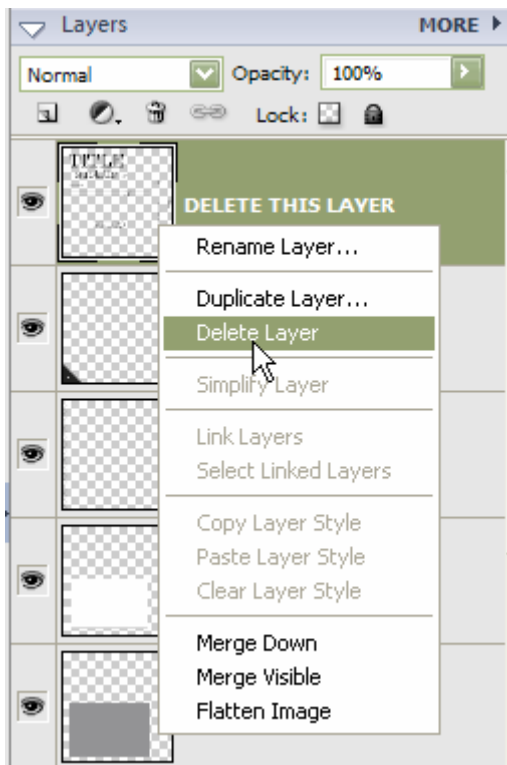


How to Use the Speed Byte Layered Templates in Photoshop Elements

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 Elements’ clipping group 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 Elements 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.

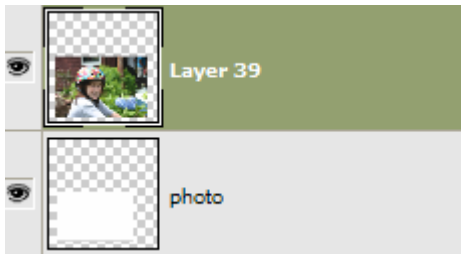
2. Open the photo(s) you wish to use on the layout and perform any retouching tasks that you feel are necessary. The template has been created at 300 dpi, so you will want to be sure that your photo has been converted to 300 dpi too.

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!

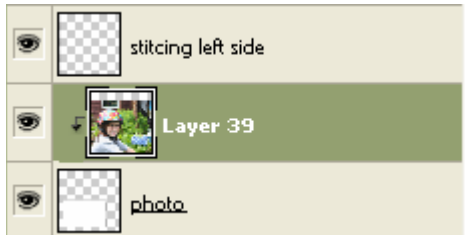


6. In the Editor, do one of the following:

a. Hold down Alt, position the pointer over the line dividing two layers in the Layers palette (the pointer changes to two overlapping circles), and then click.

b. OR in the Layers palette, select the top layer of a pair of layers you want to group, and choose Layer > Group with Previous.

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.



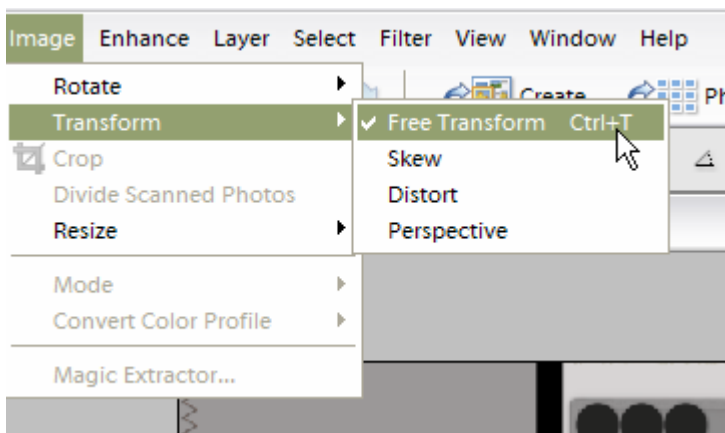
8. Your document should now look something like the following example:



