

SCRAPPER'S GUIDE

The Easiest Way To Learn Digital Scrapbooking. **Guaranteed.**

Eliminating Eyeballing (Photoshop)

Tip of the Week by Jen White on July 26, 2010

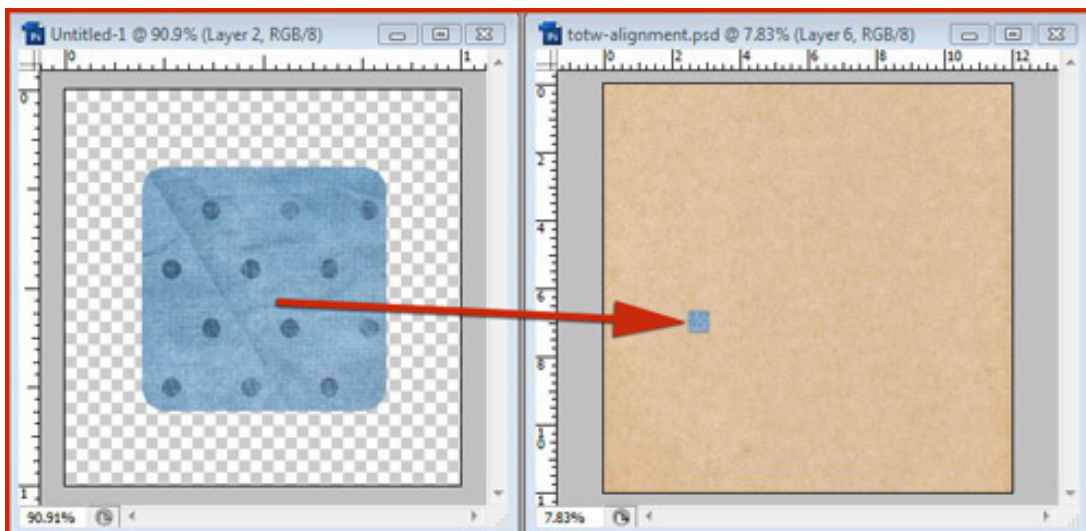
As a scrapbooker, I spend a lot of time eyeballing things. "That looks good" is all right with me...most of the time.

For those times when rough estimates are not good enough, I will often turn to Adobe's alignment and distribution tools.

These sweet little devices take on the job of lining things up and spreading them out...no eyeballing required. Let me give you an example...

Step 1: Open

* Open (File > Open) a digi element. Choose an element that would look good with a lot of repetition. A brad or gem is usually a good choice. I've chosen to use a small square of paper.



- * Get the Move tool and drag your element onto your scrapbook page.
- * Place it where you want your row of elements to start.

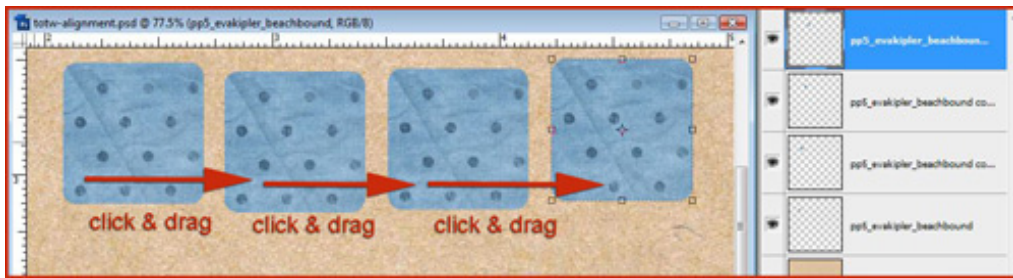
Step 2: Duplicate

Tip: When you have the Move tool, pressing the Alt (Opt) key will cause your cursor to turn into a double headed arrow. The double headed arrow indicates that duplication is about to happen.

