



Oversized Cutout Template

By Lydia Tarbox

Don't you just love it when you can make a bold statement on a layout without expending a lot of effort? I recently spotted a few layouts with fantastic oversized cutouts on the background. I was impressed with what a big impact they made on the feel of the layout and decided I wanted to try it on a layout of my own.

Today I'm going to show you how to make a template for a background with oversized cutouts. This template can then be used over and over to add that bold statement to any layout. I'm going to use an arrow shape to create a chevron pattern. But, you could use any shape(s) you want and create all sorts of different designs. Let's get started!

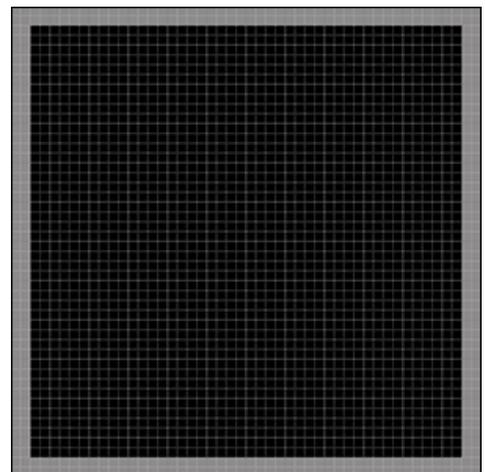
Step One: Prepare the Workspace

- Click on the Background Color Chip. In the dialog box, choose a gray color and click OK. (I used Hex Code #8d8b8b.)
- Create a new 12 x 12 inch document (File > New > Blank File) at 300 dpi with the Background Contents set to Background Color. (Photoshop: Choose File > New.)
- In the Menu Bar, choose View > Rulers to show the Rulers.
- Choose View > Grid to show the Grid. (Photoshop: Choose View > Show > Grid.)
- Choose View > Snap To > Grid.
- In the Layers panel, while holding down the Alt key (Mac: Opt key), double click on the Background layer.
- Press the letter D to reset the Color Chips to the default of black and white.

Step Two: Create a Square (Optional)

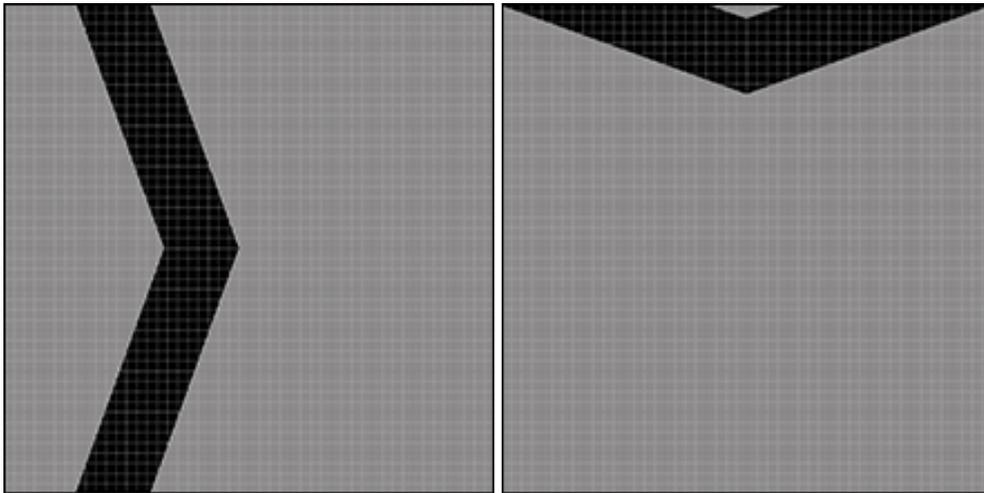
Note: I'm going to use this square later to create a border around my chevron pattern. If you're using different shapes, or you don't want a border around your design, feel free to skip this step.

- Get the Rectangle tool.
- In the Tool Options, open the Geometry Options and choose Square. Click on the Create New Shape Layer icon. (Photoshop: Set the Tool Mode to Shape.)
- On the document, position your cursor at the 0.5 inch horizontal mark and the 0.5 inch vertical mark. Click and drag to create a square, leaving a half inch border around the entire document.
- In the Tool Options, click Simplify. (Photoshop: In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Rasterize > Shape.)
- In the Layers panel, click on the Visibility icon of the square shape layer to hide it.



