

# Scrap Your Day

Photo Fact Sheet #12 :: March 2009

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Each month as we near the 25th, there will be a new photo fact sheet to download. Although we all have different levels of experience and different styles, I hope you will find some photographic inspiration whether you're sharpening existing skills or trying something new for the very first time.

## Things to remember...

- ★ Charge. Your. Camera.
- ★ The 25th is this Wednesday.
- ★ Consistent shots for every month: clock when you wake, each meal, view from a window, self-portrait, clock when you go to sleep.

## This month: Embellish your photos

For the last eleven months, we've focused on a variety of easy improvements to our pictures as we look through the viewfinder. Changing up angles, being more aware of light, evaluating our perspective to make sure we include the near and the far, the stillness and the action. In this final month, we're going to have a bit of fun with what comes after we take a digital photo.

**This month's photo challenge is to embellish your photos with a bit of computery magic!**

The pages that follow will take you through the embellishment of the two images on the right, step by step. One image uses a purchased set of frames designed for digital scrapbooking and the other uses a free image you can download from the Scrap your Day [website](#) and use as you like.

I edit my photos in Adobe Photoshop CS3, so that's what you'll see in the step-by-step tutorial, but you don't have to have that software to follow the steps. You can follow the steps exactly in Photoshop Elements (free trial download [here](#) if you would like to try it for a month) and other photo-editing programs can work too. I've even included some options for embellishing your photos using a word processing program if you would prefer to steer clear of graphics software entirely -- check the last page if that's for you!

Ready to go? Let's get started!

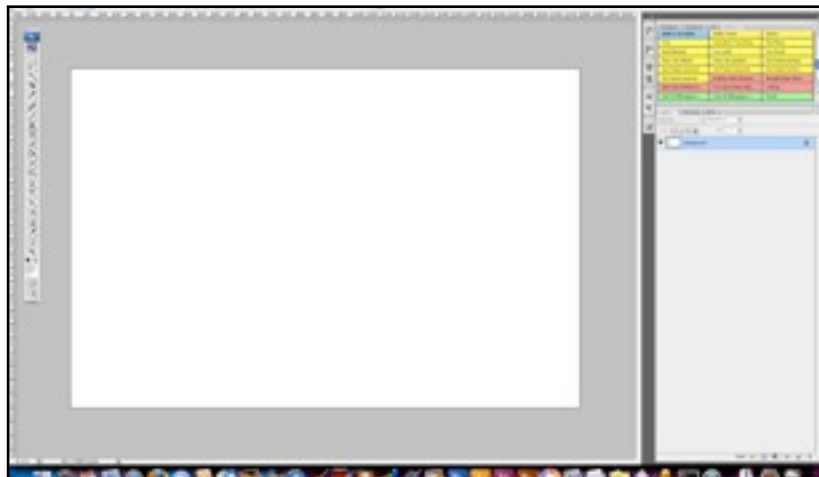




This photo is embellished with a Photo Mask by Jen Allyson. You can purchase this frame in a set of seven [here](http://twopeasinabucket.com).



1. Open a new document of 6x4 inches, 300 pixels per inch resolution, RGB colour and a white background.



It will look something like this.



2. Open the photograph you would like to embellish. You can do this through file-open, by dragging a photo from your organiser like iPhoto or Picasa over to Photoshop or by finding the file in Explorer or Finder, right clicking and choosing 'Open with...Photoshop'. It will open as a new file, so you now have two files open in PS.

3. Select all (ctrl+a) and copy (ctrl+c).





4. Go to 'Window' at the top of the page and select the blank document you made earlier. It will probably be called 'Untitled-1' unless you gave it a name.

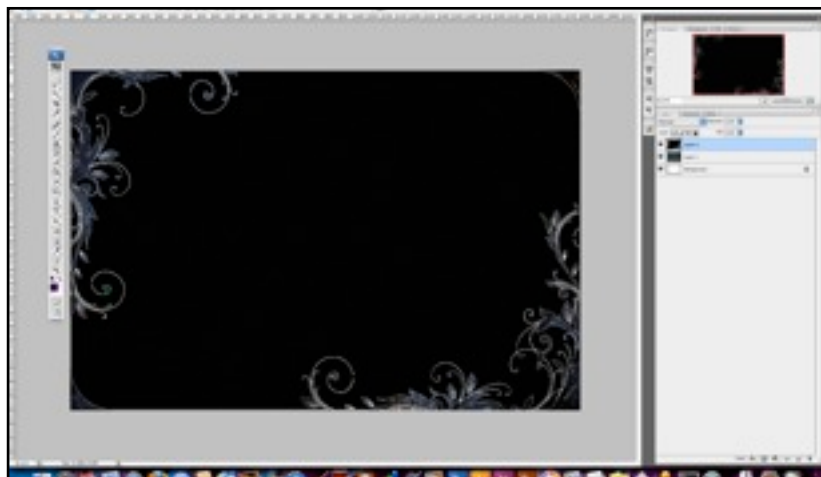
5. Paste (ctrl+v). Now your photo should be in your new document, on its own layer. If you need to change the size of your photo, you can do that with transform (ctrl+t) and hit enter or click the checkmark when you are happy.



