BACKGROUND PAPERS: MAKING YOUR OWN   1/25/2021

Background papers are there to enhance your pictures not to overwhelm them. In the best circumstances they start with the picture(s) that will be used with them.

1-PREPPING

1. File > New > Blank File > Change Document Type to either "Scrapbooking" or "US Paper"
2. Set Background Contents to WHITE
3. OK
4. Dock the paper, (Ctrl+0 or Comm+0 to make as large as possible)
5. Change the Background to a regular layer by Right Click Background Layer select "Layer from Background". Will become Layer 0.
6. Create a folder where you can save your created 'papers' save on your desktop.
7. Save/Rename Document by File > Save As > JPEG > File Name 'Blank BG" for now to your desktop. As large as possible. OK
8. NOTE: SAVE AS the papers you create to this folder as you go along. (Tiff or JPG)

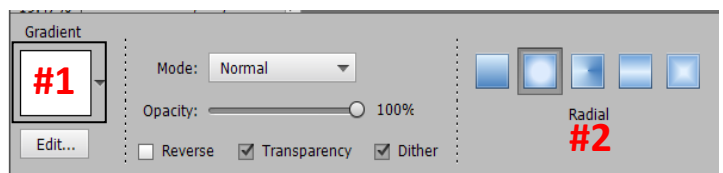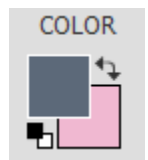
2-STARTING EACH SECTION

1. Make a duplicate of your Blank BG that is in the Photo Bin, work on that one.
2. Drag a photo onto the BG, this way you can see how it would look over the bg you are building.
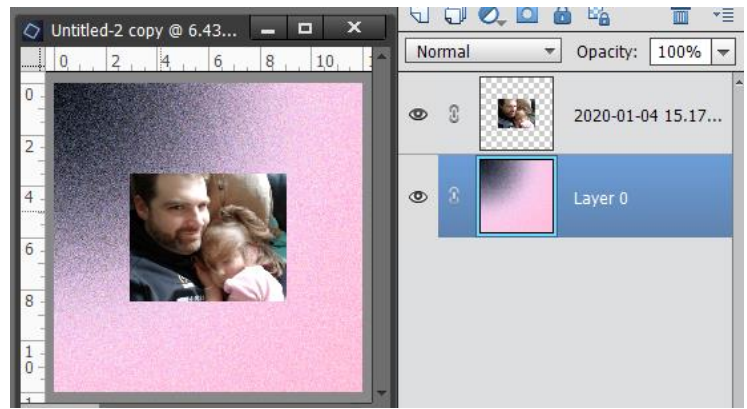3. You will work on the BG file.

3-USING STYLE

1. Click on Styles, the ones that could work are COMPLEX, GLASS BUTTONS, INNER EFFECTS (best when combined with other style), PATTERNS, WOW NEON (combined with other style), and WOW PLASTIC.
2. We covered this last week, so I suggest you play with this at home.

4-USING GRADIENT & TEXTURE

1. To tie the colors to your picture select two colors from the picture have one in Foreground and one in Background. This will put these colors in your Color boxes in your Tools Panel.
2. Select Gradient from the Draw Tools

