

Lesson 10: Slanted

- The Design
- Variations and Details
- Sketch
- Your Turn

THE DESIGN

You can use lines in your layouts to elicit an emotional response. Horizontal lines are calming—think horizon. Verticals are dignified, elevating even—think of tall pines and church spires. A diagonal line is action. It's a line on the move, and it can add interest and energy to your pages.

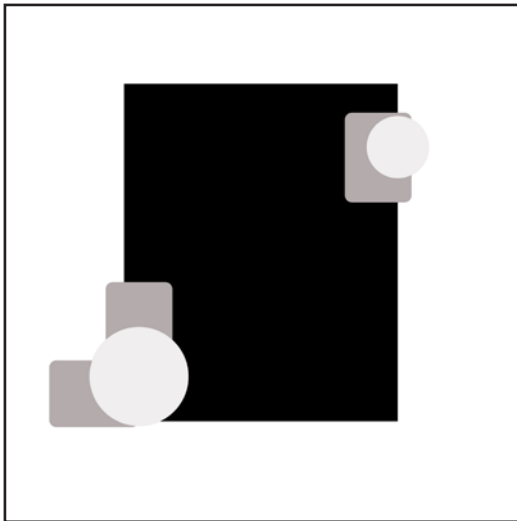
Composing a photograph so that your subject is at a diagonal almost always makes a more compelling shot. The same principle can be applied to page design. The diagonal line does not need to be literal. Rather, you just need to set up at least two points along your diagonal that stand out—so that the viewer's eye makes the connection. Your diagonal can be descending (from upper left to bottom right) or ascending (from bottom left to upper right).

The elements on "Too Many Dishes" are placed on the page to create descending diagonal draw.

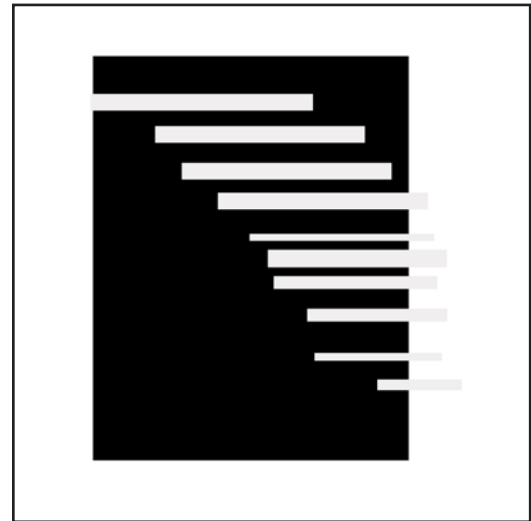


VARIATIONS AND DETAILS

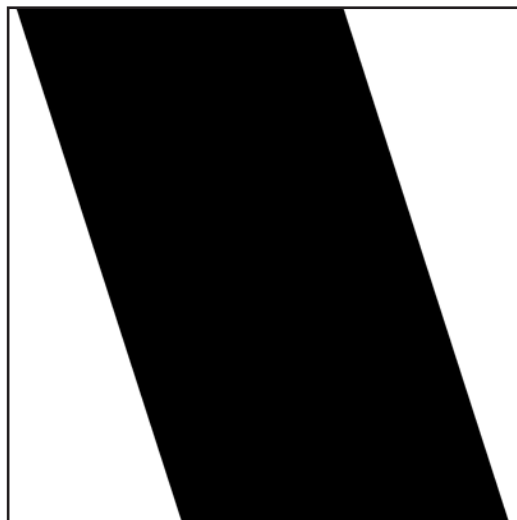
Here are some ideas for creating diagonal draw on your pages. Try these and come up with others.



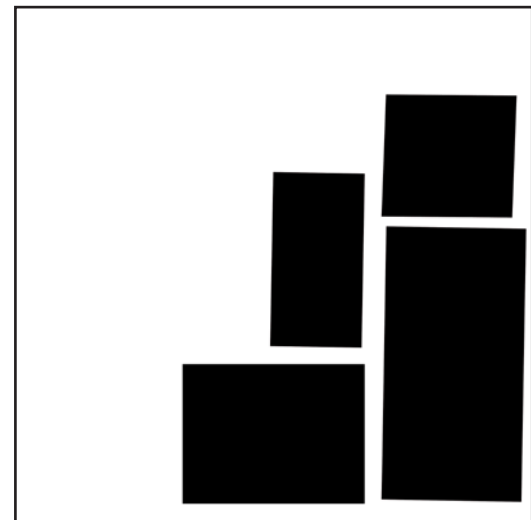
Add eye-catching embellishments *at two points on a diagonal line*. Thus, you can achieve diagonal draw on a page that features a rectangular block of photos.



