

 Digital Scrapper Premier 2023, Volume 6

Lesson 1, Variation 2, Underlying Letter

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Lesson 1, Variation 2, Underlying Letter

by Jen White

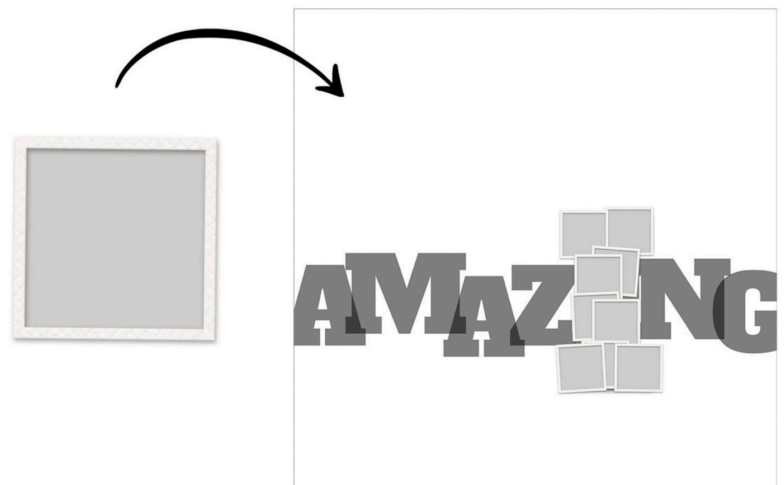
Instead of an underlying shape, cluster frames over an underlying letter.

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NOTE: Please complete the lessons in the order they are provided.

For this lesson you will need:

- paper2 from the Class-Files folder.
- the FramesActionSet (pattern and action) from the Class-Files folder. (Loaded)
- Alfa Slab One font, free from FontSquirrel. (Installed)



Quick Steps for Lesson 1, Variation 2, Underlying Letter

Step-by-step instructions are below.

- Load the Frame actions and Patterns from the Class-Files folder.
- Create a 12x12 inch document.
- Add a word, placing each letter on its own layer.
- Make one letter larger than all the rest and move it to the top of the Layers panel.
- Clip paper to the letter and add a drop shadow.
- Use the Frame action to add frames to the underlying letter.

Step-By-Step for Lesson 1, Variation 2, Underlying Letter

Before You Begin

NOTE: If the Frames action set and Patterns are already loaded, you do not have to do it again.

- **Photoshop Elements Only:** In the Menu bar, choose Edit > Preset Manager. In the dialog box, open the dropdown menu and choose Patterns. Click Add. Navigate to the Patterns.pat file in the FramesActionSet folder from the Class-Files folder. Click Load/Open. Click Done to close the Preset Manager. In the Actions panel (Window > Actions), open the flyout menu and choose Load Actions. Navigate to the Frames EL.atn file in the FramesActionSet folder from the Class-Files folder. Click Load/Open.
- **Adobe Photoshop Only:** In the Patterns panel (Window > Patterns), open the flyout menu and choose Import Patterns. Navigate to the Patterns.pat file in the FramesActionSet folder from the Class-Files folder. Click Load/Open. In the Actions panel (Window > Actions), open the flyout menu and choose Load Actions. Navigate to the Frames PS.atn file in the FramesActionSet folder from the Class-Files folder. Click Load/Open.

Prepare Your Workspace

- Create a new 12x12 inch document (File > New > Blank File) at 300 ppi with a white background. (PS: Choose File > New.)

Note: Letter-sized documents will also work for this tutorial.

- Press the letter D to reset the Color Chips to the default of black over white.

Determine a Word or Letter

- Single, large letters will work perfectly for this tutorial.
- Short to medium-length words would also work, like LOVE, TRAVEL, or AMAZING.
- Try to imagine arranging frames on just one letter of a word. I do not recommend clustering frames on more than one letter of a word.

Determine a Font

- System fonts: Arial Black or Impact
- Free fonts from FontSquirrel.com: Alfa Slab One or Bevan

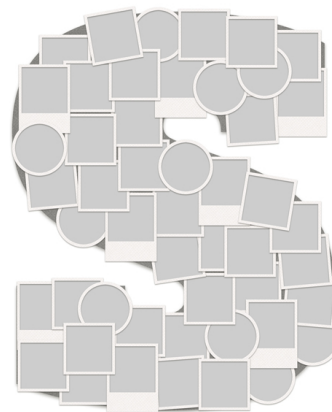
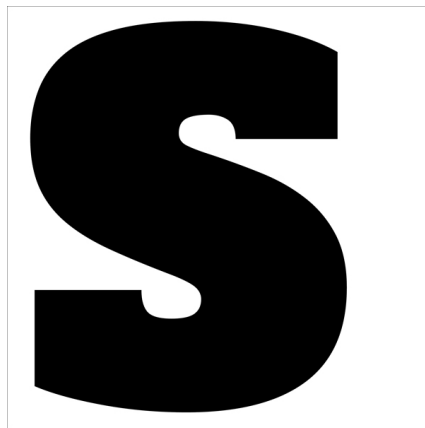
Add a Letter

- Get the Horizontal Type tool.
- In the Tool Options, open the Font Picker and choose Alfa Slab One. Set the Size to 180. The Color Chip should be black. Click on the Center Align icon.
- On the document, click once in the center and type a capital letter S. Click the checkmark to commit the change.