3. By clicking on the little arrow next to #1 you have different Gradients to choose from. Select the Default. Select the first option. (The 2 colors you selected in step #1 will be in this Gradient.
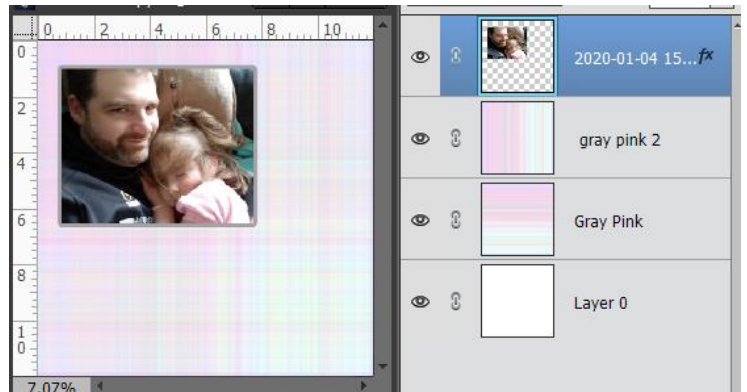
4. Try the different options from #2 on your background.
5. To add texture Menu Bar > Filter > Texture > start with Craquelure
6. Play with each of the sliders
7. Each of the other options have adjustments that can be played with.
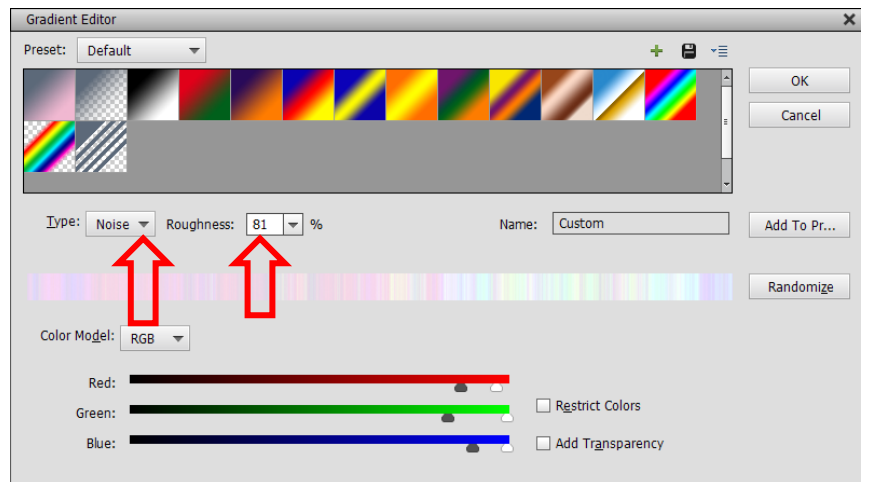8. When happy click OK

5-NOIZY GRADIENT PAPERS

1. Repeat steps from "Starting Each Section"
2. Make a new Layer call it "Gray Pink" (really your colors)
3. You have already set your colors
4. Again, pick the Gradient Tool
5. In the Tool Box click the Edit option, you will get the Gradient Editor box
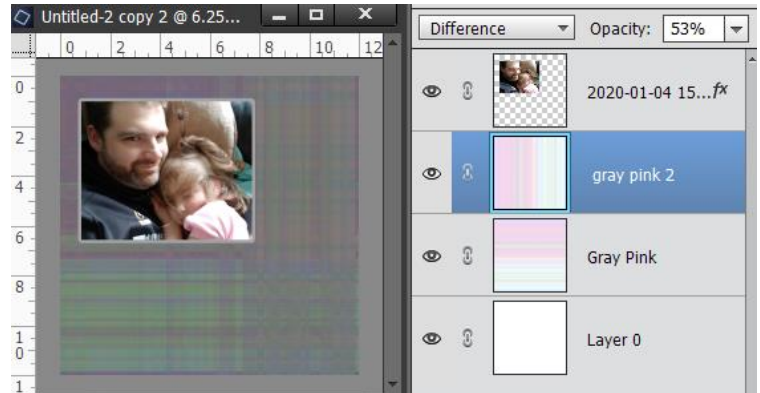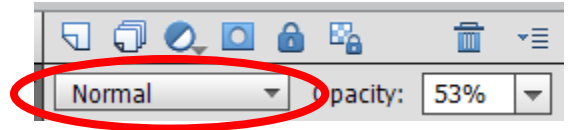6. Change Type to Noise, Change your Roughness to 80.
7. For mare pastel colors move the sliders to the right. Red changes the numbers of Cyans, Green affects the number of Magentas and Pinks, and blue the number and intesity of yellows.
8. Click OK
9. Use the Linear gradient and drag the Gradient on your page. It can be straight up down like my sample was or at an angle.
10. Make a duplicate of that Layer.
11. Rotate the copy layer by 90%.   Menu Bar > Image > Rotate > from below the line Rotate the Layer (can be 90 or free rotate).
12. In the Layer Panel change your OPACITY of this layer to what looks good (usually around 50%).
13. Since there are layers in this bg you would want to save it as a TIFF.

