



## Photo Strip

by Gina Harper

Duplicate a photo clipping mask and transform it into a photo strip by using distribute and a new fill layer.

For this tutorial you will need:

- Photoshop Elements or Adobe Photoshop
- template-dst-photo-strip-DS.psd from the download folder.

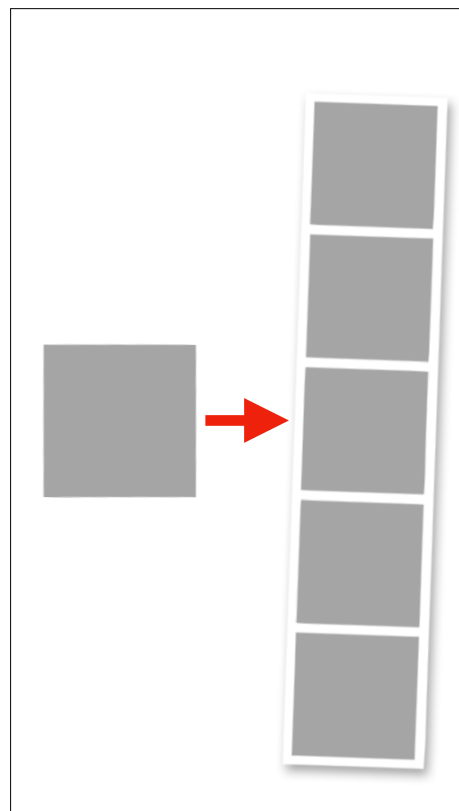
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## Step One: Prepare the Workspace

- Open the template-dst-photo-strip-DS.psd file (File > Open) from the download folder.

NOTE: If you see a message asking you to update the text layers, click Update.

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



## Step Two: Duplicate and Distribute the Photo Strip Clipping Mask Layers

- In the Layers panel, click on the Photo Strip Clipping Mask layer to activate it.

NOTE: You should feel free to create your own photo strip using an odd number of 3 or more masks. For this tutorial, I will be using 5 masks to create the photo strip for my page.

- Press Ctrl J (Mac: Cmd J) four times to duplicate the layer. There should now be five mask layers.
- Click on the bottommost Photo Strip Clipping Mask layer to activate it.
- Get the Move tool.
- In the Tool Options, uncheck both Auto-Select (PS: Auto-Select) and Show Bounding Box (PS: Show Transform Controls).
- On the document, holding down the Shift key, click and drag one of the masks down until the bottom of the mask is about 2 inches from the bottom of the document.

NOTE: Holding down the Shift key ensures that the layers will remain aligned.

NOTE: If you are using a different number of masks, then position the bottommost layer down on the document where you want the bottom of your strip to end up.

- In the Layers panel, click on the top Photo Strip Clipping Mask layer to activate it.
- Hold down the Shift key and click on the bottom Photo Strip Clipping Mask layer. All of the Photo Strip Clipping Mask layers should be active.
- In the Tool Options, click on the Distribute Vertical Centers icon (PS: Click on Distribute Vertically, it looks like an equal sign with a bar in the middle).



NOTE: If you want the masks to be closer or farther apart, adjust the position of the bottommost layer and then redistribute the layers.

### Step Three: Rename Photo Strip Clipping Mask Layers

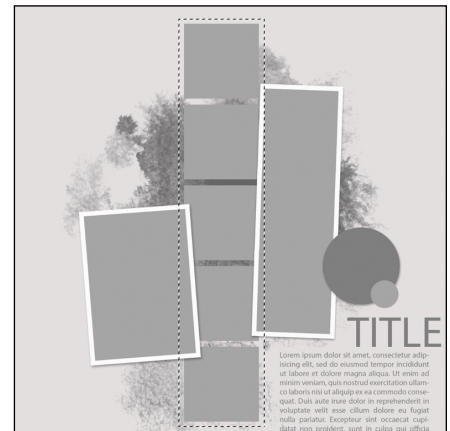
NOTE: When distributing the layers, they will need to be reordered in the Layers panel.

- In the Layers panel, click on a layer to activate it all by itself.
- On the document, hold down the Ctrl key (Mac: Cmd key) and click on the first square of the strip.
- In the Layers panel, double click directly on the name of the active layer and rename it Photo Strip Clipping Mask 1. Press Enter or Return to commit the change.
- Click and drag it to make it the topmost Photo Strip Clipping Mask layer.
- On the document, hold down the Ctrl key (Mac: Cmd key) and click on the second square of the strip.
- In the Layers panel, double click directly on the name of the active layer and rename it Photo Strip Clipping Mask 2. Press Enter or Return to commit the change.
- Click and drag it just below the Photo Strip Clipping Mask 1 layer.
- On the document, hold down the Ctrl key (Mac: Cmd key) and click on the third square of the strip.
- In the Layers panel, double click directly on the name of the active layer and rename it Photo Strip Clipping Mask 3. Press Enter or Return to commit the change.
- Click and drag it just below the Photo Strip Clipping Mask 2 layer.
- On the document, hold down the Ctrl key (Mac: Cmd key) and click on the fourth square of the strip.
- In the Layers panel, double click directly on the name of the active layer and rename it Photo Strip Clipping Mask 4. Press Enter or Return to commit the change.
- Click and drag it just below the Photo Strip Clipping Mask 3 layer.
- On the document, hold down the Ctrl key (Mac: Cmd key) and click on the fifth square of the strip.
- In the Layers panel, double click directly on the name of the active layer and rename it Photo Strip Clipping Mask 5. Press Enter or Return to commit the change.
- Click and drag it just below the Photo Strip Clipping Mask 4 layer.



