



Stacked & Desaturated Photo

by Gina Harper

Reduce the distractions in your photo by using a stacked and desaturated photo mask.

For this tutorial you will need:

- template-dst-stacked-desaturated-DS.psd
- photo1.jpg or a color photo in which the subject needs more attention
- Photoshop Elements or Adobe Photoshop

Important Links:

- Find this [tutorial on our blog](#).
- [Terms of Use](#)
- [Website: www.DigitalScrapper.com](#)
- [Facebook Business Page](#)
- [Circle Community Group](#)
- [YouTube Channel](#)
- [Instagram](#)
- [Contact Us](#)

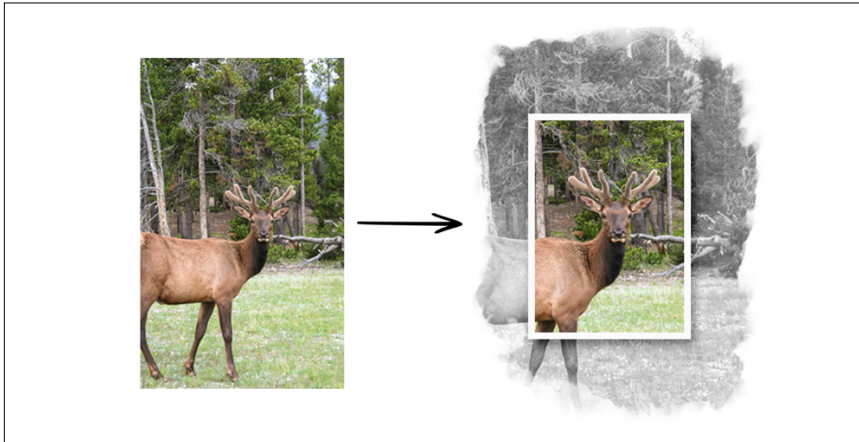
©2022 Digital Scrapper

See What Others Are Creating

- [Join & visit our Community on Circle](#).



In this tutorial, we will be working with this photo to draw attention to the subject.



Step One: Prepare the Workspace

- Open the template-dst-stacked-desaturated-DS.psd file (File > Open) from the downloads

(Optional) Create a Duplicate of the Template

If you'd like to use the template over and over, I recommend you duplicate it before using it.

- In the Menu Bar, choose (File > Duplicate) and click OK.
- Close the original template without saving. (File > Close)

NOTE: If you get a warning dialog box about text layers, place a checkmark next to Don't Show Again and then click Update.

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

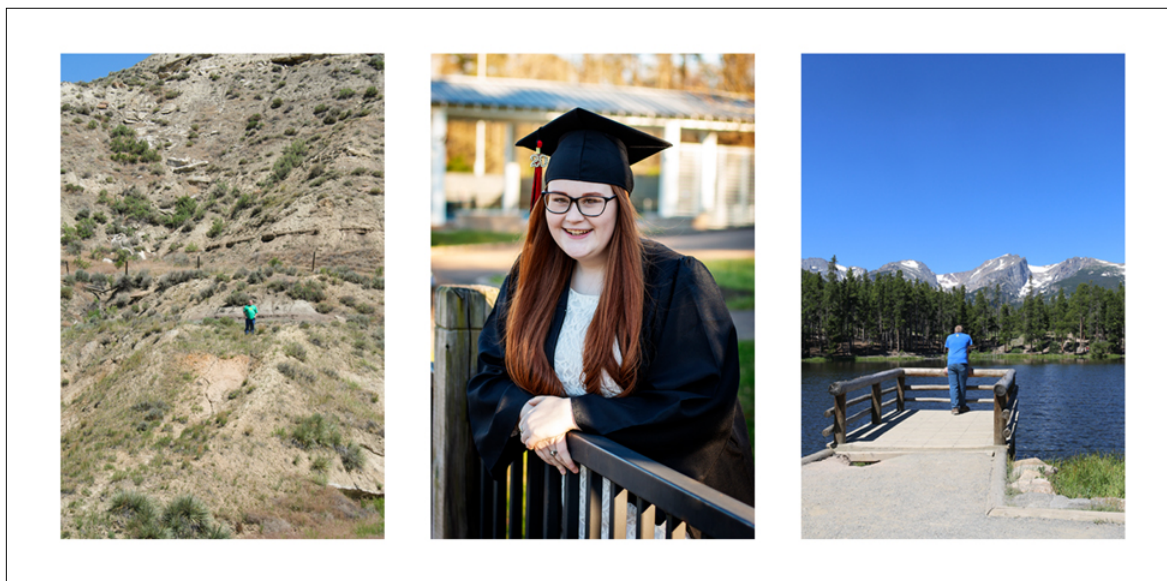
Selecting Good Photos for This Technique

