



Class by Jen White

Cluster Queen

Lesson 03 Part 3: Circular Cluster



Here is another circular cluster I created for this lesson. This cluster is very similar to the first one I made, but I used similar elements from a different kit.

Step Three: Scraplift

- Choose five elements from your stash that are similar to the ones provided in this lesson—two or three circular elements and two or three coordinating elements to add color, texture, and variety. For help choosing your own elements, re-read Why These Five Elements from Step One.
- Using your five chosen elements, create a circular cluster similar to my solution in Step Two.

What does it mean to scraplift? In this class, “scraplift” means to copy another persons design using elements from your own stash.

Short On Circular?

If you are feeling a little short on circular elements in your stash, consider this:

- You can turn some of your long, skinny elements (like ribbons or string) into circular elements with a filter. See my free tutorial below.
- You can make a circular element with small things like leaves, custom shapes, branches, berries, text on a path, stitches, paint, brushes, scatters, etc. It's kind of like making a wreath.



Free PDF Tutorial

Never pass up the opportunity to extend the usefulness of your stash. Many of your straight elements can double duty as circular elements with this quick filter trick.

Read how to do it: [Straight To Circular PDF Manual](#)

Check Up

- Is your cluster in the form of an empty circle (like a donut)? Circular clusters are the theme of lesson one.
- 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?
- 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.
- Which method did you use to create your cluster? Top Down, Bottoms Up, or Shape Starter? If one doesn't seem to work, try a different one.

Cluster Destinations

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



When placing a circular cluster in a photo grouping, it will look best if the cluster is nuzzled in among the photo and overlapping. But, be careful. The stamped coffee stain, because it does not contain a shadow, should not be on top of any other shadowed layers, including photos. In this case, I dragged the coffee stain layer below the photo layers.



Circular clusters are good for embellishing empty block of paper on a scrapbook page. On this page I made the cluster look like it was hanging at the top of the square. This not only looks nice, but it takes up a large amount of space without looking like it's hogging it.

I'll see you at lesson two.



Because the circular cluster is round, it makes a great addition or replacement for the O in a short word.

How will you use your circular 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 three.

Credits

Clusters: Jen White

Elements: Kristin Aagard, Julie Billingsley, NewLife Dreams Design, Susan Bartolini, Valentina's Creations

Fonts: Amastery Script, DJB BEANPOLE