

BMC-S2-L1-el-Background-transcript



A Beautiful Mess Simplicity Challenge
Section 2, Lesson 1 - Building a Breathable Background
Transcript for Photoshop Elements

Build a breathable background using a scrubby shortcut and a solid textured paper. For this lesson, you will need a solid textured background paper, either in white or cream. I'll be using texture 58 from the watercolor paper package from the Design Cuts mini bundle that I mentioned previously in this class. Suitable substitutes would be papers like this, which are solid white or cream, and have a little bit of texture added. These papers are all by Susie Roberts.

So, you may be wondering -- why solid white? Looking back on the three key concepts for this class -- simplicity, design and speed -- a white paper fits into all three concepts. White paper is simple. It doesn't get any simpler than a solid foundation of white. White paper is design proof. Everything goes with it and there are no roadblocking patterns. Start adding color or patterns, and your design options will get much, much smaller. And, white paper is fast. You don't really even have to look for the right shade or the right texture. You can't go wrong with starting any project with white. In fact, what do you think about starting with just the white background of your document and not adding any paper or texture at all? I'll tell you, it can be done. I see pages on a regular basis with no background paper at all and they are absolutely beautiful. I'm not saying every page you create should have a white background, but for this challenge, give it a try and see what you think.

Begin in Expert Mode of Photoshop Elements with a new document that is 300 pixels per inch and has a white background. What size should your document be? Just choose a size that would be the most useful to you. In this case, the size does not matter. Want to scrap 12 X 12? Awesome. That's what I'm going to do. Want to scrap 10 X 10 or 8 X 8? I say, go for it. How about scrapping portrait or landscape. Let's do it. Just pick your size and then open a white or cream colored textured background paper. I already have one open, and as I mentioned earlier, this is texture 58 from the watercolor paper package in the Design Cuts mini bundle.

Get the Move tool, and then holding down the Shift key, click and drag the paper onto the new document. Let go of the mouse and then let go of the Shift key. Depending on your program's preferences, your paper may be smaller than the document or larger than the document, but we'll account for that right here. Press Ctrl T, Cmd T on a Mac, to get the Transform Options. And I want to stop for just a second and ask, do you know about scrubbing? On most icons in Photoshop Elements that contain High and Low settings, like Size and Opacity, instead of having to fiddle with the settings or enter an amount, one shortcut is to click down on the icon, then you should see a pointer with a double headed horizontal arrow. With the mouse held down, drag left or right to change the settings. When you let go of the mouse, it's done. No arrow to click, no key to press. So with that in mind, in the Tool Options, click and scrub on either the W or the H to adjust the size of the paper until it's slightly larger than the boundaries of your document.

And now that that's done, let's talk about your zoom percentage. If you know your perfect zoom percentage, enter it now. Mine is 73%. Yours will likely be different. If you don't know your Perfect Print Proportions Zoom Percentage, you'll find a link to this important and free tutorial above the video in this classroom. Once your percentage is in place, how the texture looks on your screen right now is how it's going to look when your page is printed. Because we've already fit the papers bounding box to your document. We can't make the texture any smaller, but know that you can make it bigger if you want. And you'll do that by scrubbing to the right on either the W or the H. I'll leave mine right there and click the checkmark to commit.

So that's how you build a breathable background using a scrubby shortcut and a solid textured paper. In lesson two of this section, we'll take a look at mixing masks. I'll see you there. This has been Jen White with Digital Scrapper.