These clusters are not meant to be big and bossy.



Step Two: Copy My Cluster Exactly

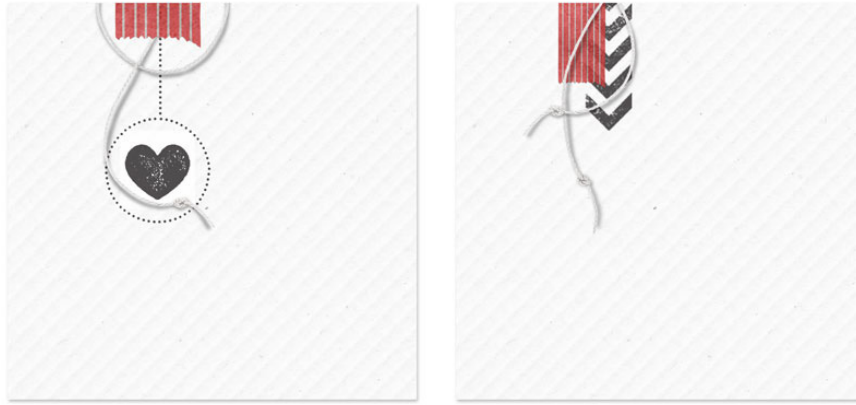
- Take the time to create an exact copy of the top edge mini cluster above. Use the elements I provided.
- Pay special attention to the order and position of each layer and element.
- Follow the advice of drop shadow depth for each of the five elements.

More Inspiration

Did you happen to try the Additional Challenges above? I had a little bit of time to play. For some extra practice, try copying these designs as well.



Here are two examples similar to the first one I created. The cluster on the left is much shorter than the one on the right.



And, here are two examples of a more minimal design using only three of the elements provided.

What's Your Preference?

Which of my additional clusters do you like best? Your answer might help you narrow down what your style preference is when it comes to clusters.



ATTENTION: Please do not post your results of Step Two on the class Facebook Group. Doing so may sideline the creative process for your fellow classmates.

If you're mega excited to share your result of Step Two, I'd love to see it. You can email it to me or send it via the Help Desk.

CAUTION: Don't rush to Step Three until you've successfully completed Step Two.