



INSTRUCTIONS HYBRID HELPERS FREEBIE

CZDESIGN 8½x11 LAYERED TEMPLATE

These instructions and templates are for use in Photoshop (PS) and Photoshop Elements (PSE) only



WHAT IS A HYBRID HELPER?

Hybrid Helpers are templates designed to create more traditional layouts but ones that include computer generated elements, such as titles and journaling blocks.

The idea is simple. All of the photo sizes are 6 x 4 or smaller so you can crop photos easily to fit the spaces on the template using prints you have on hand. You customize the colors of your title and add your journaling. You can even drop in your photos digitally to see how they'll look. Then you turn off those layers and print the title and journaling and other elements onto cardstock.

Build your page by adding your photos and whatever embellishments you want to use to finish the project.

Hybrid Helpers marry the ease of the computer with the tangible aspect of traditional paper crafting.

Enjoy the hybrid process!

WORKING WITH LAYERED PSD+TIF FILES

These instructions are for dropping in images into your template. If you're making a hybrid page, it's nice to see what the images will look like.

Open the template and then make sure you also have your **Layers Palette** open. (**View > Layers** in PSE; **Window > Layers** in PS)

Open a paper or photo of your choice, **Select All** (**CTRL + A**; **CMD + A** on a Mac), copy (**CTRL + C**; **CMD + C** on a Mac), then return to the template, click on the layer in the **Layers Palette** that you wish to modify and paste (**CTRL + V**; **CMD + V** on a Mac). Your paper or photo should appear in a new layer directly above that layer in the palette. If not, click on your photo or paper in the **Layers Palette** and drag it directly above the layer you intend to clip into. Use the **Move Tool** to position your image directly over the target shape.

With the new layer highlighted, create a clipping mask (PSE: **CTRL + G**; **CMD + G** on a Mac; (PS: **OPT + CTRL + G**; **OPT + CMD + G** on a Mac) to clip it into the template layer shape below. It works like magic. You can also go to the **Layer Menu** and find the **Create Clipping Mask** command there. Repeat for each photo and paper layer.

CUSTOMIZING ELEMENT COLORS IN PS/PSE

To change the color of an element: Open the PSD file and then make sure you also have your **Layers Palette** open. (**View > Layers** in PSE; **Window > Layers** in PS)

To change the color of an element, click on its layer in the **Layers Palette** to highlight it, or click on it directly the **Move Tool** to select.

Next, go to **Edit > Fill Layer** (**Edit > Fill** in PS). Under **Contents** choose **Color** from the drop down menu. The **Color Picker** will come up.

Use your mouse to select a color you want to use and be sure that **Preserve Transparency** is checked. Click **OK** and your layer element will change to the color you selected. ➡



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MAKING THE HYBRID PAGE

Once you've added your journaling, changed the color of the title or other elements, it's time to start turning off layers to prepare your file for print.

Turn off the photo layers and any layers designated for actual elements or patterned papers by clicking on the eye icon next to each layer.

Print on your choice of cardstock using your **Best Quality photo settings**. However, **do not** use your Borderless or Edge to Edge print settings. That will cause the template to print larger than it should.

You can now add your photos and your embellishments to the page as desired.

BONUS TIP FOR PHOTO PRINTING

Use the template to print your photos to size. For a page like this, do a **File > Save As...** and save the doc with a new name, like "Photo Prints." Leave only the photo and mask layers on, move the photos around so they are not touching the edges, and print on a sheet of 8.5 x 11 photo paper. **Do not use Borderless settings**. Or, you can drag the photo layers and masks together to new 6 x 4 docs for printing on smaller sheets of photo paper. Again, do not use Borderless settings to preserve the intended image sizes.

WANT TO MAKE A 12 x 12 PAGE?

Increase the template's canvas size to 12 x 12 (**Image > Resize > Canvas Size**). Leave the original design as is (white space is good!), or select all the layers and increase the size of all content to fill the space proportionately. **Note:** increasing the size of the content will require larger photo sizes.

FREE FONTS USED IN THE TEMPLATE

The journal font is [Intro Rust](#).

The font in this template is [Open Sans](#).

Customize your title to say anything you like! Simply highlight the text and type in your preferred title.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PURCHASE!



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