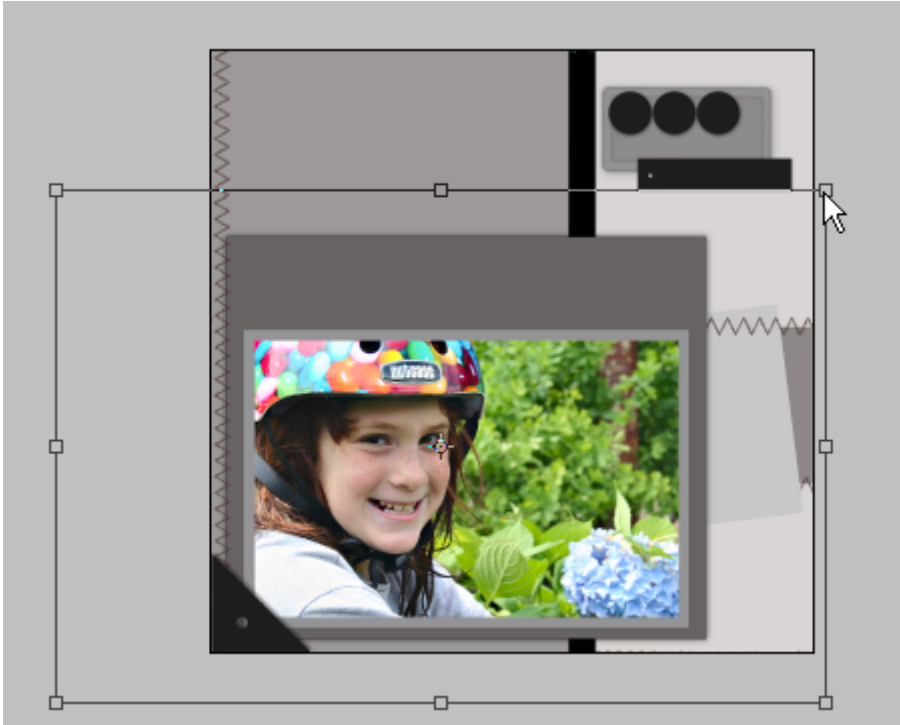
The photo has been “clipped” to the size and shape I want, but I’m not happy with the crop...so I’ll use my Move tool to reposition it. Make sure that the layer containing your photo is selected in the Layers Palette, click on the Move tool, and drag the photo around until you are happy with its position.



9. If you want to reduce the size of the photo, choose Choose Image > Transform > Free Transform from the top of your screen.



Choose the Move tool. To scale, drag any handle on the bounding box. To scale the width and height proportionally, Shift as you drag a corner handle,

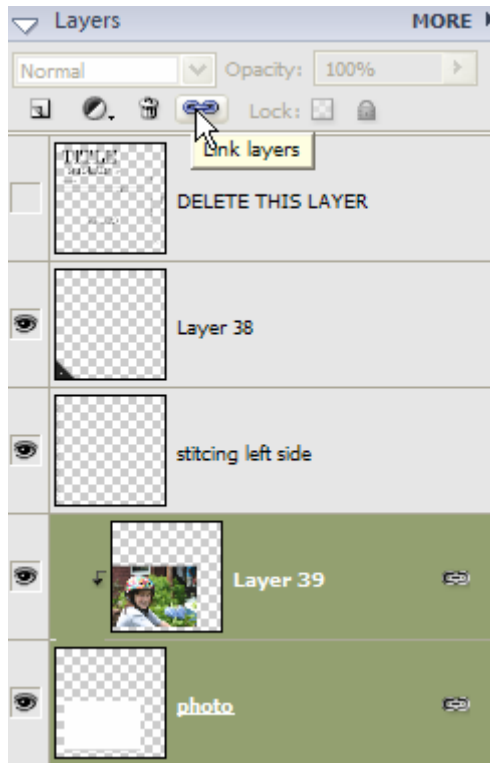


Press Enter (Windows) or Return (Mac OS), click the Commit button in the options bar, or double-click inside the transformation marquee to complete the transformation.

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

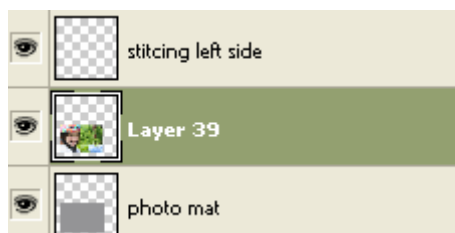


10. Link the “photo” layer and the layer containing your photo above it. In the Editor, select the layers you’d like to link in the Layers palette. To select more than one layer, hold down Ctrl and click each layer. Click the Link Layer icon at the top of the Layers palette. The linked icon appears in the linked layers



11. Merge the layers into one by choosing Merge Layers from the Layers palette More menu.

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.

