

SCRAPPER'S GUIDE

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Photo Filled Layouts - Fading Gradients (Photoshop Elements)



Tip of the Week by Jen White on July 19, 2011

Sometimes the harsh edge of a photo is a distraction on a scrapbook page. In this tutorial, I'll show you how to make a photograph gradually blend into the background with the Gradient tool.

It's the third (and final) tutorial in my series called "Photo Filled Layouts."

Step 1: Open Photo

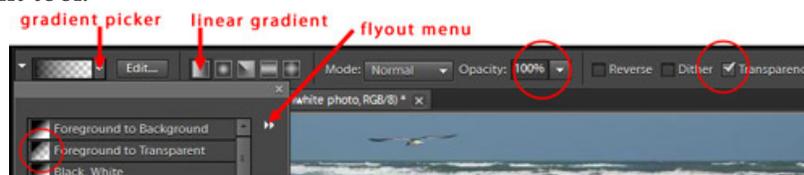
- * Open (File > Open) a scrapbook page with a background paper and a high quality photo.
- * I am using paper from [Amanda Heimann's kit, Come Out and Play](#).
- * Maximize or doc the page so you can clearly see its boundaries.
- * Press D to reset the Color Chips to the default of black and white.
- * In the Layers panel, make sure the photo layer is active and is above the background paper layer.



- * Press Ctrl T (Mac: Cmd T) to get the Transformation options.
- * Click and drag the corner handles of the bounding box to re-size the photo so it fills most of the scrapbook page.
- * Commit to the changes by double-clicking inside the bounding box.

Step 2: Add a Gradient

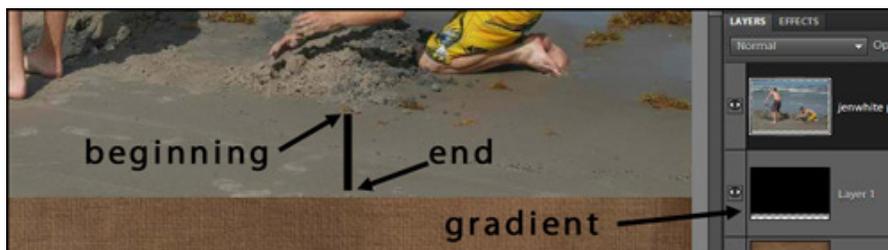
- * Ctrl click (Mac: Cmd click) on the Create a New Layer icon in the Layers panel.
- * This will add a new layer below the current active layer.
- * Get the Gradient tool.



- * In the Options Bar, open the Gradient Picker.
- * Click on the fly-out menu and choose Reset Gradients.
- * Click on the fly-out menu and choose Large List.
- * Double click on the Foreground to Transparent gradient icon.
- * In the Options Bar, change the following:
 - * Choose the Linear Gradient icon.
 - * Mode should be Normal.
 - * Opacity should be 100%.
 - * Reverse and Dither should be unchecked.
 - * Transparency should be checked.

* On your document, while holding down the Shift key, drag out a short line at the edge of your photo where you want it to fade out.

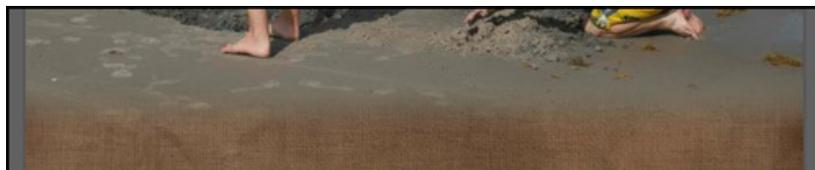
Note: You will not see the gradient appear because the photo layer is on top of it.



- * The beginning of the gradient line indicates where the fading will start.
- * The end of the gradient line indicates where the photo will be completely faded out.
- * Important: Do not extend the gradient line past the edge of the photo.

Step 3: Clip Photo to Gradient

- * In the Layers panel, activate the photo layer.
- * In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Create Clipping Mask.



Step 4: Blending Modes (optional)

This already looks really cool. BUT... the first image to the right shows the photo clipped to a gradient with a Normal blending mode.

The second image to the right shows the photo merged with the gradient and the blending mode set to Overlay.

How cool is THAT?? I LOVE it. So I'm sticking with the second option.



Here's how to achieve this look:

* With the photo layer selected in the Layers panel, press Ctrl E (Mac: Cmd E) to merge it with the gradient.

* Open the Blend Mode menu at the top of the Layers panel and choose Overlay, or take a minute and see what the other blend modes will do. Be adventurous and try them all. You'll be surprised at the amazing things you can create!

* The paper you use below the photo will make a huge difference in the final look of the photo. A medium brown craft paper like I used works especially well with images of people.

Step 5: Save and Share

* Save (File > Save As) your scrapbook page as a PSD file.

* Finish your scrapbook page.

* Share it with me and all my girlfriends in the [Tip of the Week Gallery](#) at Scrapper's Guide / Digital Scrapper.

Credits:

Tip of the Week by Jen White

Software - Photoshop Elements 9.0

Photo and Layout by Jen White

Paper and Elements by Amanda Heilmann ([Come Out and Play](#))

Font is Orator Std



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