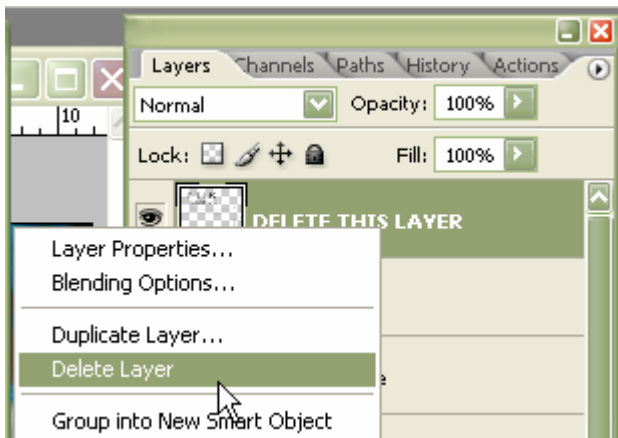


How to Use the Speed Byte Layered Templates in Photoshop

I often find that what takes me the most time when I begin to scrap a page is the basic structure of the layout itself. These templates have been designed to allow you to “cut” papers and shapes via Photoshop’s clipping mask feature quickly and easily. Once you have your basic structure in place you can concentrate on adding embellishments, alphas, word art, etc. to give the design your own unique touches.

1. Begin by opening your template in Photoshop and making sure that your Layers Palette is visible. Note that the topmost layer is labeled “Delete This Layer.” If you don’t feel any need to refer to the text labels while creating your layout, you can delete it now by right-clicking on the layer in the Layers Palette and choosing “Delete Layer” at this time.



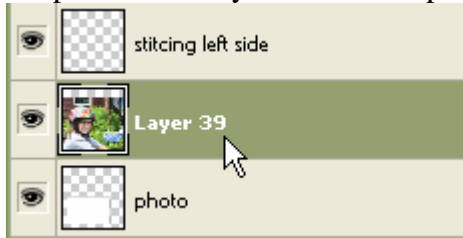
If you prefer to be able to refer to the text labels while creating your layout, you can click on the eyeball icon to alternately hide/show the layer.

2. Open the photo(s) you wish to use on the layout and perform any retouching tasks that you feel are necessary. The template has been created at 300 dpi, so you will want to be sure that your photo has been converted to 300 dpi too.

You can resize the photo to the approximate size of the space allocated for it in the design before dragging it onto the layout if you wish or you can resize it in the layout itself by dragging on the bounding box handles holding down your Shift key to constrain the proportions. (I often like to bring my photo into the layout and then move it around once I’ve applied the clipping mask to create an eye pleasing crop.)

3. Click on the layer you wish to replace with your photo in the Layers Palette of the template (in the example given here the layer is the white rectangle with a layer name of “photo”) to select it.

4. Now choose your Move tool and drag the photo onto your template document. Because you have selected the “photo” layer prior to dragging, the photo should appear in the palette on a layer above the “photo” layer.

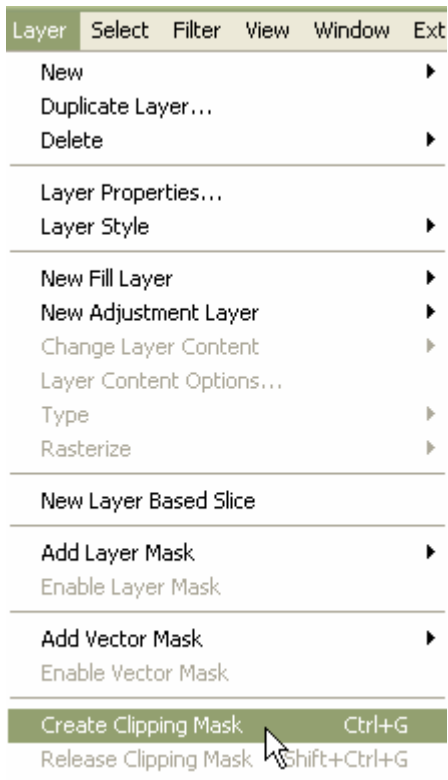


5. As you can see, my photo is covering up most of the template at this point in time. Don't be alarmed, the clipping mask will alleviate this problem!



