

PHOTO COLLAGE



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Click on any blue, underlined text to go to its linked reference.

If you're looking for yet another novel way to share photos, a "photo collage" might be the solution.

Why do a collage? The collage produced in this lesson is only 3.46 Mb while the size of the total of the four photos is 19.58 Mb (photo 1 is 3.36 Mb, photo 2 is 6.20 Mb, photo 3 is 4.85 Mb, and Photo 4 is 5.17 Mb).

Here's how to create a photo collage.

1. With the photos you want included in the collage in the Organizer (**Figure 1**):

❶ Select the photos.

✪ To select multiple photos that are contiguous (one-after-another), left-click on the first one; then by holding down the Shift key on the keyboard, and left-click on the last file/folder, all are highlighted.

✪ To select multiple photos that are not contiguous, left-click on the first file; then, hold down the Ctrl key, and left-click on any number of additional photos. All will be highlighted.

✪ To select *all* the photos, use either use the Edit ► Select ► All (from the MenuBar) or use Ctrl + A (hold down the Ctrl key and touch the A key, releasing both immediately) to select all the photos. All will be highlighted.

❷ Left-click on the "Create" button in the Palette.

❸ Left-click on "Photo Collage" option.

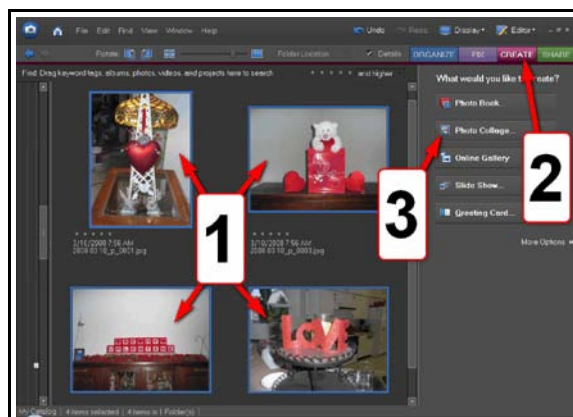


Figure 1

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2. A set of options open (**Figure 2**):

- ① The Projects options are showing.
- ② You can select Artwork to add art.
- ③ The default page size is *letter*, portrait (8.5"x11"), but you can change it.
- ④ Themes are offered.
- ⑤ Select the Layout that best fits your needs.
- ⑥ When satisfied, left-click on the "Done" button.