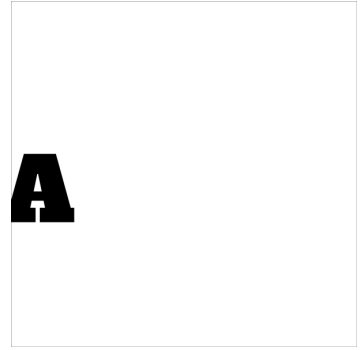
Option 1: Add Clustered Frames to Just One Letter

- Press Ctrl T (Mac: Cmd T) to get the Transform options.
- On the document, click and drag from the corner handles of the bounding box until the letter nearly fills the document. To reposition the letter, click and drag inside the bounding box. Click the checkmark to commit the change.
- To continue with Option 1, follow the Shaped Frame Cluster steps below.
- To move to Option 2, press Ctrl Z (Mac: Cmd Z) to undo the transformation and continue.



Option 2: Add Clustered Frames to Just One Letter of a Word

- In the Layers panel, double click on the thumbnail of the type layer, enter the first letter of your word, and click the checkmark to commit the change. I'll type a capital A.
- With the Move tool, on the document, click and drag the letter to the left side of the document.



- Holding down the Alt key (Mac: Opt key), click and drag a duplicate letter to the right of the first one.
- In the Layers panel, double click on the thumbnail of the new type layer, enter the next letter of your word, and click the checkmark to commit the change. I'll type a capital M.
- Use the Arrow keys to nudge the letter so that it's overlapping the previous one.
- Repeat the last three bullets for the remaining letters in your word.



Make One Letter the Underlying Shape for the Cluster

- In the Layers panel, click to activate the type layer that you'd like to use as the underlying letter of the frame cluster. I'll activate the I.
- Get the Horizontal Type tool.
- In the Tool Options, set the Size to 400.
- Get the Move tool.
- On the document, click and drag to reposition the letter so that it aligns nicely with the letters to the left of it.
- Reposition the letters to the right by activating them in the Layers panel and pressing the Arrow keys to reposition them.
- To reposition the entire word, click on the top type layer to activate it. Holding down the Shift key, click on the bottom type layer. Then, using the Move tool, click and drag on the document.
- In the Layers panel, click to activate the large letter all by itself. Then, click and drag the large letter to the top of the Layers panel.



Shaped Frame Cluster Steps

Clip a Paper to the Letter

- Open paper2 (File > Open) from the Class-Files folder.
- Holding down the Shift key, click and drag the paper onto the document.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Create Clipping Mask.

Add a Drop Shadow to the Letter

- In the Layers panel, click on the big letter layer to activate it.
- **Photoshop Elements Only:** In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Layer Style > Style Settings. In the dialog box, set the Lighting Angle to 120. Click on Drop Shadow to activate it and reveal the settings. Set the Size to 15, the Distance to 10, and the Opacity to 50. Click OK.
- **Adobe Photoshop Only:** In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Layer Style > Drop Shadow. In the dialog box, set the Blend Mode to Multiply, the Opacity to 50, the Angle to 120, the Distance to 10, the Spread to 0, and the Size to 15. Click OK.

TIPS for Shaped Frame Clusters

- Unless you're going for an eclectic look, I recommend staying with the same frame pattern throughout your page.
- Start at the top and work down.
- Randomly overlap the frames (both vertically and horizontally), some with a lot of overlap and some with very little overlap. We will be filling these frames with both photos and paper.
- Tilt just a few of the frames. Too much tilt adds chaos.
- Leave spaces where the underlying shape shows through.
- Do not keep the edges of the shaped frames smooth. They are meant to be jagged.

Add Frames Using the Action

- In the Layers panel, click on the top paper layer to activate it.
- In the Actions panel, choose a frame action and press the Play icon.
- Using the Move tool, click and drag the frame into place on the shape.
- Repeat playing the action and placing the frames until the letter is filled.





Page & Photos: Amazing Autumn by Jen White
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Kit: Happy Harvest by Anita Designs
Fonts: Alfa Slab One, Cantoni Pro, Futura LT Pro