6. As with everything else in Photoshop, there are several methods you can use to create a clipping mask:

a. Choose Layer>Create Clipping Mask from the menu bar at the top of the screen as shown

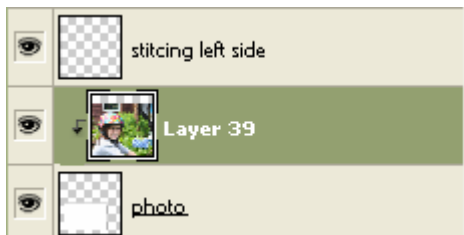


b. OR use the key combination **Ctrl-G** shortcut: (NOTE: If you are a PSCS2 user the shortcut is **Ctrl-Alt-G**)

c. OR Hold down Alt (Windows) or Option (Mac OS), position the pointer over the line dividing two layers in the Layers palette (the pointer changes to two overlapping circles), and click.

d. OR Link the desired layers in the Layers palette. Then choose Layer > Create Clipping Mask from Linked.

7. The transparent pixels of the bottom or base layer mask out the content of layers above it that are part of a clipping mask. The name of the base layer in the mask is underlined, (Layer “photo” in the example) and the thumbnails for the overlying layers are indented (Layer 39 in the example.) Additionally, the overlying layers display a clipping mask icon.



8. Your document should now look something like the following example:



The photo has been “clipped” to the size and shape I want, but I’m not happy with the crop...so I’ll use my Move tool to reposition it. Make sure that the layer containing your photo is selected in the Layers Palette, click on the Move tool, and drag the photo around until you are happy with its position.



9. If you want to reduce the size of the photo, choose Edit > Free Transform from the menu bar at the top of your screen.




Choose the Move tool. To scale by dragging, drag a handle. Press Shift as you drag a corner handle to scale proportionately.

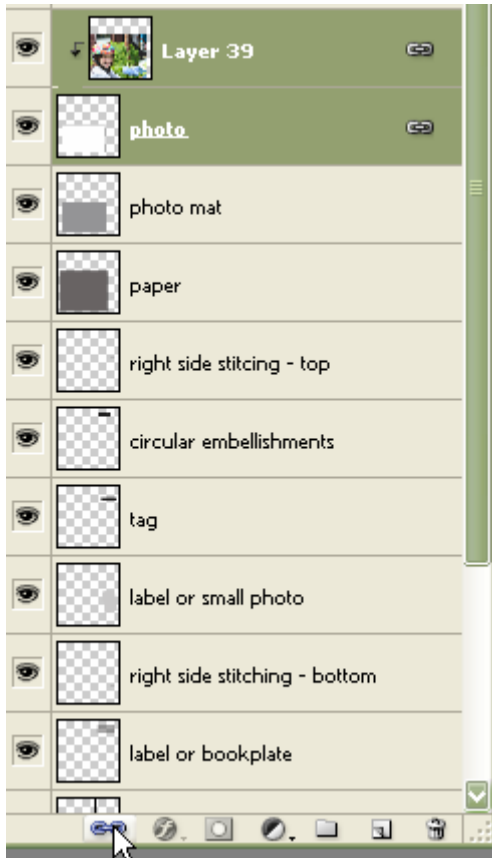


Press Enter (Windows) or Return (Mac OS), click the Commit button in the options bar, or double-click inside the transformation marquee to complete the transformation.

Note: To cancel the transformation before committing, press Esc or click the Cancel button in the options bar.

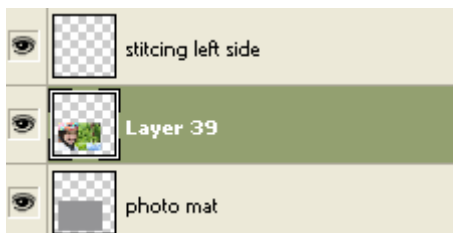


10. Link the “photo” layer and the layer containing your photo above it. (Note: To link layers in PS versions prior to CS2 click in the column immediately to the left of any layers you want to link to the selected layer. A link icon  appears in the column. In CS2 you link layers by Ctrl-Clicking on each layer to select and then clicking on the link icon on the bottom of the Layers Palette.)



11. Merge the layers into one by choosing Layer>Merge Linked. (The shortcut keystroke is Ctrl-E.)

Your palette should resemble this example:



Note: you can close the document containing the original photo at this time.

12. Begin filling in the rest of the template shapes with your papers by repeating Steps 2-11 above for each shape.

Tip: By holding down your Shift key while dragging the paper into your template, the paper will be centered perfectly in the template.

