

Design Beautiful Pages— Designing in Thirds

Test Your Skills Challenge 2

What Makes A Designing In Thirds Page?

by Linda Sattgast

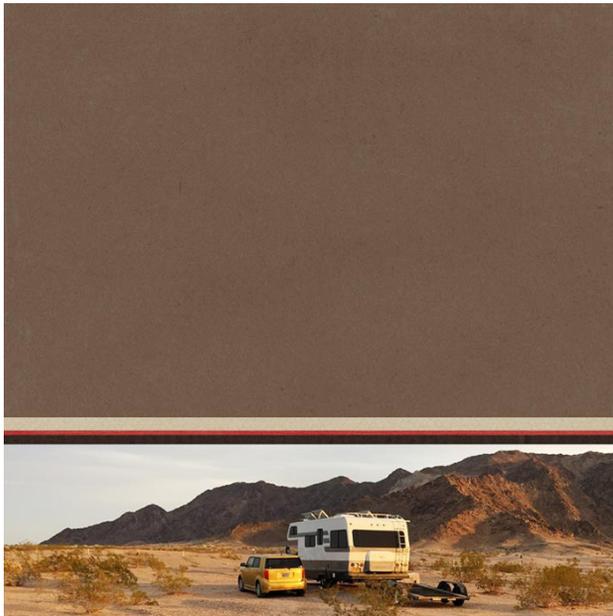
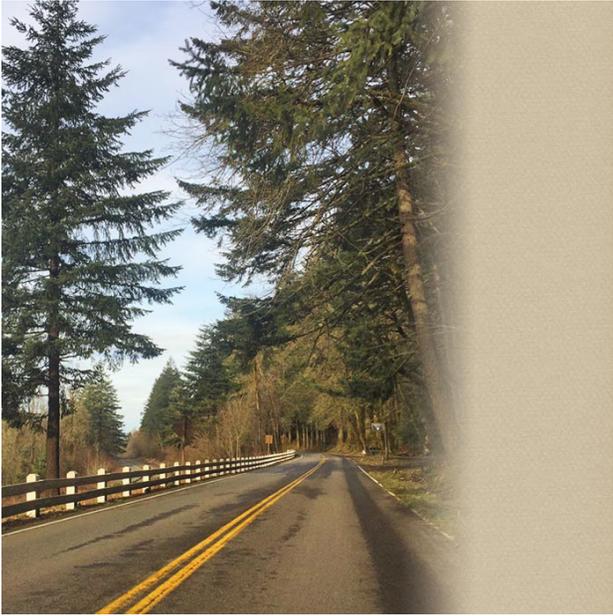
Designing in thirds pages are a versatile group, but what binds them together as a design is the one-third/two-thirds background. So, to identify a Designing In Thirds page, look at the background.

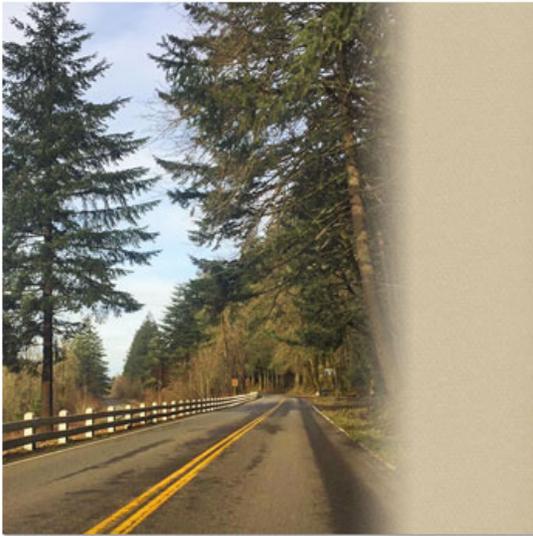
Here are the four background possibilities to look for:

- Two-thirds photo and one-third paper (classic)
- Two-thirds paper and one-third photo (used less often, but can be striking!)
- Two-thirds paper1 and one-third paper2 (often combines plain with patterned paper)
- Two-thirds photo1 and one-third photo2 (rare—hard to pull off well.)

