BMC-S2-L5-2-el-Finishing-Elements-transcript

A Beautiful Mess Simplicity Challenge
Section 2, Lesson 5, Part 2 - Finishing Simple - Elements, Title & Journaling
Transcript for Photoshop Elements

Finishing simple is much more simple when you have a plan. Here in part two of lesson five we'll finish the elements, title, and journaling. Let's start with the elements.

For this lesson you'll need two thin paper frames, one plain white flower, one staple and one threaded tag. I'll be using frames 3 and 4 from the framed masks package from the Design Cuts mini bundle mentioned previously in this class. I'll also be using the flower, staple and tag combo from the Small Downloads section of this class. By putting these things together in close proximity to one another, they make a perfect combo for a simple scrapbook page. You may be tempted to place more elements on your page, but I've found that 4 elements is almost always the perfect number for me. That's why the Simplicity Challenge calls for four elements. And just for those of you that are counting, I'm counting the frame duo as one thing and the threaded tag is one thing. So let's take a look at these elements on my scrapbook page.

I'm beginning here in Expert Mode of Photoshop Elements with the document that I ended with in lesson five, part one. And I've already added the previously shown cluster to my scrapbook page over top the main photo. When you have a succession of photos like this, typically you have one photo that stands out or is more important than the rest. This is the photo that you should put your frame cluster over top of. And I'll stop for just a second and mention that when you place your shadowed elements on the scrapbook page, they all need to be at the top of the Layers panel above any non shadowed layers.

Next, let's take a look at the shadows of the elements. The frames that I added were already shadowed with custom shadows, but I need to add shadows to the rest of the elements. For the flower, take a look at where it is on the page. It's overtop a part of the frame that looks lifted way off the page. For that reason, I need a pretty high shadow on that flower. To do that, in the Layers panel, click on the white flower layer to activate it. Then in the Menu Bar

choose, Layer > Layer Style > Style Settings. In the dialog box, set the Lighting Angle to 120°, click Drop Shadow. Set the Size to 30, the Distance to 20, and the Opacity to 50, and then click OK. Now my flower looks like it belongs with the shadowed frame. Above that I have the tag. To shadow that, I'll use another Layers panel shortcut. In the Layers panel, hold down the Alt key, that's the Opt key on a Mac, and click and drag a copy of the flower's layer style up to the tag layer. This shadow is way too deep for the string, so we need to lower the settings. To do that, double click on the Effects icon of the tag layer to open the Style Settings dialog box. Set the Size to 13, the Distance to 8, and then click OK. The staple, since it's traveling over the thick string, can support the same drop shadow as the string. So in the Layers panel, hold down the Alt key, that's the Opt key on a Mac, and click and drag a copy of the tags layer style up to the staple layer.

Now that the elements are in place, I'll reposition the title closer to the frame cluster to lessen any trapped space and provide better proximity. In the Layers panel, click on the top title type layer to activate it. Then holding down the Shift key, click on the bottom title type layer. Now both title layers should be active. Get the Move Tool, then press your Left or Right keyboard Arrow key until the title is being overlapped by the frames.

Next we'll look at the color of the title. Right now my title is a low opacity of black. Since I have browns of my layout, I want to change the title to a low Opacity of dark brown to make it match better. Here's how to do that. With the title layers still active, get the Horizontal Type tool. In the Tool Options, click on the Color Chip, then click on the Color Wheel in the lower right corner to open the Color Picker. Sample a dark color from your scrapbook page, and then click OK to close the Color Picker. Then, I'll close the Tool Options. Here it was before and here it is now.

And here we are. We've saved the best for last. It's time to replace the journaling with something more meaningful. Here are a few options. Option number one would be the very best option. Use your own journaling. Every child and adult I've ever met loves to read journaling on a scrapbook page. In fact, the journaling is often more revered than the photos on the page. There's just something special about the written word. When you have a scrapbook page like this that has a large amount of journaling space to use up. Plan to dig deep within yourself for all the big and small details of the event that you're scrapping. When talking about my weekend spent with my niece Nettie, I made sure to list all of the things that she would have thought were special, not just the things that I thought were special.

To replace the journaling on your scrapbook page, in the Layers panel, double click on the thumbnail of the journaling layer to highlight the entire text box, including the type that's hidden outside the text box. Then you can either just start typing or you can paste in text copied from another source. When you're finished, click the checkmark to commit. If you need additional space for your type, or you need to fill in more space, you can make the space between the lines smaller or larger by adjusting the Leading of the type.

Besides filling the journaling with your own words, a couple of other options would be: use quotes from the subject, like words of wisdom from your grandmother, odd phrases that your dad is known for saying, or some of the funny things that just recently came out of the mouth of your favorite four year old. We all know how funny that can be. Another great option would

be to paste in text from the internet including: a long poem, a paragraph from a favorite classic novel, or even words from a favorite song or movie.

So that's how to finish a simple yet satisfying scrapbook page for our A Beautiful Mess Simplicity Challenge. I'll be placing other great examples of this challenge in the next section of this class for you to use as inspiration. Make sure to check back often as I'll be adding to it as time allows. This has been Jen White for Digital Scrapper.