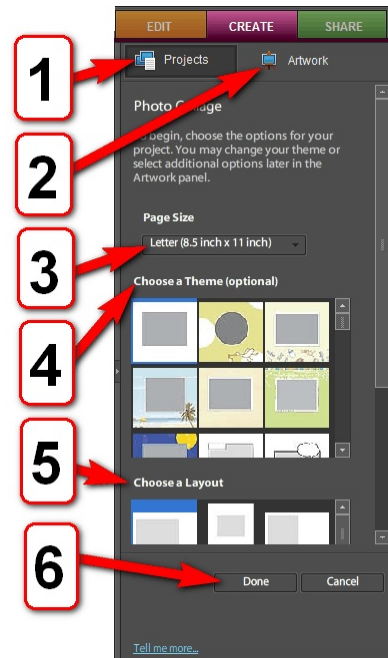


Figure 2

3. I selected the "3x4 4 photos" layout (**Figure 3**).

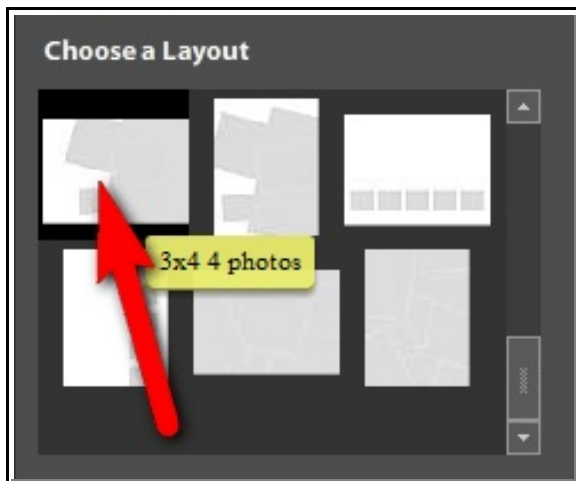


Figure 3

4. Elements places your photos into the Layout you selected (**Figure 4**).

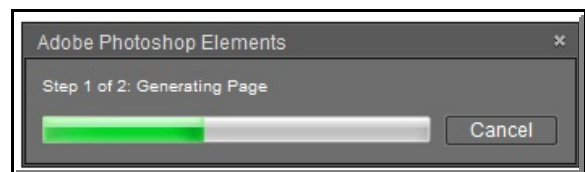


Figure 4

5. Your selected photos are placed in the desired layout (**Figure 5**). Now arrange them as you would like.

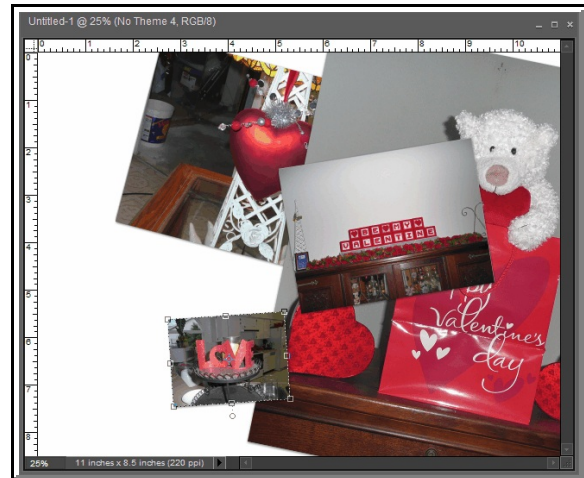


Figure 5

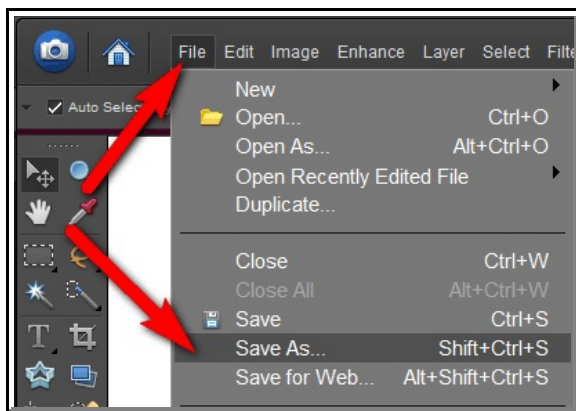


Figure 6

6. Before I do anything else, I save the collage by selecting File > Save As from the MenuBar (**Figure 6**).

7. In the Save As window (**Figure 7**), I have many choices:

- ① Ensure the collage will be saved into the folder of your choice.
- ② Type a title for the collage. Note that I began with the date (year+month+day) and then gave it a descriptive name,
- ③ The Photoshop Document (PSD) format (multiple layers) is the default .
- ④ The next to "Include in the Organizer" ensures it is easy to find again.
- ⑤ The next to "Layers" ensures that all the layers are retained.
- ⑥ Left-click on "Save" button when satisfied.

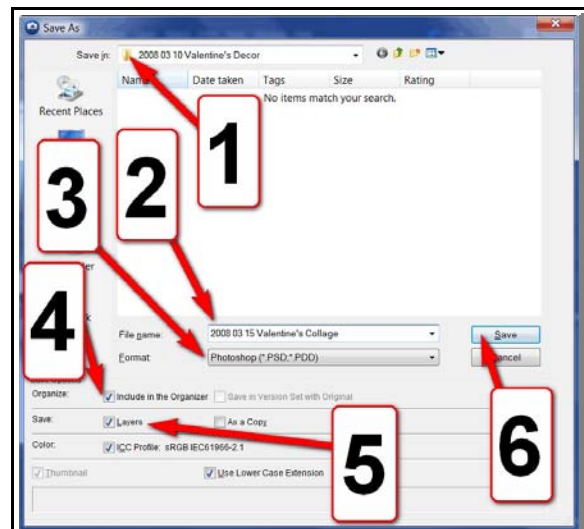


Figure 7



Figure 8

8. To rearrange the positions of the photos, I begin work on Photo 1 by left-clicking, hold, and dragging it to the position I want (**Figure 8**).

9. Next I left-clicking, holding, and dragging Photo 2 to the lower-left corner. Then, by placing my cursor just outside its upper-right corner (**Figure 9**), I can rotate it to suit my needs.



Figure 9

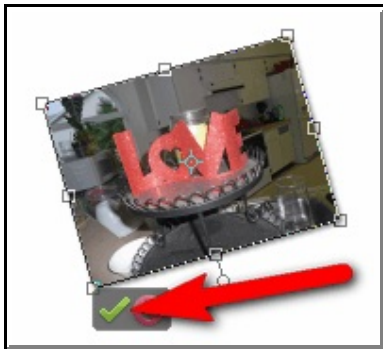


Figure 10

10. Once it is positioned to my liking, I left-click on the ✓ in the corner of the photo to approve the changes (**Figure 10**).

11. Finally, I resize Photo 2
(**Figure 11**):

- ❶ Left-click, hold, and drag the upper-right corner of the photo.
- ❷ Left-click on ✓ to accept change.

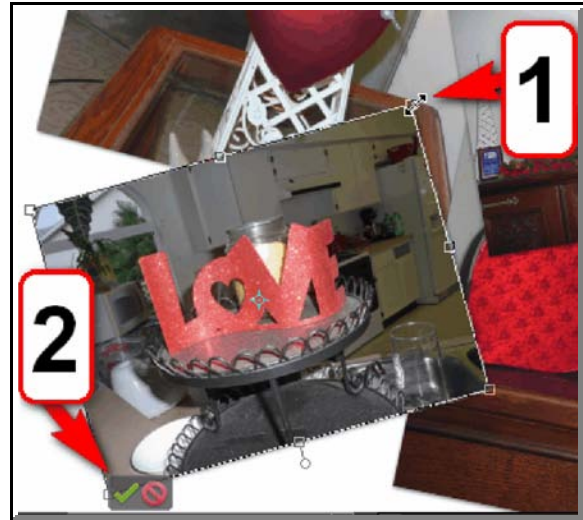


Figure 11



Figure 12

12. I examined my work, and so far it is almost what I want (**Figure 12**).

13. To move Photo 3 behind all the others (**Figure 13**):

- ❶ RIGHT-click on the photo.
- ❷ Left-click on “Send to Back” option in the drop-down menu.