Challenge!

Look at each of the following page backgrounds and decide if it's a Designing In Thirds page.





Designing in Thirds? Yes. This background contains 1/3 paper and 2/3 photo.



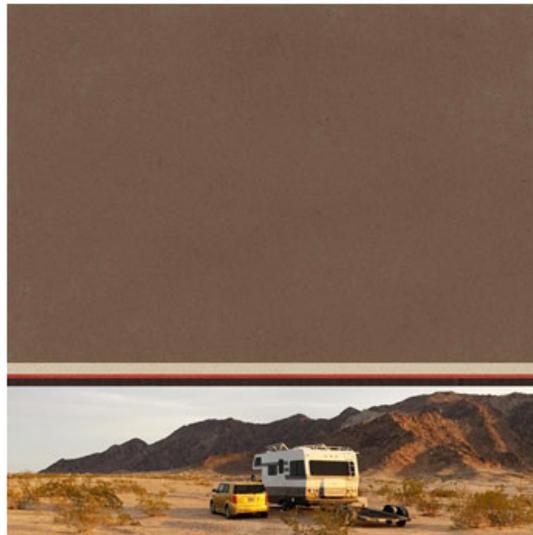
Designing in Thirds? No. The photo is large but it doesn't reach all the way to the sides. Technically this is an "Overlapping Photos" page.



Designing in Thirds? Yes. One-third is a photo and two-thirds is another photo. This is not an easy option so don't try it until you feel more confident!



Designing in Thirds? Yes. Two-thirds is a photo and one-third is a paper. This is an unusual split, one of the more subtle nuances of designing in thirds.



Designing in Thirds? Yes. This is the "classic" Designing in Thirds page flipped with the photo as the one-third and the paper as the two-thirds.



Designing in Thirds? Yes. This uses only paper for the one-third/two-third sections, but the two-thirds section has migrated to the middle, which is OK.