6. Now open the photo frame, just like you opened the photograph.

7. Select all (ctrl+a) and copy (ctrl+c).

8. Go to 'Window' at the top and go back to your new document where you pasted in the photo earlier.



9. Paste (ctrl+v) the frame. Now you should have three layers - background, layer 1 (the photo) and layer 2 (the frame). You'll see a bit of the photo peeking through the swirls of the frame.



10. Change the order of the layers so your photo is on the top of the stack. Changing the order is easy: just click on one layer in the layers palette on the right and drag it to the spot you want.



11. Right-click on the photo layer (which should now be on top). Pull down in that menu and select 'Create clipping mask' or 'Group with previous'. (These are essentially the same command but they have different names in different editions of Photoshop and Photoshop Elements.)



12. Presto, you should now have your white background showing through where your frame was hiding! With this particular set of frames, you can print the image at this stage, use a corner rounder to round the edges and be finished with the embellishment.



13. OR you can change the background colour to any shade you would like instead of the white background you've had so far. Click the background layer in the layers palette at the right. Grab your paint bucket from the toolbar. Select the colour you would like and click anywhere on the image. Your background will change to the selected colour, like the green swirls here.



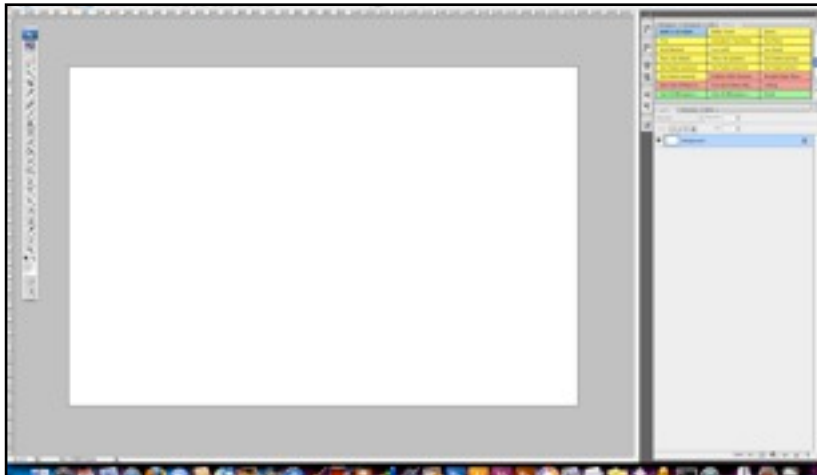
Your finished image!



This photo is embellished with a Scrap your Day journaling mask. You can download it free [here](#).



1. Open a new document of 6x4 inches, 300 pixels per inch resolution, RGB colour mode and a white background.



It will look something like this.



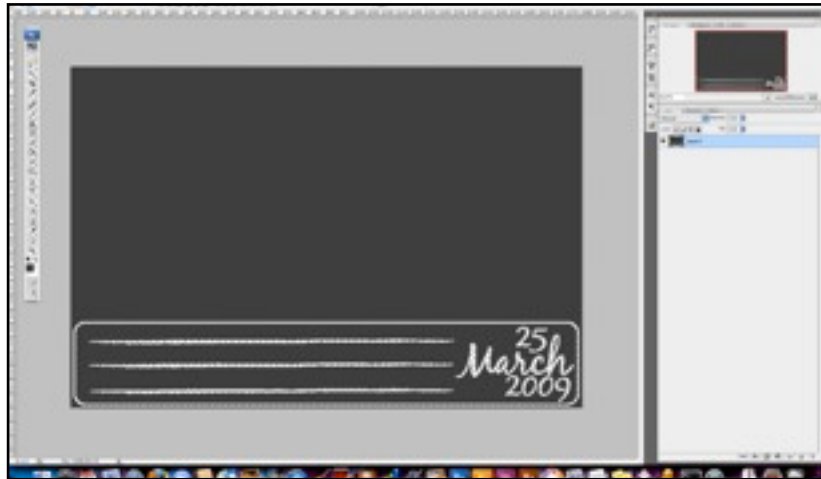
2. Open the photograph you would like to embellish. You can do this through file-open, by dragging a photo from your organiser like iPhoto or Picasa over to Photoshop or by finding the file in Explorer or Finder, right clicking and choosing 'Open with...Photoshop'. It will open as a new file, so you now have two files open in PS.

