



## Creative Photo Edges

By Nannette Dalton

I almost always add a frame to my photos. To my eye, a frame draws the eye to the photo and creates a finished look. I usually just add a stroke around the edge of the photo because it's easy to do and always looks nice to my eye.

I have another easy way to add a frame to your photo that you can do in just a few simple steps. I will show you how you can create a beautiful decorative border around your photo using the photo itself to create the frame.

### Step One: Prepare the Workspace

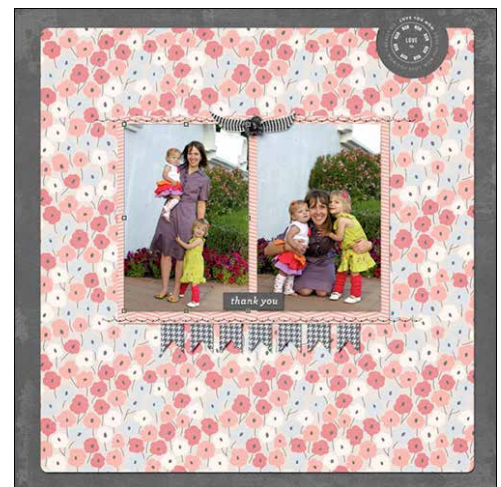
- Open the layered scrapbook page (File > Open) with which you wish to work.
- Press the letter D to reset the Color Chips to the default of black and white.
- In the Layers panel, activate the photo layer.

### Step Two: Create a Clipping Mask

- In the Layers panel, click on the Create a New Layer icon to create a new layer.
- Get the Rectangle tool.
- In the Tool Options, set the Style to None and click on the Create New Shape Layer icon. (Photoshop: Set the Tool Mode to Pixels, the Blend Mode to Normal, and the Opacity to 100%.) Open the Geometry Options and choose Unconstrained.
- On the scrapbook page, click and drag out a rectangle shape that is smaller than your photo.
- In the Layers panel, activate the photo layer.
- Press Ctl J (Mac: Cmd J) to duplicate the photo.
- In the Layers panel, drag the duplicate photo to be above the rectangle shape.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Create Clipping Mask.

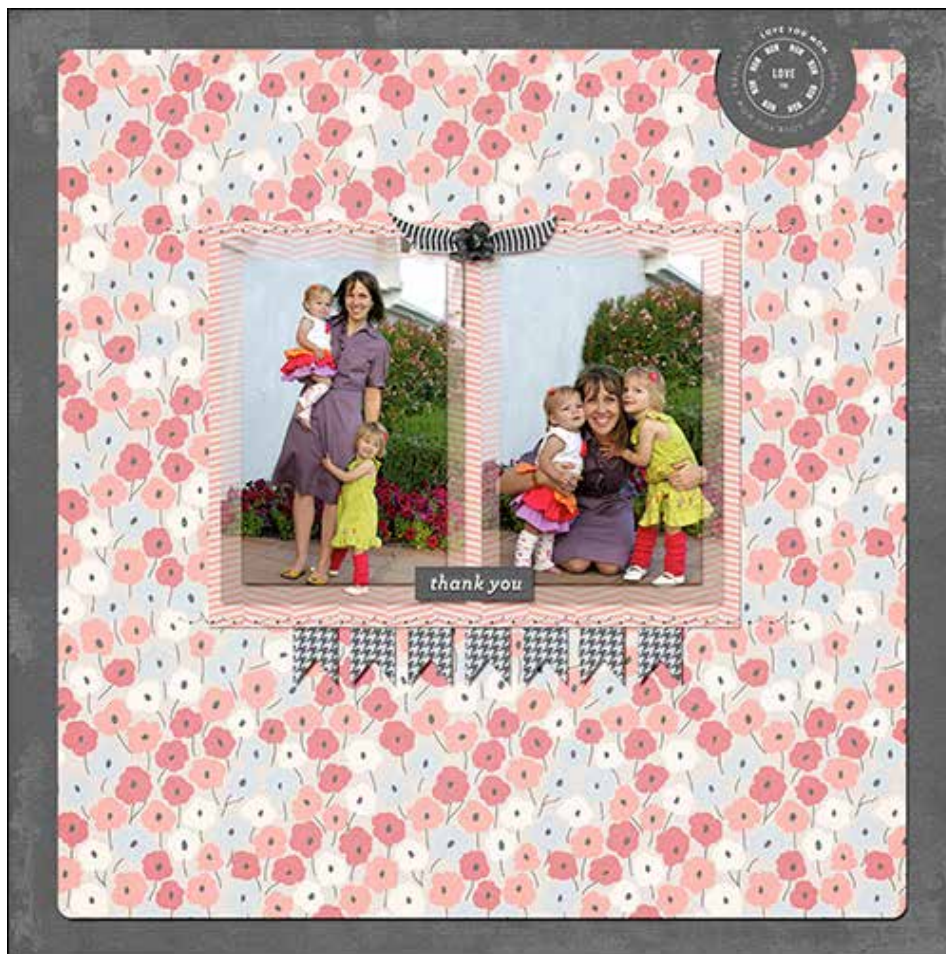
### Step Three: Create the Frame

- In the Layers panel, activate the original photo layer.
- Change the Opacity to around 55%, or to your liking.



## Step Four: Add a Small Drop Shadow

- In the Layers panel, activate the rectangle shape.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Layer Style > Style Settings. (Photoshop: Choose Layer > Layer Style > Drop Shadow.)
- In the dialog box, check Drop Shadow. Set the Size to 13 px, the Distance to 15 px, and the Opacity to 45%. Click OK.
- Here is how I used this technique on a layout. I love the subtle addition that the frame gives to my photo and how it blends the photo with the paper underneath. I hope you'll give this method a try. Post your layout in the [Digi Scrap Tutorial Gallery](#), and I will be sure to give it some love!



## Credits

**Digi Scrap Tutorial:** Decorative Photo Frames by Nannette Dalton

**Layout:** Love Letter p2 by Nannette Dalton

**Kit:** Love, Mom by Karla Dudley; May 2014 Premier kit