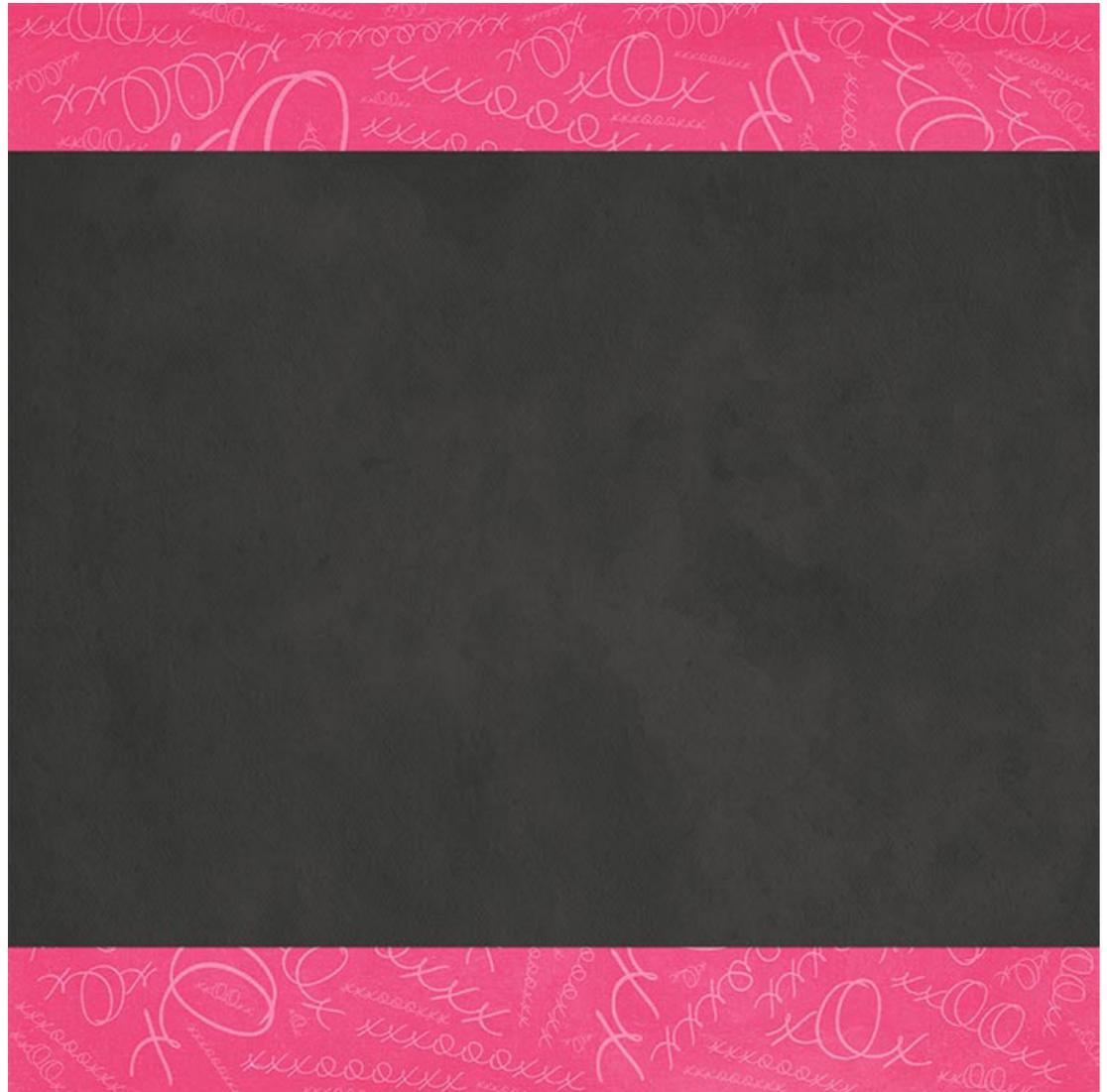
Digging Deeper

Let's take a closer look at the last example. Here's how the template started—a one-third/two-thirds page with both sections filled with paper.



I decided to move the larger section to the middle. Is that OK? Yes! It's still two-thirds of the page, just in a different location. Since the two sections aren't "classically" orientated, it may be a little harder to recognize the Designing In Thirds background.