Use strong contrasts between your background and foreground elements to create a diagonal line—for example a stepped placement of journaling strips.



Place your photos in a diagonal block that bleeds off page edges—or use such a block in your background.



Place your photos in the shape of a right-angle triangle in one corner of your page.

Achieve a diagonal with placement of dominant elements like photos.

All of these layouts include two photos that are placed on a diagonal from one another. What's more, the photos stand out strongly against their background and surrounding elements. The Disney page is based upon a template by Pattie Knox at Designer Digitals. The photos contrast strongly with all that surrounds them.

While "Campaigning with Victoria" is a blocked design that is quite different from the Disney page, the photo placement and strong contrasts yield a similar diagonal line. On "The Story" the photos stand out against an inner canvas to create ascending diagonal draw.



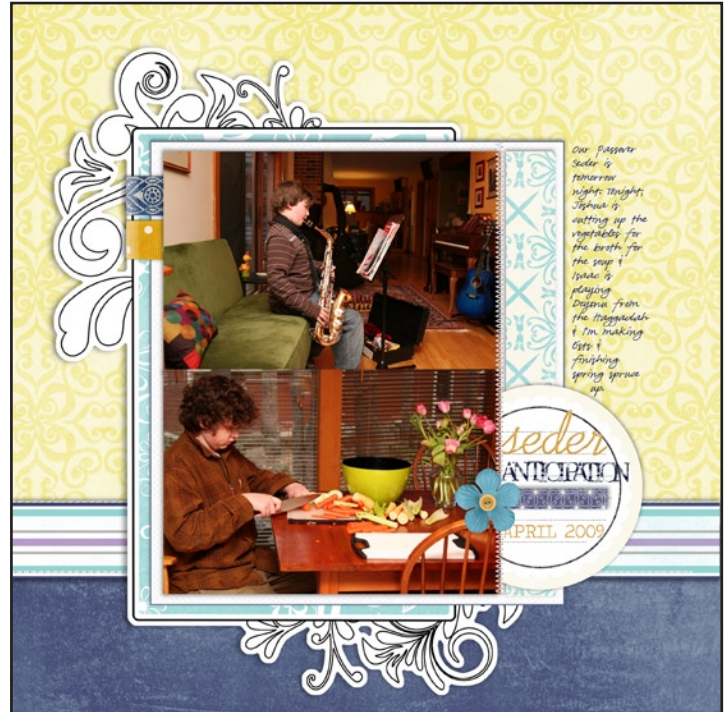
Achieve a diagonal with embellishment placement.

You need only two points on a line to define it. The key in page design is that those points must stand out and draw the eye.

You will draw the eye by using strong contrasts.

On "Seder Anticipation," it is contrast in styling, color, and size that makes the doodled flourishes at top left and bottom right of the photo block stand out. The viewer's eye sees the two interesting spots of white and travels from one to the other.

On "Coffee Mates" a blocked rectangular inner canvas is backed up by bold graphic brushes at top left and bottom right. This creates a descending diagonal line. This is a hybrid page. The brushes were printed to yellow patterned paper and then topped with photos and papers.



Achieve a diagonal line with the shape your combined elements define.

All of the elements of "Too Many Dishes" - photos, title, journaling, papers - are placed in a diagonal arrangement. This is a diagonal that can't be missed and that is the core of the page.



Achieve a diagonal with the shape of the white space surrounding your elements.

The core of "Hobos in March" is a the photo and embellishment block that begins at page left and steps down and to the right diagonally. The "steps" and angles are smoothed with journaling that flows long them to the right. The result is three diagonals: 1) the block of photos and embellishments, 2) the journaling, and 3) the white space surrounding it all.



Achieve a diagonal line by including a large diagonal block that bleeds off page edges.

This is probably the most obvious and strongest way to add a diagonal.