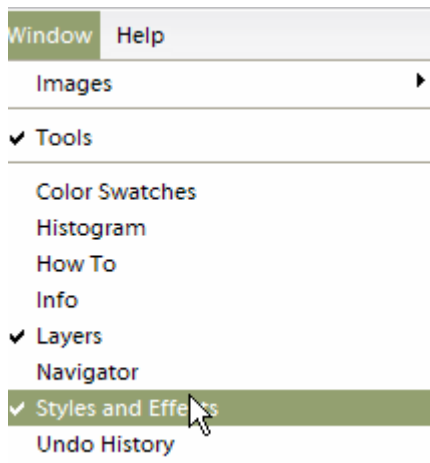
Tip: By holding down your Shift key while dragging the paper into your template, the paper will be centered perfectly in the template.



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

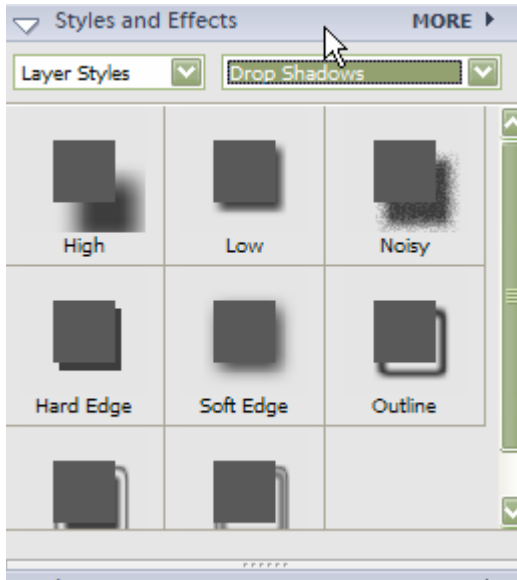
13. Now it's time to add your own touches in the form of embellishments, stitching, journaling, etc.! The layers in the template that contain the stitching and embellishments are designed to give you suggestions. You can delete them after adding your own elements.

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. Choose Window>Styles and Effects from the menu bar at the top of the screen.

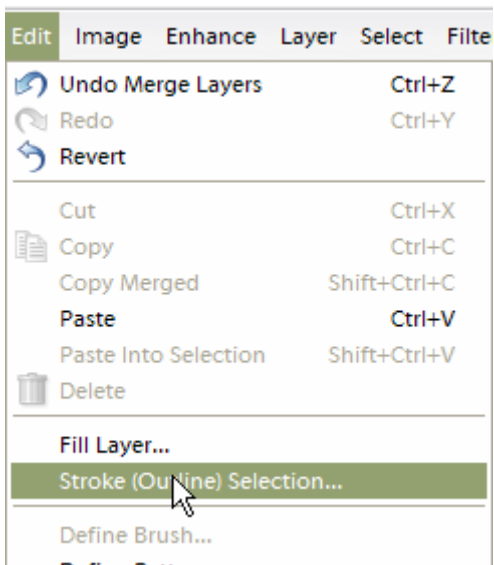


To apply your choice of effects so one of the following in the Effects portion of the Styles And Effects palette:

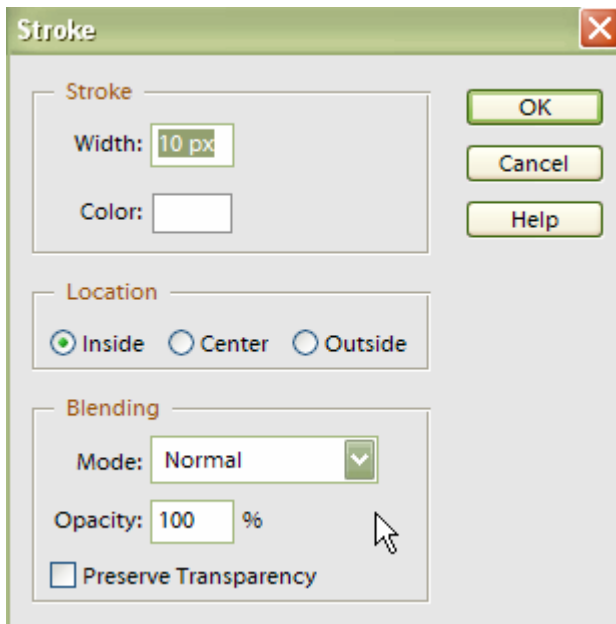
- a. Double-click an effect.
- b. OR Drag an effect to the layer.



In the sample layout I added a white stroke to the smaller of the two photos. Choose Edit > Stroke (Outline) or Stroke (Outline) Selection.



I used these settings in the example:



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,