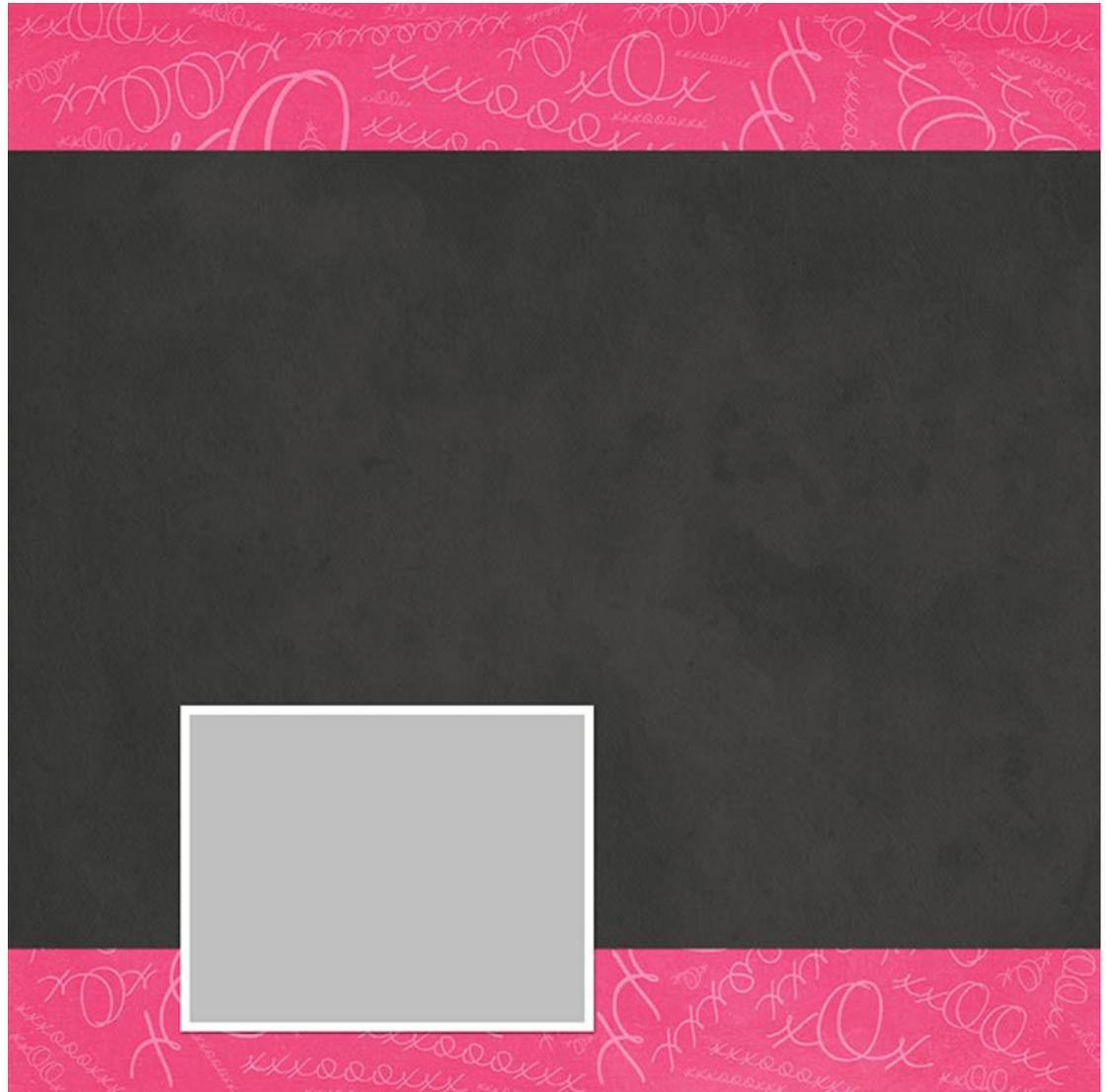
Remember, if you don't feel comfortable with the more subtle Designing In Thirds backgrounds, stick with the tried and true easy-to-recognize backgrounds!



Yes or No?