3. Select all (ctrl+a) and copy (ctrl+c).



4. Go to 'Window' at the top of the page and select the blank document you made earlier. It will probably be called 'Untitled-1' unless you gave it a name.

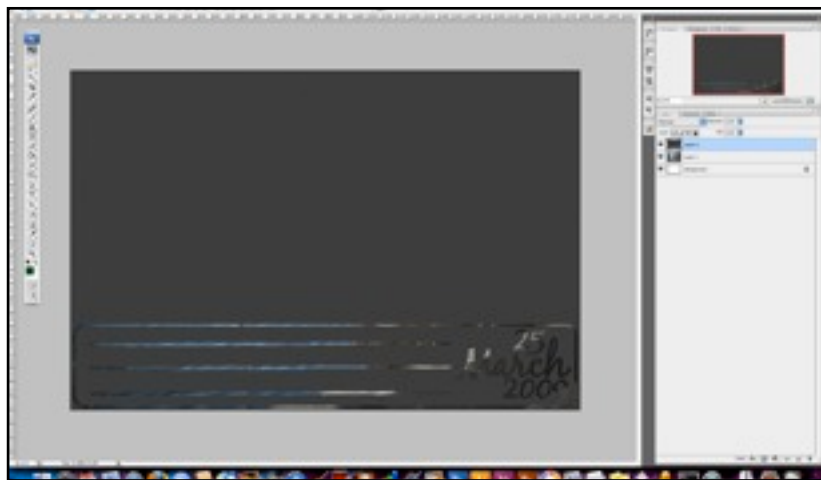
5. Paste (ctrl+v). Now your photo should be in your new document, on its own layer. If you need to change the size of your photo, you can do that with transform (ctrl+t) and hit enter or click the checkmark when you are happy.



6. Now open the journaling image, just like you opened the photograph.

7. Select all (ctrl+a) and copy (ctrl+c).

8. Go to 'Window' at the top and go back to your new document where you pasted in the photo earlier.



9. Paste (ctrl+v) the journaling image.

Now you should have three layers - background, layer 1 (the photo) and layer 2 (the journaling image). You'll see a bit of the photo peeking through the lines and date.



10. Change the order of the layers so your photo is on the top of the stack. Changing the order is easy: just click on one layer in the layers palette on the right and drag it to the spot you want.





11. Right-click on the photo layer (which should now be on top). Pull down in that menu and select 'Create clipping mask' or 'Group with previous'. (These are essentially the same command but they have different names in different editions of Photoshop and Photoshop Elements.)



12. Presto, you should now have your white background showing through the lines and date! If you want your date and lines to be white, you can print the image at this stage and you'll be done! You can write on the lines with a pen, add stickers or you can type on the lines before you print the photo by using the type tool.



13. OR you can change the background colour to any shade you would like instead of the white background you've had so far. Click the background layer in the layers palette at the right. Grab your paint bucket from the toolbar. Select the colour you would like and click anywhere on the image. Your background will change to the selected colour, so now my date and lines are blue.



Your finished image!

## *But hey! Photoshop is not for me!*

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Don't have access to Photoshop, Photoshop Elements or another program that will cope with layers? Don't give up on this month's challenge just yet! There are plenty of things you can still do to embellish your pictures this month.

**Go online:** Try the free online photo editing service at [Picnik](#). You can try out their service by loading a demo image on the home page and you'll be amazed at how much you can do to a photo using their free and premium services. The free service includes plenty of options for improving or changing your photos in their editing menu but click over to 'create' at you can add text, special effects, frames, clip art and so forth. Save your photo at the end and you are good to go, with no software downloading at all.

**Use your word processor:** Adding text to your picture is super easy. Add your photo to your document (usually a command like 'Insert image') then create a text box (usually 'Insert text box'). Write and format your text, then move it over to the right place on top of your photo! This is easy for printing your photos rather than saving them as jpgs, but if you're just worried about printing them with the extra embellishment, that's all you need anyway!

**Go old school:** Seriously, forget about the computer. If you're all paper, all the time, then embrace it! Print your photos. Use your stamps, pens, transparencies and other embellishments to fancy up a picture or two! You meet the challenge and you never have to admit your dislike for all things technical.

See you tomorrow for our final album prompt!