6-BLENDING AND OPACITY

1. Using the bg you just made, select the top layer of the bg (NOT the picture) .
2. Click on the down arrow in the Blending Mode.
3. Change to Dissolve (the first one).
4. You can now use your down arrows on the keyboard to run through the different blends.
5. Take note of any that you like. Sometimes you will want to change the opacity of the layer.
6. I am showing you DIFFERENCE only because it made the most difference in this case. Not because I like it best.
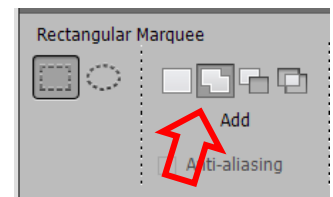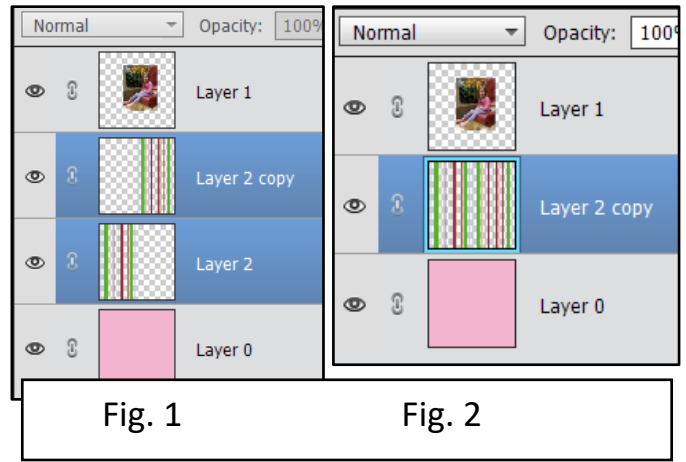
7-STRIPED PAGES

1. Sometimes you have a picture with colors you like and want them to be in the bg.
2. Follow the steps for STARTING EACH SECTION to have a blank page, drag the colorful picture to blank bg.
3. Select Layer 0, click the NEW Layer icon at the top of the Layers Panel.
4. Select the picture layer, use your Eye Dropper tool from the Draw section to select a color in the picture to be the dominate color.
5. Select the Layer 0, use the Paint Bucket tool from the Draw Section and click on the paper, this will fill the layer with this color.
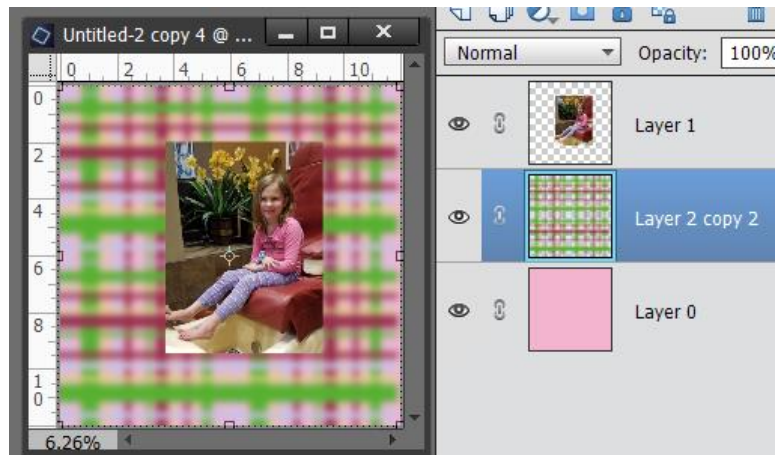6. MAKE THE STRIPES
   a. Back to your picture, select another color with Eye Dropper
   b. Back to transparent layer, Rectangular Marquee Tool from the Select tools, have ADD selected.
   c. Starting on the left side of the paper drag a thin selection from the top left to the bottom of the page. Do this 3 times, with various widths, only do on the left half of the page. Hit ESC key on keypad to close selections.
   d. Go back to (a) and repeat steps with 3 or 4 colors.
7. Duplicate your Striped Layer   (Right Click in the Layer > Select Duplicate)
8. Use your Move Tool or the arrows on your keyboard to move the copy to the left.