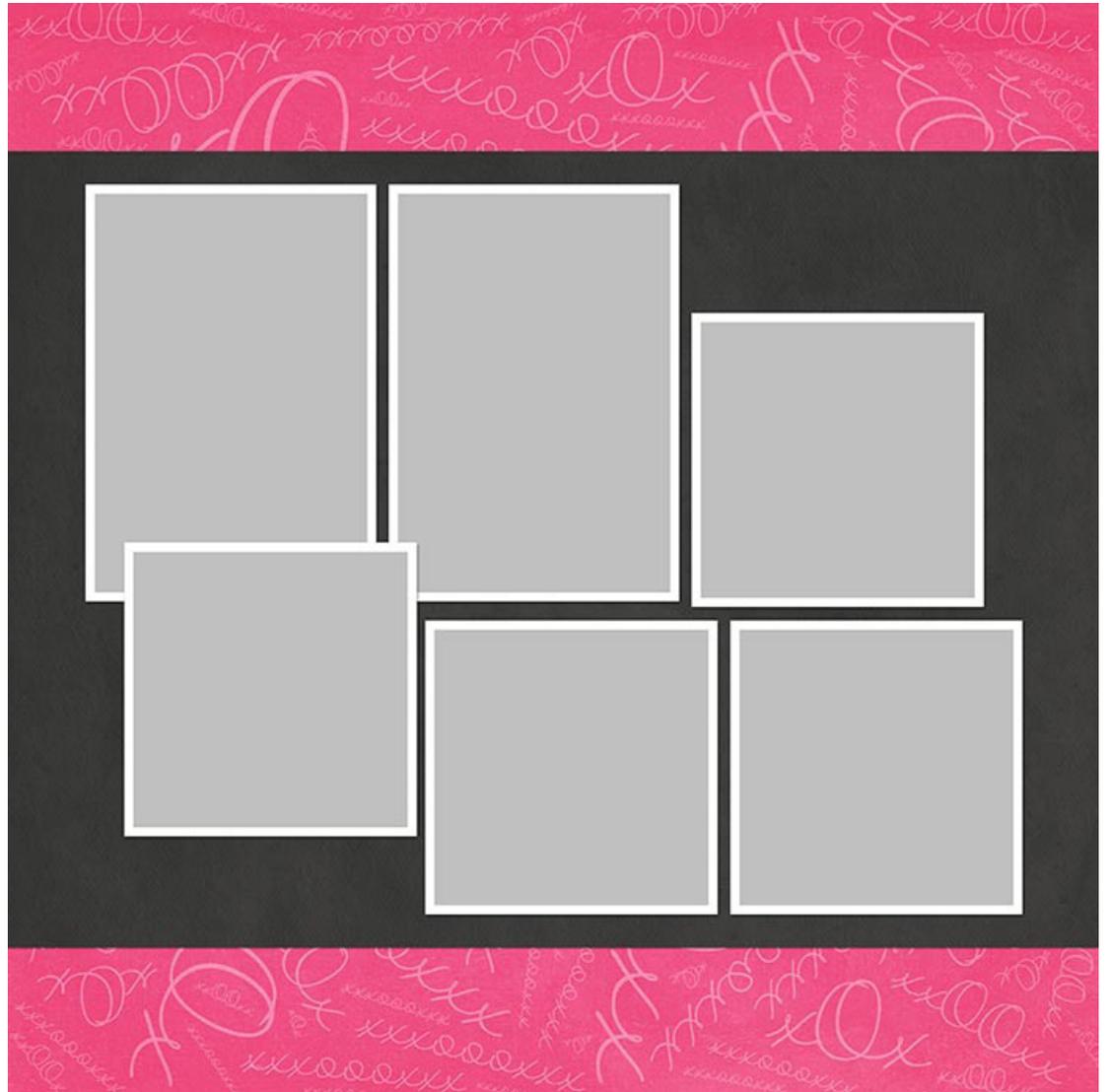
If I add a photo to this page, does that change the page design?

No. It's still a Designing In Thirds page design.



If, instead of one photo, I add a lot of photos, does that change the page design?

No. It's still a Designing In Thirds page design. BUT you've combined it with a different style of photo design. That's perfectly fine. If you like to scrap with lots of photos, you can combine another photo arrangement with a Designing In Thirds background.



What happens to the Designing in Thirds design when I add elements?

Nothing. Photos and elements do not affect a Designing In Thirds background. Naturally you'll want to place photos and elements effectively on your page, using good design principles. (Be sure to watch the Finishing Touches video for each design to get great ideas for good element placement!)



Does it matter if I add a mask behind the two-thirds paper?



Nope. Not a bit.



Here's my finished page. It's a Designing In Thirds page (because of the background) combined with another style of photo arrangement.

It's not "classic Designing In Thirds," but it does fit within the Designing In Thirds guidelines.

Now it's time for YOU to give it a try! Choose a style and go for it!

Credits

Photos by Linda Sattgast
Kit from XOX by Brandy Murry
Mask from Design Beautiful Pages

