design your life

Your best scrapbooking tool might just be your computer. A look at hybrid scrapbooking. BY CATHY ZIELSKE

I have been using my computer to make scrapbook pages since the very first layout I created back in 2002. For me, hybrid scrapbooking—combining computer processes with traditional ones—is as natural a pairing as Christmas and sugar cookies. Albeit, one with far fewer calories. I'm going to share my secret recipe for making standout hybrid layouts.

a story to remember

It was the night before Aidan was leaving for Southern California with the Clements family and she and Cole were both upstairs and I mentioned to Cole, "Don't forget to say goodbye to your sister because she's leaving for a week in the morning." Cole walks over to Aidan in the hallway, gives her a hug and says, "I love you" to which Aidan responded in kind. When Cole turned to head downstairs, Aidan came into the bathroom where Dan and I were brushing our teeth and mouthed to us, "OH MY GOD, DID YOU SEE THAT?"

She was freaking out and said, "That was the greatest moment of my life." It's not that the two of you haven't had your bonded sibling moments over the years. From back when you'd both play for hours building Lego creations together, or any other imaginary games you would create, you've always seemed to genuinely like each other. Sometimes, perhaps not as much as others, but I think there is a core there, something that will keep you connected as you continue your journeys in this life. If all else fails, you both really love ultimate.

ABSOLUTELY DARLING

AUGUST 2016

a story to remember

supplies CARDSTOCK: Bazzill Basics; PATTERNED PAPER, STICKERS: Studio Calico; FONTS: Archer, Gotham, Thirsty Soft; ADHESIVE: Scrapbook Adhesives by 3L

TIP: Continue adjusting the opacity of the journaling block as needed to enhance readability.

Download Cathy's free digital template and create your own hybrid layout today! Find the package at: **scrapbookandcards.com/bonus-files**
GET IT

layout 1

SEE-THROUGH BOXES

I love the look of a block of text with a ghosted background. It allows you to read the text while also seeing the photo behind it. This is an easy technique to do in Photoshop. All you need is a photo with an open area large enough to fit your journaling. On my page, I put the box above my subjects' heads, which required a little creative cropping of the original image (turned askew to offer more room).

Using the Rectangle Tool (found under the Shape options in Photoshop Elements' Draw tools), I added a white rectangle on top of my photo and changed its opacity to 80%, which creates the see-through effect. Next, I added my first journal box, set my font style, and typed the journaling. I then copied the journal box and dragged the copy to the right to continue typing in a second column.

layout 2

Photo collages are a terrific time saver! Rather than print and trim all of these photos separately, I created one collage to print as a single image. Once the collage is printed (this one includes the journaling), it's easy to then go in and add embellishments!

holiday cheer

supplies CARDSTOCK: Bazzill Basics; PATTERNED PAPER: Pink Paislee; STICKER: Ali Edwards; ELECTRONIC CUT FILE: Kerri Bradford Studio; FONT: Archer; ADHESIVE: Therm O Web

WHAT A MERRY SEASON 2015 WAS FOR THE ZIELSKES!

We may not have had a white, snowy December, but there was plenty of holiday cheer to be had every day of the month. With Aidan sending Christmas fun from St. Olaf and Dan donning the classic holiday hat and what the heck, Cole actually smiling in a photo, we filled the house with holiday glow and joy. How lucky we are, this little family. Far from perfect, we are a family in progress, always. How has this life, in fact, gone by so fast? I think that's just part of it all. I'll take it. Every wonderful minute. Merry, indeed!

HOLIDAY CHEER

Jingle all the way.

DIGITAL SKETCHING

To design your page and incorporate other elements, create a digital sketch! I wanted to use this charming "Jingle all the way" cut file for my title. Once I created my collage, I placed the PNG file that came with the digital package and sized it to my liking. I then added my journaling, keeping it short so it wouldn't run into the title.

Using the built-in Photoshop rulers, I measured the vertical size of the title and when I opened the cut file in my electronic cut file software, I matched that size. Before printing the collage, I turned off the title layer so it wouldn't print. This left the perfect amount of space for my cut, cardstock title. I love the added texture it gives my hybrid design.

Learn more about design at **cathyzielske.com**


PHOTO COLLAGE HOW-TO
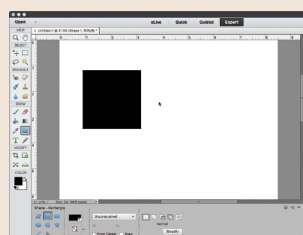
STEP ONE: In an 8½ x 11 Photoshop (or PS Elements) document, make a square box using the Rectangle Tool. Hold your Shift Key to constrain the box proportion.
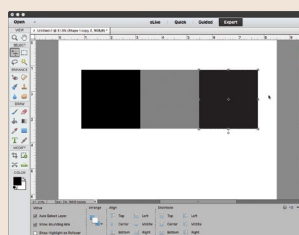
STEP TWO: Drag a copy to the right by holding down your Alt (PC) or Option (Mac) + the Shift Key. Go to Edit > Fill Layer… and under Contents choose 50% gray. Repeat for box 3. Change colour to black.
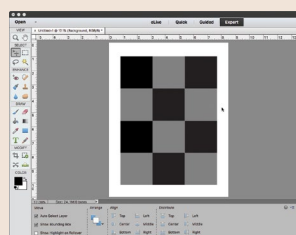
STEP THREE: Shift + Click on all three boxes and drag a copy of the group directly below. Change colours to create a checkerboard effect. Repeat for a third row and fourth row.
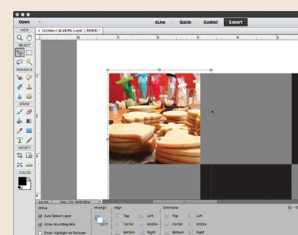
STEP FOUR: Select all layers and size collage as needed. Add photos to your document and clip into each box using Control (PC) or Command (Mac) + G. Size and crop photos as desired. Print onto photo paper and trim.