Class by Jen White

Cluster Queen

Lesson 05 Part 3: Word Strip Cluster

Here is another word strip cluster I created for this lesson. This cluster is very similar to the first one I made, but I used a different set of elements.

Step Three: Scraplift

What does it mean to scraplift? In this class, "scraplift" means to copy another person's design using elements from your own stash.

- Choose five elements from your stash that are similar to the ones provided in this lesson. For help choosing your own elements, re-read Why These Five Elements from Step One.
- Using your five chosen elements, create a word strip cluster similar to mine in Step Three.

TIP: It doesn't take much to make a beautiful word strip cluster. Less is definitely more in this case. You may feel like you are creating something way too simple, but resist the urge to overdo it. It's what the cluster says that's important and wherever you place it on your project, it will make a huge impact.

Word Strip Creation Tips

Some designers will give you blank word strips to add your own sentiments to. But, before you do, here are a few tips.

- The word or words should fill the strip leaving just a small amount of room on each end. If you have extra room, use the Rectangular Marquee tool and delete the excess.
- To increase the length of a word or phrase, increase the Tracking (PS Only).
- Use single words or word phrases, not complete sentences.
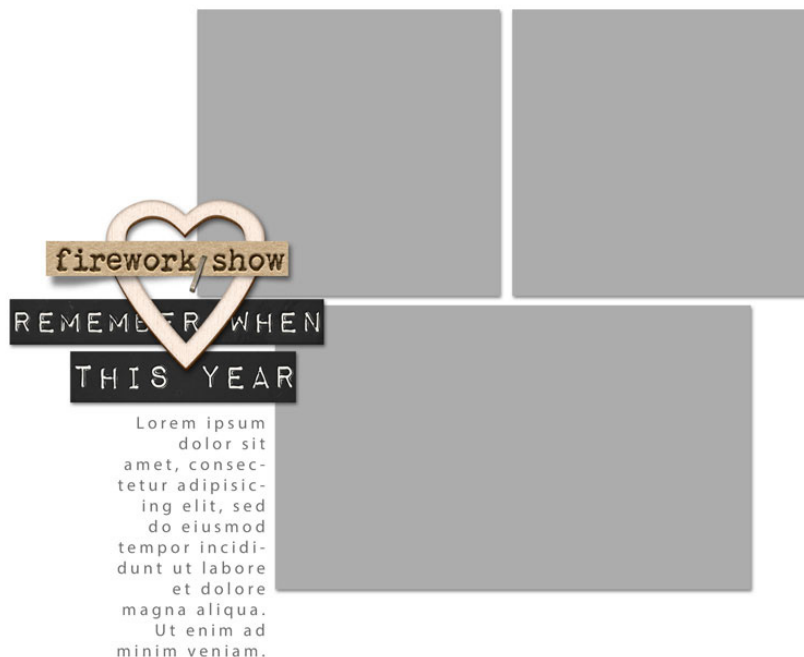
Never Do This:

- Do not stretch type.
- Do not add a bevel style to a word strip or type.
- If using all capital letters, do not use a script font.
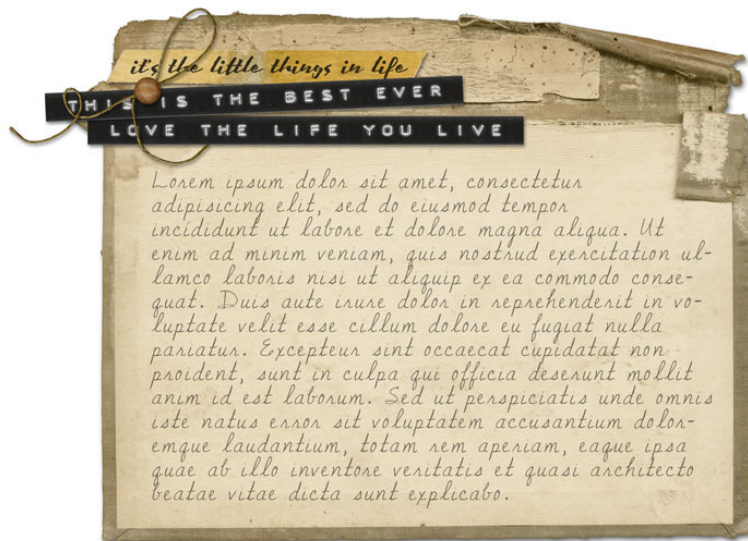
Check Up

- Is your cluster primarily comprised of word strips? Word strip clusters are the theme of lesson five.
- Does your cluster contain a variety of textures?
- Did you stick to a coordinating color theme? Try using elements from the same kit or use my FREE Color Change tutorial (from Lesson 1) to make them match.
- If you angled a word strip, it is angled 5° or less?
- Did you apply your cluster's drop shadows appropriately? Use my Drop Shadows chart in Step Two as a guide. If you used my action set, do you see a stoplight?
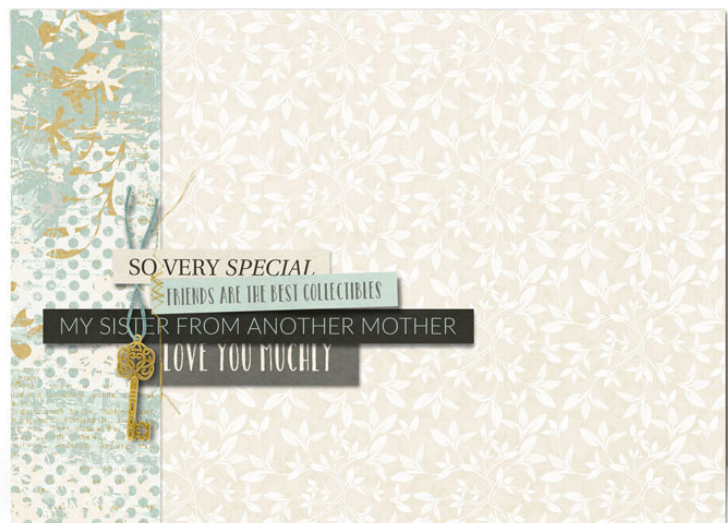
Cluster Destinations

You will certainly want to DO something with the beautiful clusters you create. Word strip clusters have many uses. Consider some of these ideas to create a finished project.

Word strip clusters make the perfect companion to a group of photos. But when doing this, keep in mind that word strip clusters should be relatively small in comparison to the photos. Word strips will look very awkward if they are too big.

Word strip clusters also make a great companion to a journaling card. You can use the strips to highlight thoughts and feelings from the journaling paragraphs.

Using a cluster of word strips on a greeting card can help you say just the right things to make a friend feel extra special. The variety of these word strips is one of the things that makes the cluster amazing.

How will you use your word strip clusters? I'd love to see what you create. If you post in a gallery on the web, send me a link so I can leave a comment.

I'll see you at lesson six.

Jen White, Instructor for Cluster Queen

Credits

Clusters: Jen White
Elements: KimB Designs, Karla Dudley, Anna Aspnes Designs, Krystal Hartley, Studio Basic, Etc By Danyale, Angie Briggs
Fonts: Myriad Pro, DJB MOM SAYS