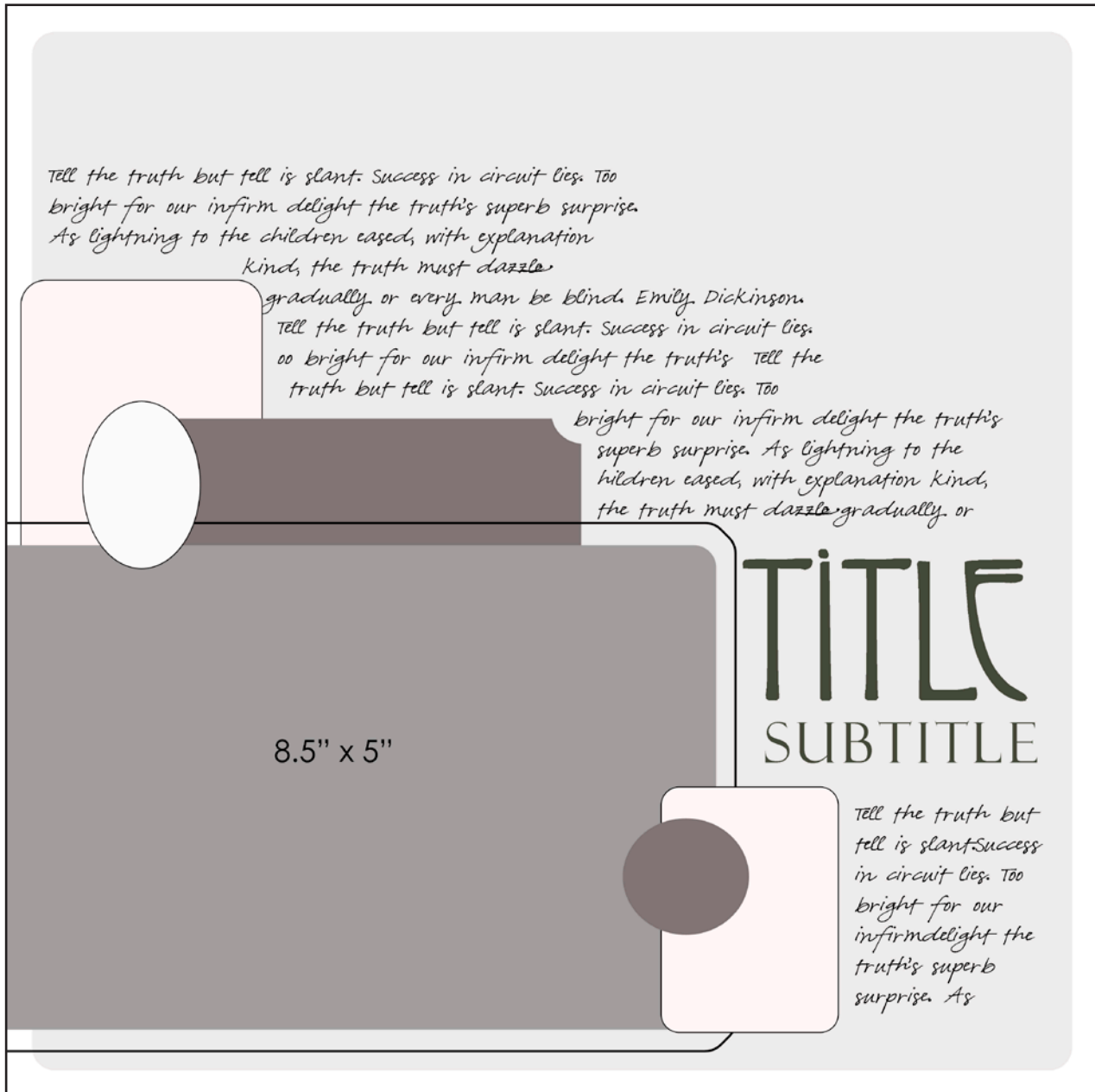
On "Inferred Beach Conversation" bold patterned paper placed in a descending diagonal gives the page tremendous energy. On "No One Questions The Masks" three photos are placed in a strong diagonal band.

On both pages, bleeding the diagonal blocks off the page makes them stronger than they would otherwise be.



DETAILS

This sketch is the basis for "Hobos in March." It achieves a diagonal line with stepped placement of elements and journaling flow. [Download layered psd file.](#)



YOUR TURN

Now it's your turn. Create a page with a strong diagonal line. Use the starters on page 2, the sketch on page 7, or your own idea of how to incorporate diagonals.