Design Beautiful Pages—
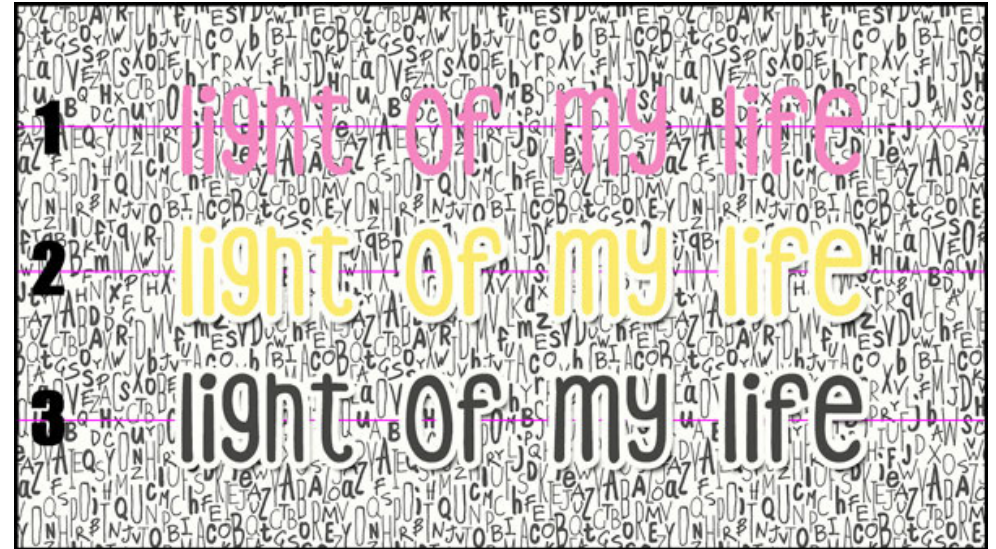# Double Page Design

Title Readability

by Jen White

Title readability on a scrapbook page is a very big deal. You want your title to match the content of your page, but you need to make sure it's clearly visible.

Take the test

Sometimes you need to put a title on a busy background paper.

Question

Which of the above titles is most readable? Can you support your answers? Jot them down.

Answer

Although it's not the most fun of the three titles, #3 is the most readable.

#1 is fun and pretty, but it's just too hard to read against the busy background.

#2 is fun and pretty, but the yellow is not enough of a contrast to the white stroke.

#3 is not as fun, but I have no trouble reading it against the busy background.

Sometimes you want to space out the letters (tracking) of your title so it covers more ground.

Question

Which of the titles above is most readable? Can you support your answers? Jot them down.

1 beautiful

2 beautiful

3 beautiful

Answer

Although the word "beautiful" looks best in script, #1 is the most readable.

#1 is still a pretty font and the decorative letters adapt well to being spaced out.

#2 is a pretty font, but the letters of a script font are not meant to be spaced out.

#3 same reason as #2.

bad ==> beautiful

good ==> beautiful

Sometimes you want to be able to use a new sloppy script font for a title.

Question

Which of the titles above is most readable? Can you support your answers? Jot them down.

Answer

Even though it's not the most fun, #2 is the most readable.

#1 is a nice match to the background paper, but the color of the title does not contrast with the paper enough.

#2 is not in a fun color, but it is the easiest to read. Add color with elements instead.

#3 is bright and fun… but, it's hurting my eyes! Don't blind your readers.

Wrap Up

- When putting a title on a busy background paper, put the title on a tag or add a stroke outline to make it a sticker.

- Never space out script fonts. If you need to space out the letters in a title, use a decorative print font instead.

- Make sure your title has good contrast to the background paper it's sitting on.

- Don't blind your readers with colors like hot pink and lemon yellow.

Credits

Kit: Bright Spark by Kim B Designs
Fonts: DJB Coffee Shoppe, Luminari, Sophia Script, SALSABILLA, Mastura script