Step Three: Create an Arrow

- Get the Custom Shape tool.
- In the Tool Options, open the Geometry Options and choose Unconstrained. Click on the Create New Shape Layer icon. (Photoshop: Set the Tool Mode to Shape.) Open the Custom Shape Picker and choose the Arrow 2 shape. If you don't see the Arrow 2 shape, open the drop-down menu and choose All Elements Shapes. (Photoshop: Open the fly-out menu, choose All, and click OK.)
- On the document, click and drag to draw an arrow shape that extends from the top of the document to the bottom and is about two inches wide.
- In the Tool Options, click Simplify. (Photoshop: In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Rasterize > Shape.)
- Get the Move tool.
- Press Ctrl T (Mac: Cmd T) to get the Transform options.
- In the Tool Options, set the Angle to 90°. (Photoshop: In the Options Bar, set the Rotation to 90°.)
- On the document, click inside the Bounding Box and drag the arrow shape into position at the top of the document. Click on the checkmark to commit the transformation.



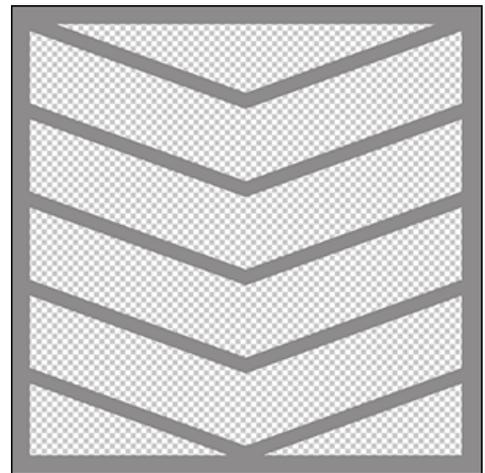
Step Four: Create the Chevron Pattern

- On the document, while holding down Alt Shift (Mac: Opt Shift), click on the arrow shape and drag out a duplicate arrow, positioning it below the first arrow shape and leaving some space in between the two arrows.
- Repeat four more times until you have six arrow shapes with equal spacing between them, using the Grid as a guide.
- In the Layers panel, activate the top arrow layer then Shift click on the bottom arrow layer to activate all of the arrow layers.
- Press Ctrl E (Mac: Cmd E) to merge the layers together into a chevron pattern.
- In the Menu Bar, choose View > Grid to hide the Grid. (Photoshop: Choose View > Show > Grid.)



Step Five: Create the Cutouts

- In the Layers panel, make sure the chevron pattern layer is active.
- Ctrl click (Mac: Cmd click) on the thumbnail of the invisible square layer to get a selection outline.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Select > Inverse.
- Press the Backspace key (Mac: Delete key) to create a border around the chevron layer.
- Press Ctrl D (Mac: Cmd D) to deselect.
- In the Layers panel, click and drag the square shape layer to the Trash icon.
- Activate the bottom layer.
- Ctrl click (Mac: Cmd click) on the thumbnail of the chevron layer to get a selection outline.
- Press the Backspace key (Mac: Delete key) to cut the chevron pattern out of the background.
- Press Ctrl D (Mac: Cmd D) to deselect.
- In the Layers panel, click and drag the chevron layer to the Trash icon.



Step Six: Save the Template

- In the Menu Bar, choose File > Save.
- In the dialog box, choose a name and location for the template. Set the Format to PNG. Click OK.
- In the PNG Options dialog box, click OK.
- Use the saved template on top of any background paper and add a drop shadow.

Here's my layout:

I can visualize using this idea with so many different shapes--diagonal or horizontal stripes, stars, anchors--the options are endless. Be sure to post your layouts in the [Digi Scrap Tutorial](#) gallery and show us what you create!

Credits

Digi Scrap Tutorial: Oversized Cutout Template by Lydia Tarbox

Kit: *Liberty for All* by Mommyish; part of July 2014 **Premier**

Font: DJB Lydia Print