9. Select both Striped layers, your Layers Panel will look like Fig. 1.
10. Right click on one of the selected layers and select MERGE LAYERS (you might have to move the layers in the creation – for some weird reason). Your Layers Panel will look like Fig. 2.
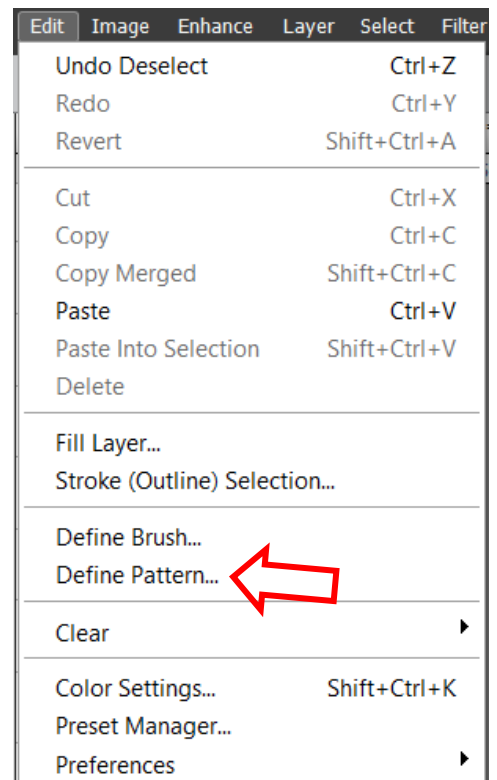11. You can stop there OR…
12. MAKE A PLAID
    a. Duplicate your layer
    b. Rotate one layer
    c. Merge the layers – Select both layers, Right Click, Merge Layers
    d. You can stop there or…Menu Bar > Filter > Blur > Gaussian Blur > Adjust the blur > OK

Fig. 1   Fig. 2

8-BLENDED PATTERNS

1. Follow the steps for STARTING EACH SECTION to have a blank page, drag the colorful picture to blank bg.
2. Select an embellishment. (This could even be a picture of a person!)
3. Click the New Layer button from the top of the Layers Panel. (Name it Base)
4. Fill this with a color that will look good with your picture and/or your embellishment.
5. Create a new Layer (Name it based on what you are using as pattern piece.)
6. CREATE YOUR PATTERN
    a. Open the embellishment (or picture)
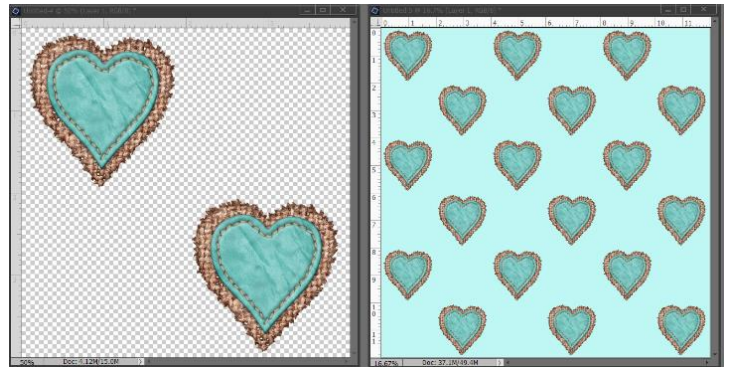   b. Menu Bar > Edit > Define Pattern > You Can Name it > OK
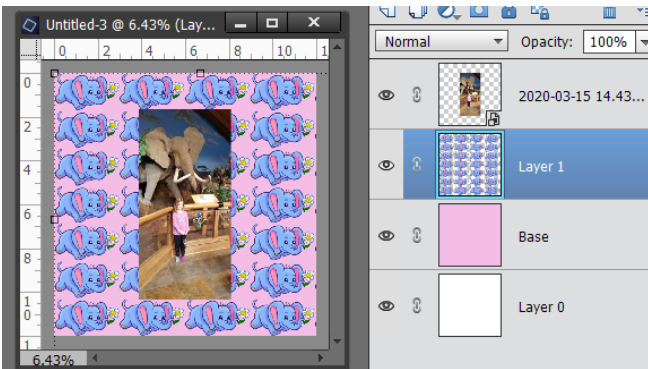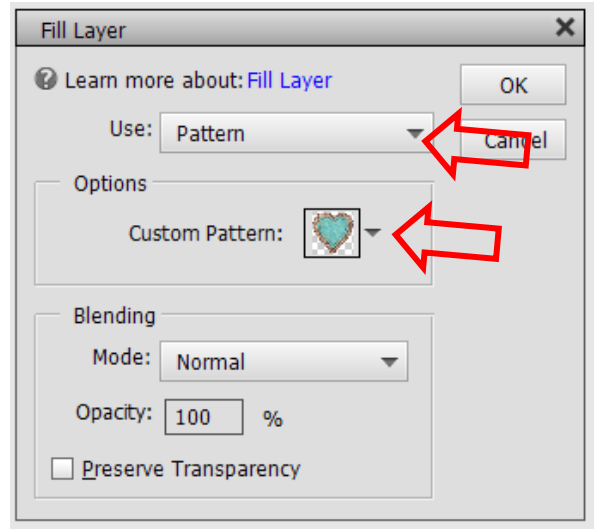

