

SCRAPPER'S GUIDE

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Custom Frames: Cut and Paste (Photoshop Elements)

Tip of the Week by Lisa Hanks on May 24, 2011

I have said it before, and I'll say it again: I love frames.

Sometimes, when I want to add more emphasis to a layout, I crop my photo into a long skinny shape. Most designers don't include frames to accommodate this, but I can customize my frame to my picture, allowing me to crop my photos as long and as skinny as I want.



Step 1: Open Your Layout

This is a layout I created with the April Premier kit -- Escape to Nature, by Eva Kipler. As you can guess, it needs a frame!



Step 2: Frame It

Find a frame with edges that are pretty much straight.
Drag it onto your layout.



Step 3: Cut your Frame

Get your Rectangular Marquee tool from the Tool Bar.

In the Layers panel, make sure that the frame layer is active (highlighted).

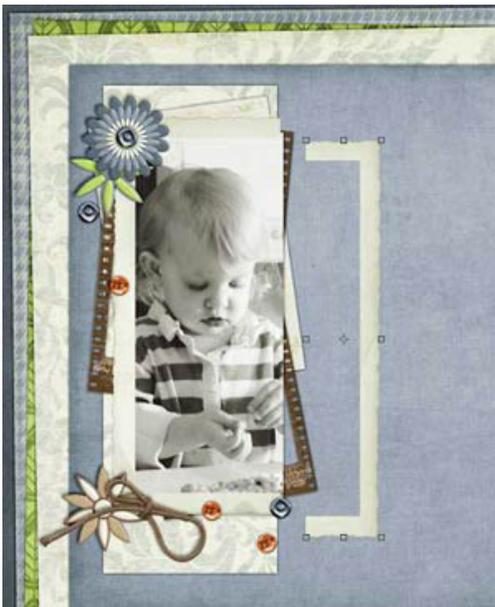
Make a selection outline around the part of the frame that goes beyond your picture.



Press Ctrl X (Mac: Cmd X) to cut that portion.

Press Ctrl V (Mac: Cmd V) to bring back that piece on its own layer.

You should now have two layers -- the lower base frame, and the upper portion that you cut and pasted back on.



Step 4: Connect the Pieces

In the Layers panel, verify that you are on the cut layer piece.

Get the Move tool.

Drag the cut frame and match it up with your base frame.

If there is a wave to the frame edge, zoom in and match up the edges.



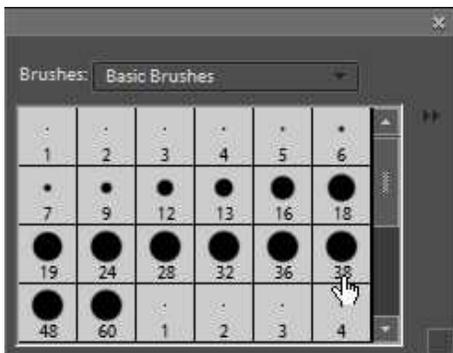
Step 5: Erase the Extra

In the Layers panel, activate the base frame layer.

In the Tool Bar, get the Erase tool.

In the Options Bar, open the Brush Picker and select a hard edged round brush.

I chose the 38 pixel hard brush.



Erase the overlapping edge.

Do this for the top of the frame and the bottom of the frame.



In the Layers panel, hold down shift and activate both frame layers.

Press Ctrl E (Mac: Cmd E) to merge both of the layers.

Step 6: Finish

Complete your layout by adding shadows.

Voila, custom frame!



Credits: layout, tutorial, pictures by Lisa Hanks. Kit used: Escape to Nature by Eva Kipler.



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