Figure 13

14. Photo 3 is moved to the back (Figure 14).



Figure 14

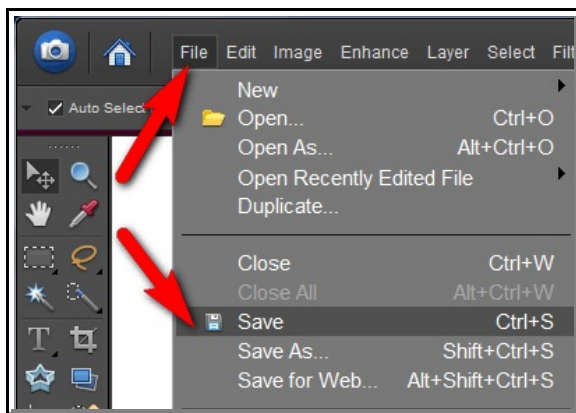


Figure 15

15. Save the PSD collage by left-clicking on File ► Save (Figure 15).

16. However, to share the collage with others, I'll need to flatten the collage, and save it as a JPEG/JPG (joint photographic experts group), so I select File ► Save As from the MenuBar (Figure 16).

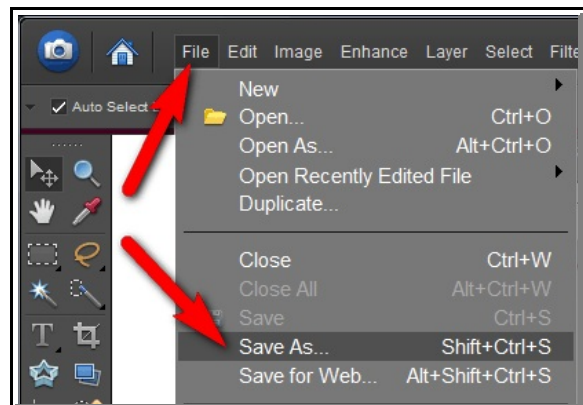


Figure 16

17. In the “Save As” window (Figure 17):

- ❶ Left-click to remove the Layers. A warning icon will appear.
- ❷ Change the format to “JPEG...”
- ❸ Remove the “Copy” from the file’s name.
- ❹ Save your work by left-clicking on the “Save” button.

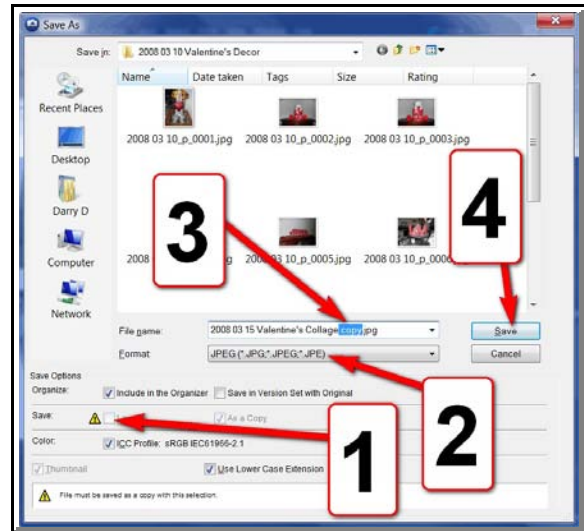


Figure 17

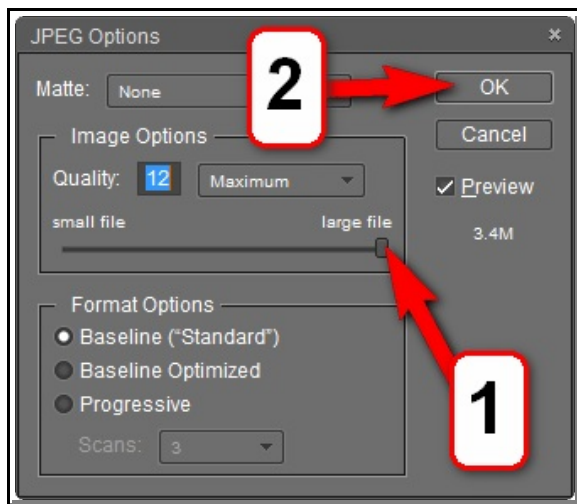


Figure 18

18. This brings up the JPEG Options window (Figure 20):

- ❶ Ensure that the Quality is 12, Maximum.
- ❷ Left-click on “OK” button.

19. Since I have saved the collage as both PSD and JPEG files, both now appear in the Organizer (Figure 19), so I can still make changes to the PSD file if I wish, but I can now print or share the JPEG with my friends.



Figure 19