### Step Three: Add a New Fill Layer

- In the Layers panel, click on the Title layer to activate it.
- Click on the Create a New Layer icon.
- Double click directly on the name of the new layer and rename it PHOTO STRIP. Press Enter or Return to commit the change.
- Get the Rectangular Marquee tool.
- In the Tool Options, click on the New Selection icon. Set the Feather to 0 and the Aspect to Normal. (PS: Set the Style to Normal.)
- On the document, click and drag a selection about 1/8 inch around all sides of the distributed masks.



- In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > New Fill Layer > Solid Color. In the dialog box, set the Color to None, the Mode to Normal, and the Opacity to 100%. Click Ok.
- In the Color Picker, choose white and click OK.

### Step Four: Align the Photo Strip Layers

- In the Layers panel, hold down the Ctrl key (Mac: Cmd key) and click on the thumbnail of the Photo Strip Clipping Mask 3 layer to get a selection.

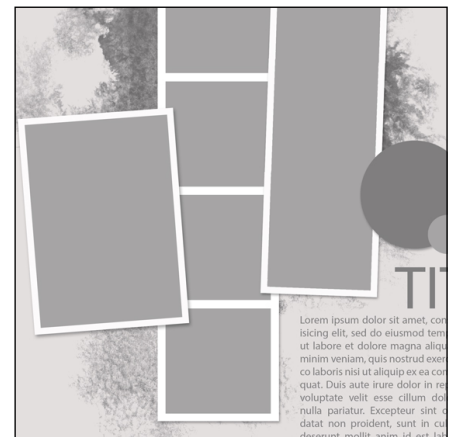
NOTE: If you have a different number of masks, then click on the thumbnail of the centermost photo strip clipping mask to get a selection.



- Click on the PHOTO STRIP layer to activate it.
- Get the Move tool.
- In the Tool Options, click on the Align Horizontal Centers (Center) icon and the Align Vertical Centers (Middle) icon.
- Press Ctrl D (Mac: Cmd D) to deselect.

### Step Five: Add a Drop Shadow

- In the Layers panel, the PHOTO STRIP layer should still be active. If it's not, make it the active layer now.
- **Photoshop Elements Only:**
  - In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Layer Style > Style Settings.
  - In the dialog box, set the Lighting Angle to 120°.
  - Click directly on the words Drop Shadow to open the settings.
  - Set the Size to 13, the Distance to 8, and the Opacity to 35.
  - Click OK to close the Style Settings dialog box.
- **Adobe Photoshop Only:**
  - In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Layer Style > Drop Shadow.
  - In the dialog box, click on Reset to Default.
  - Set the Blend Mode to Multiply, the Opacity to 35%, the Angle to 120°, the Distance to 8, the Spread to 0, and the Size to 13.
  - Click OK to close the Layer Style dialog box.



### Step Six: Group the Photo Strip Layers

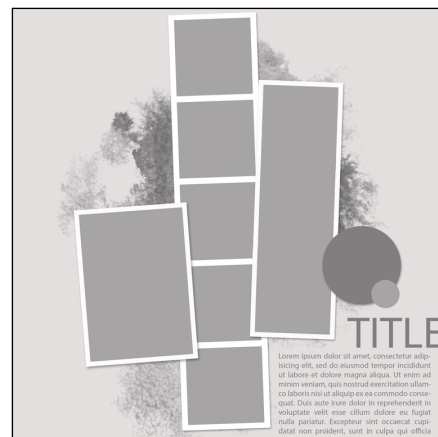
NOTE: The reason we are grouping the layers is to ensure they will all be moved together without displacing any of the layers.

- In the Layers panel, click on the Photo Strip Clipping Mask 1 layer to activate it.
- Holding down the Shift key, click on the PHOTO STRIP layer.
- Click on the Create a New Group icon to group the layers.
- Double click directly on the name of the new group and rename it PHOTO STRIP GROUP
- Press Enter or Return to commit the change.

## Optional: Tilt the Photo Strip

NOTE: Add photos to the photo clipping mask layers before using the optional tilt so that all layers will be tilted equally at the same time.

- In the Layers panel, click on the PHOTO STRIP GROUP to activate it.
- Press Ctrl T (Mac: Cmd T) to get the Transform options.
- In the Tool Options, set the Angle to  $-2^{\circ}$  to tilt it to the left or  $2^{\circ}$  to tilt it to the right. (PS: Set the Rotate to  $-2^{\circ}$  or  $2^{\circ}$ .)
- Click the checkmark to commit the change.



NOTE: For instructions about how to add a photo to a clipping mask, check out our free [Fundamentals](#) class.

## Step Six: Finish and Save the Document

- Add additional photos, journaling, a date, and elements to finish the page as desired.
- Save the document (File > Save As) as a high-quality JPEG file with a unique name.

Take a look at my finished page. I love how easy it was to duplicated a photo clipping mask and turn it into a photo strip. This turned out to be the perfect page for my beautiful sister and my sweet niece.



Photos & Page: Little One by Gina Harper  
Tutorial: Photo Strip by Gina Harper  
Kit: Just The Way You Are by KimB Designs  
Fonts: Caroni, Allura