- Photos with distracting backgrounds that should be minimized
- Photos with significant empty space around the subject
- Any photo in which the subject needs more attention



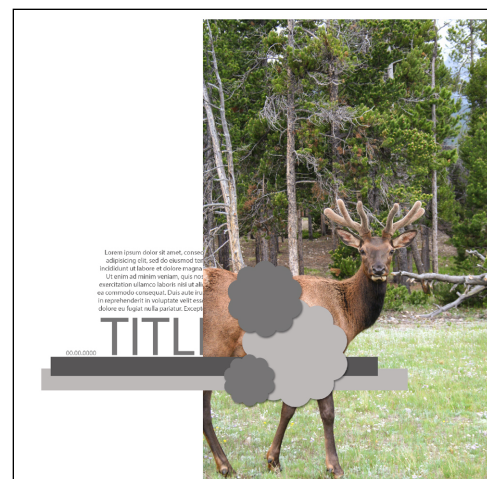
Photos That May Not Be the Best Choice for This Technique

- Photos in which the subject is too far away
- Photos without enough space around the subject or with the subject zoomed in too much
- Any photo in which desaturating might take away from the photo



Step Two: Add the Photo

- Open the photo1.jpg file from the downloads folder (File > Open).
- Get the Move Tool.
- On the document, click and drag the photo onto the new document.
- In the Tool Options, uncheck Auto Select Layer, but check Show Bounding Box. (PS: Check Show Transform Controls.)
- In the Layers panel, double click directly on the name of the new layer and rename it photo1.
- Press Enter or Return to commit the change.
- Get the Move tool.
- On the document, click and drag inside the photo bounding box to reposition the photo and center it over the Framed Photo Clipping Mask.
- To resize, click and drag on a corner handle of the bounding box.
- Click the checkmark to commit the changes.



NOTE: The photo edges should go beyond the boundaries of the Complex Clipping Mask layer.

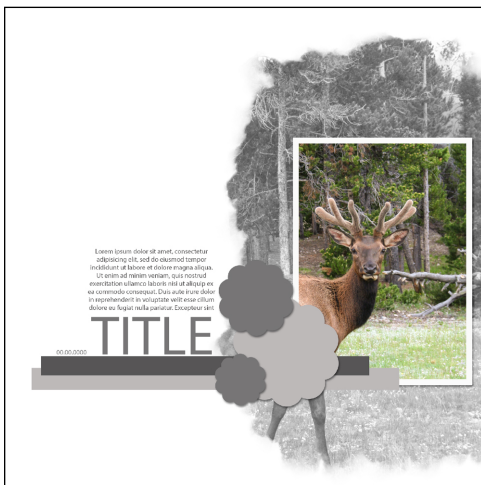
Step Three: Duplicate and Desaturate the Photo

- Press Ctrl+J (Mac: Cmd+J) to duplicate the photo.
- In the Layers panel, double click directly on the name of the duplicated photo and rename it Black & White Photo.
- Press Enter or Return to commit the change.
- In the Layers panel, click and drag the Black & White Photo layer below the Framed Photo Clipping Mask layer.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Enhance > Adjust Color > Remove Color. (PS: Choose Image > Adjustments > Desaturate.) You won't see a change on the document.
- In the Layers Panel, click on the photo1 layer to activate it. Holding down the Ctrl key (Mac:Cmd key), click on the Black & White Photo layer to activate it.
- In the Layers panel, click the Link icon to link the layers.

NOTE: It's important to link the photos together to keep them aligned when repositioning them on the document.

Step Four: Clip the Photos

- In the Layers panel, click on the photo1 layer to activate it.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Create Clipping Mask.
- In the Layers panel, click on the Black & White Photo layer to activate it.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Create Clipping Mask.



Step Five: Finish and Save the Document

- Add papers, elements, a title and some journaling to finish the page as desired.
- To preserve the layers for later use, save the document (File > Save As) as a PSD file with a unique name.
- To create a flattened image, save the document (File > Save As) as a JPEG file with a unique name. Then, close the working document without saving.

Check out my finished page. I couldn't believe how this young bull elk came within 6 feet of the tent across from us in the campground. By duplicating the photo and desaturating it to black and white, I was able to keep the background and give more attention to the elk.



Credits:

Page & Photo: Elk Taking A Stroll by Gina Harper

Tutorial: dst-stacked-desaturated

Kit: Afternoon Stroll by OohLaLa, ReadymadeLayersOutdoor by Studio DD

Font: Caroni