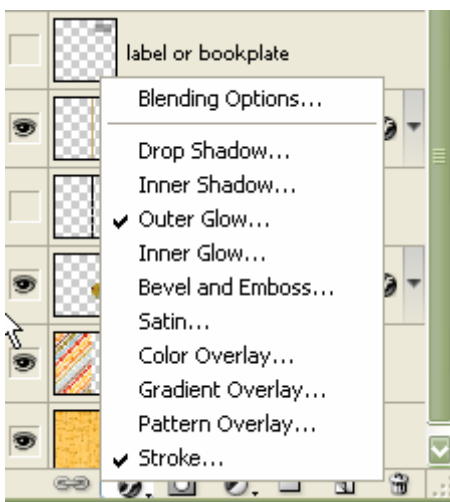


Credits: Papers from Kellie Mize's "Three Sixty" kit

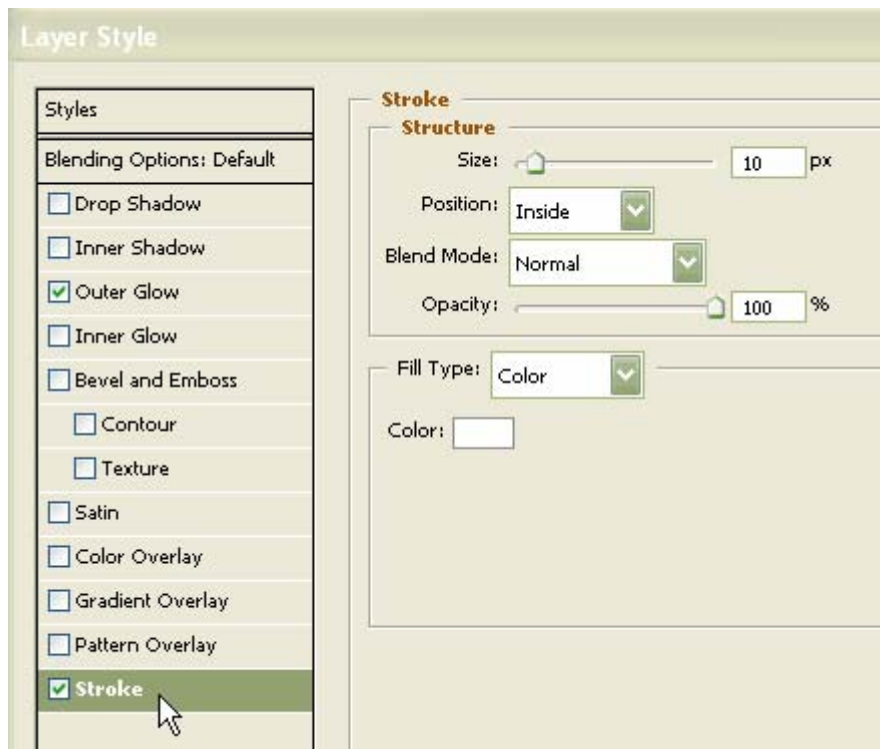
13. Now it's time to add your own touches in the form of embellishments, stitching, journaling, etc.! The layers in the template that contain the stitching and embellishments are designed to give you suggestions. You can delete them after adding your own elements.

14. You'll also want to add some drop shadows, outer glows, or other effects to your papers/elements now to give the layout realistic depth and dimension.

In the sample layout I added a white stroke to the smaller of the two photos. Choose the "Add a Layer Style" icon from the bottom of the Layers Palette and "Stroke" from the pop-up menu.



I used these setting in the example:



I then applied Katie Pertiet's "Outer Glow Light" action from the Drop Shadows Actions set at Designer Digitals to all of my papers and elements.

Tip: Apply the action to one layer and then right-click on that Layer in the Layers Palette. Choose "Copy Layer Style" from the pop-up menu.

For each layer that you want to apply the same style to, right-click again and choose "Paste Layer Style" from the pop-up menu. This is much quicker than applying the action each time.

Here is the finished product:



Credits: Papers-Kellie Mize "Three Sixty Kit", Alpha-Kellie Mize "Pattie's Epoxies", Tag- Katie Pertiet "Vellum Tags", Ribbon-Katie Pertiet "Winged No. 2 Kit", Brads/Eyelets-Katie Pertiet "Ashbury Kit", Outer Glow Light Action from Katie Pertiet's "Drop Shadow Actions":
 Fonts: 499180, FG Mia, FG Rakel,