# BMC-S2-L5-1-el-Finishing-Photos-transcript



A Beautiful Mess Simplicity Challenge
Section 2, Lesson 5, Part 1 - Finishing Simple - Photos & Masks
Transcript for Photoshop Elements

Finishing simple is much more simple when you have a plan. Here in part one of lesson five, we'll finish the photos and the masks on your Simplicity Challenge scrapbook page. Let's get started with the photos.

For this lesson, you will need three closeup photos from the same event or subject. These are the photos that I'm using. What makes these images work well for my page is that they can easily be zoomed in for a closeup. When you're working with small masks like the ones on your scrapbook page, closeup photos will work best. Also, all the three photos that I'm working with would work well as square or circular photos. Photos with lots of far away details or photos of big groups that require a long rectangles will not work well for this page. Also for this page, I'd recommend using colored photos instead of black and white. In a minute I'll show you how we'll make the color work for us on our page instead of against us.

Begin in Expert Mode of Photoshop Elements by opening the scrapbook page that you ended with in lesson four. Then press the letter D to reset the Color Chips to the default of black over white. I already have my chosen photos clipped to the painted masks, so you'll want to spend a second doing that now. If you need help clipping photos to clipping masks, you'll find a link to a clipping video in the manual that comes with this lesson.

Most any photo that you get right out of your camera is going to need to be lightened, and oftentimes it helps if it's a little bit soft. So let's do that to our photos now. But before we get started, here's a Layers panel shortcut to remember when needing duplicates of clipped layers. In the Layers panel, hold down the Alt key in Windows, or the Opt key on a Mac, and click and drag a duplicate of one of the photos directly below it. Now you should have two photo layers, exactly the same, clipped to the painted mask. Click on the top original photo layer to activate it. Then in the Menu Bar choose Filter > Adjustments > Gradient Map. In the dialog box, open the Gradient Picker and choose the Foreground to Background gradient

from the Default gradients. To see the names of the gradients, open the flyout menu and choose Large List, then click OK. Your photo should now be black and white. So now in the Layers panel, set the Blend Mode of that photo to Screen. Here it was before and here it is now. If the effect is too light, lower the Opacity of the screen layer. And if the effect is not light enough, hold down the Alt or Opt key and click and drag down a duplicate of the screen layer. Next you'll want to repeat that process with the other two photos that are clipped to the other two painted clipping masks.

And now that the photos are all set, we're going to use them to color the messy masks. In the Layers panel, click on one of the messy masks to activate it. Then in the Layers panel, click on the Add New Fill or Adjustment Layer icon and choose Solid Color. Click OK to close the Color Picker. The page should now be black. In the Menu Bar choose, Layer > Create Clipping Mask. In the Layers panel, double click on the thumbnail of the Color Fill layer to open the Color Picker again, and then on the document, click to sample a color from your images. I'll sample a pink from her lips. As a side note, I could have chosen a green color from the photo, but when choosing colors, you want to choose colors that compliment the subject, not what's behind the subject. And finally, click OK to close the Color Picker. You'll want to repeat those steps for the second messy mask by adding a clipped color fill layer and then sampling a different color from your photos. For this mask, I chose a brown color.

So that's how you finish off the photos and masks fast and simple. In part two of this lesson, we'll finish the elements, title, and journaling. I'll see you there. This has been Jen White with Digital Scrapper.