



Creatively Yours

Lesson 5b: Layout Walkthrough Bonus (Photoshop Elements)

In this lesson, I'll walk you through creating a quick layout using the document we left off with in the last lesson.

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Set Up the Workspace

- Begin in Advanced Mode (Expert Mode for earlier versions).
- Open the photo-wall document you left off with in the last lesson. (File > Open).
- Make a duplicate copy (File > Duplicate).
- Close the original (File > Close).

Add a Brush

- Activate the Background layer in the Layers panel.
- Click on the Create a New Layer icon.
- In the Color Swatches panel, choose a color. I chose the Peach swatch from the class swatches (CTY-Class-Swatches).
- Get the Brush tool.
- In the Tool Options, open the Brush Picker and choose the SK Collaged 3 brush (CTY-Class-Brushes). Because the brushes have built-in settings, you won't have to adjust them. Make sure the Opacity is set to 100%
- Press Ctrl - (Mac: Cmd -) to zoom out so all the edges of the document are visible. This is helpful when using large brushes and part of your brush extends beyond the document bounds.
- On the left side of the document, click once to stamp the brush on the bottom half of the page.



- Move up above the previously stamped brush, and click once to stamp the brush on the top-left side of the document.



Create Clipping Masks

A great way to quickly create clipping masks for our frames is to use the Rectangle tool.

- Get the Rectangle tool.
- Use the same color we used for the stamped collage brush layer.
- In the Tool Options, set the Geometry Options to Unconstrained. Uncheck From Center and Snap. Click on the New Shape Layer icon.

- Make sure the collage brush layer is still the active layer so that the mask will sit under the frame layer.
- On the document, under Frame 1 on the top-left corner, click and drag out a shape behind the frame that's a bit bigger than the frame opening.
- Double-click directly on the name of the shape layer and name it Photo clipping mask 1. (Optional, this was not shown in the video)



- Activate the Frame 2 layer in the Layers panel.
- On the document, under Frame 3 on the bottom-left corner, click and drag out a shape behind the frame that's a bit bigger than the frame opening.
- Double-click directly on the name of the shape layer and name it Photo clipping mask 3. (Optional, this was not shown in the video)



NOTE: You can also create a photo clipping mask for Frame 2 following the previous instructions.

Add Placeholder Text

Use one or more frames to showcase journaling or an element.

TIP: Add placeholder text until you are ready to add journaling or a quote.

- Activate the Frame 1 layer in the Layers panel.
- Press the letter D to and reset the Colors Chips to the default of black and white.
- Get the Horizontal Type tool.
- In the Tool Options, open the Font Picker and choose a font. I used the Arial font. Set a Size for your font. I used 14 pt. The color chip should be black; if not, open the color chip and choose black. Click on the Left Align Text icon.

- On the document, click and drag out a text box shape that fits inside the frame to fill it with placeholder text. You can come back later and add journaling.
- Click the checkmark to commit the type.

NOTE: I don't usually adjust the other Type tool settings when I am using placeholder text. Once I am ready to add my journaling, I may change the font and size (and sometimes the color). I can then adjust the other settings if needed.



NOTE: The placeholder text was introduced in Photoshop Elements 2024. If you are using an earlier version, you will need to type in your own text or copy and paste some text.

- Get the Move tool.
- On the document, click on the text and move it if needed.

Clip Photos to the Clipping Masks

- In the Layers panel, activate one of the mask shape layers.
- Open a photo (File > Open) to clip to the mask layer.
- Holding down the Shift key, click and drag the photo over to the document.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Create Clipping Mask to clip the photo to the clipping mask. Or use the shortcut: Alt Ctrl G (Mac: Opt Cmd G).
- On the document, click on the photo and move it into position.

Completed layout after adding photos, a quote, and word art:



You can make a lot of variations just by rearranging your frames or adding a few more.



Save the Document

- Save the document (File > Save As) as a layered PSD file.
- Give the file a name.
- Save the document in the class folder for this lesson. Click Save.