* Holding down the Alt key (Mac: Opt key), click on or near your element and drag it to the right. The new element will drag along with your cursor, leaving the old element behind. Let go of your mouse button



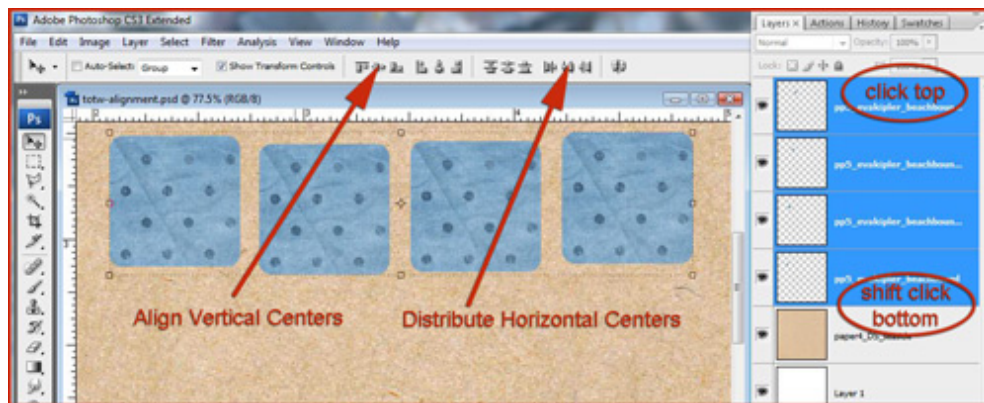
when your new element is about where you wanted it.



* Repeat the previous step until you have duplicated enough times to achieve the look you are going for.

Step 3: Align

* In the Layers panel, click on the top element layer, then shift click on the bottom element layer. All your element layers should be selected. See the image below.



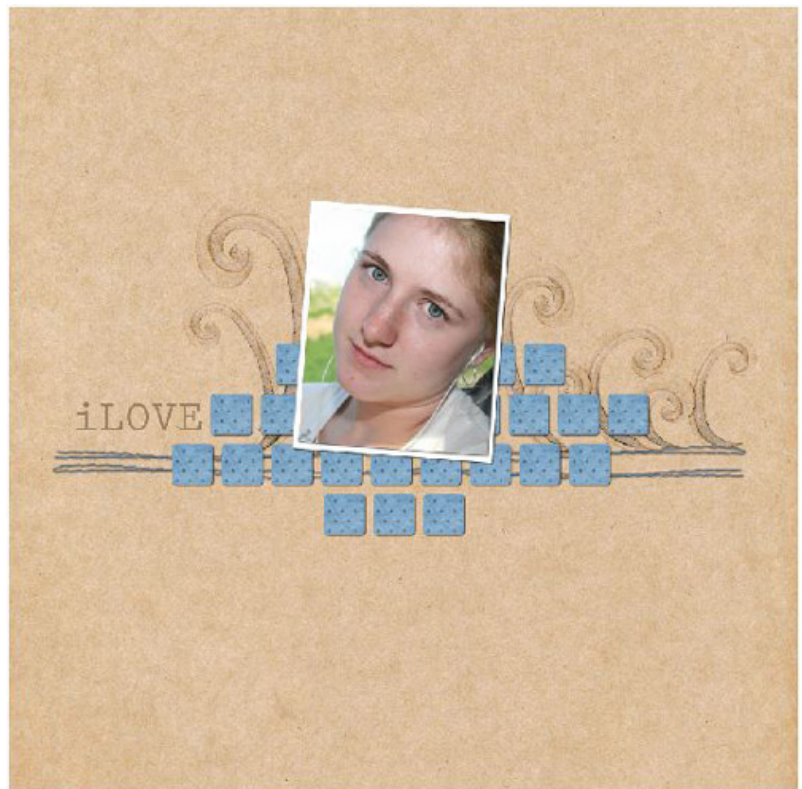
* With the Move tool active, click on Align Vertical Centers in the Options Bar. This will make all your elements be in a straight line.

* Next click on Distribute Horizontal Centers in the Options Bar. This will evenly distribute your elements – so that there is the exact amount of space between each element.

Hint: If you are creating an up-down (instead of a left-right) row of elements, you will need to choose Align Horizontal Centers and Distribute Vertical Centers.

Yay! Now I'm off to finish the rest of my scrapbook page! Hope to see your finished page along with mine in the Tip of the Week gallery at Scrapper's Guide.

Credits: Tip and scrapbook page by Jen White created with Photoshop CS3. Supplies were "Seaside" kit by Digital Scrapper Designs and "Beach Bound" kit by Eva Kipler. Both of these kits are available at





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