4

c. Select your Pattern by - Menu Bar > Edit > Fill Layer…
      i. Change "Use" to Pattern
      ii. Click the down arrow at the Custom Pattern, scroll down to your pattern
      iii. Leave the Blending Mode and Opacity alone.
      iv. OK
7. You can now resize, rotate, play with blend modes, add styles, change opacity…
8. If you wanted to do an Offset Pattern
      a. You would build the Pattern that you wanted like the first square in the hearts.
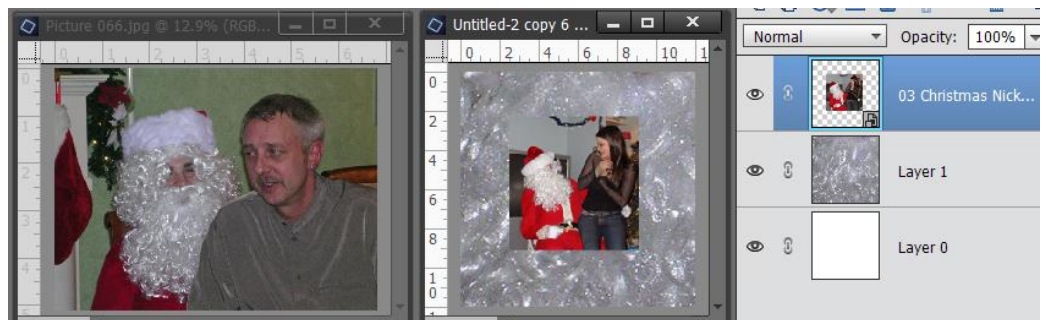   b. The result would be the second square.

9-MAKING BG FROM ELEMENT IN PICTURE

1. Follow the steps for STARTING EACH SECTION to have a blank page, drag the colorful picture to blank bg.
2. Locate a picture that has an interesting element (it can be a very small part of the pic)
3. Make a copy of the picture – work ONLY on that as you are going to crop.
4. Crop the part of the pic you want to use.
5. Drag it to your blank bg - you could use all the options to make adjustments we have covered.
6. Add your picture
7. Note: The picture I cropped the beard from is on the left and the picture with the beard is on the right. The layers panel is for the final picture.

10-PAINTED PAGES

1. Follow the steps for STARTING EACH SECTION to have a blank page, drag the colorful picture to blank bg.
2. Fill the page with a nice bright green
3. Make a new layer that you will paint on.
4. Put a bright red in foreground and pumpkin orange in background color boxes.
5. From the Default Brushes select the Scattered Maple Leaves
6. Set your Brush Setting to something like this.
7. Always paint on a blank layer.
8. Paint around the edge of your blank, if you don't like it just undo and re-paint.
9. Obviously, you could paint all over the background.