

## Lesson 12: Circling

- The Design
- Details
- Variations
- Your Turn

### THE DESIGN

Circles are eye-catching, fun to work with, and freighted with meaning. They are associated with unity, wholeness, and infinity, as evidenced by expressions like “circle of life,” “circle of friends,” and “circling the wagons.”

The focal-point photo on “Bring it on” is mounted over a large black circle that is partially tucked under a border. We only see the top and bottom curves of the circle, yet immediately notice it as an important part of the page. It echoes the round balloons, the tipped “o” in the title, and even the oval tag at top right. It also complements a party theme well.



**DETAILS****Use circles on your pages to:**

- **grab the eye**

The circle shape is less familiar to our eyes than the rectangle and, thus, it works as an immediate attention-getter. On "Give Her a Ring," a large crumpled paper circle makes a background that shows off photos and title well while really standing out.

- **support theme and deepen meaning**

This layout is a fun look at my friend's propensity to make phone calls non-stop, no matter where she is. The circle background with rings of journaling and stitching supports the playful title, "Give Her A Ring."



- **organize**

Use a circle as a framework for photos, text, or other content. In Slice of Life, three sectors of a circle hold the three photos that support the focal-point photo.

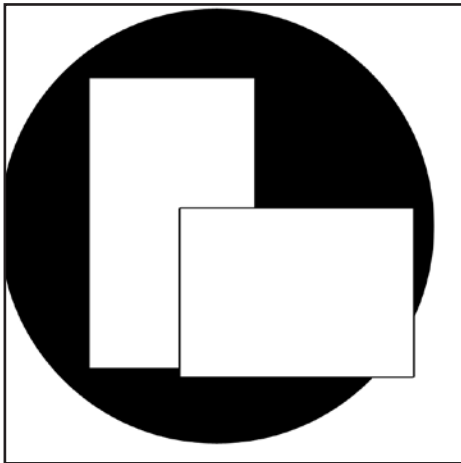
- **provide a repetitive motif**

In Slice of Life, the smaller photos are grouped in a circle (with  $\frac{1}{4}$  hidden). The circle's circumference is outlined by the small circles running around it. The final repetition is found in the circles on the dark blue patterned paper.

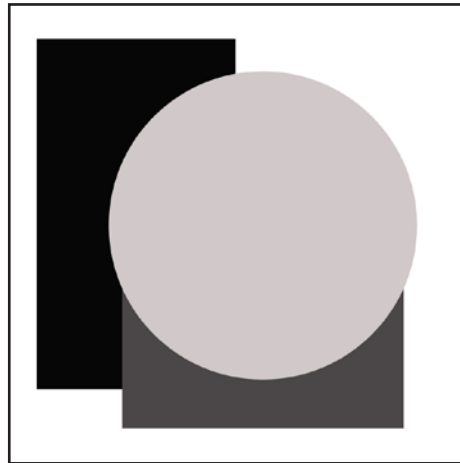


## VARIATIONS

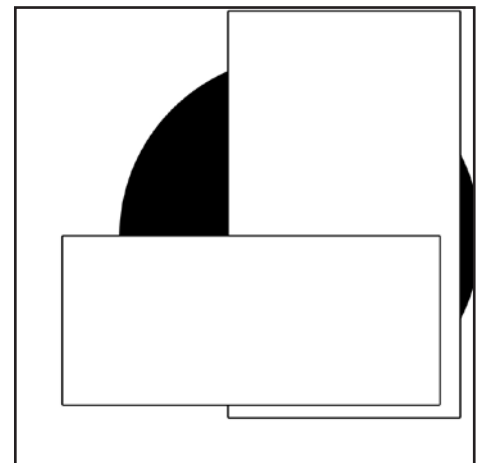
Here are some variations with circles that you can use as starting points for your own pages. These aren't to be used exactly as shown, but, rather, to spur ideas.



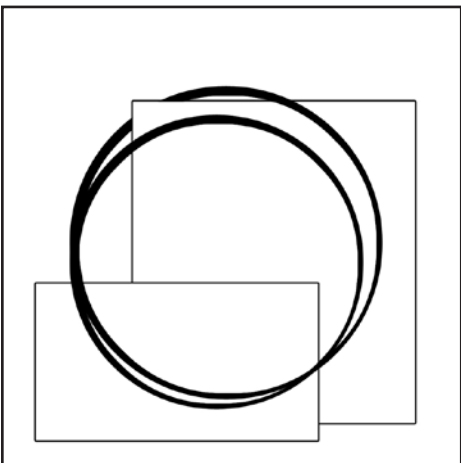
A. Back up the photos and other elements of your page with a large circle as foundation piece.



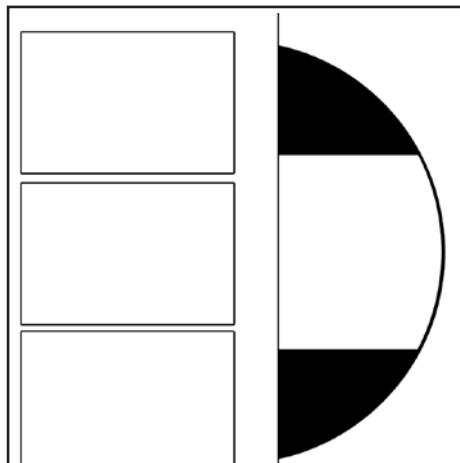
B. Use a circle in the foreground to hold: photos, journaling, embellishments . . . whatever works!



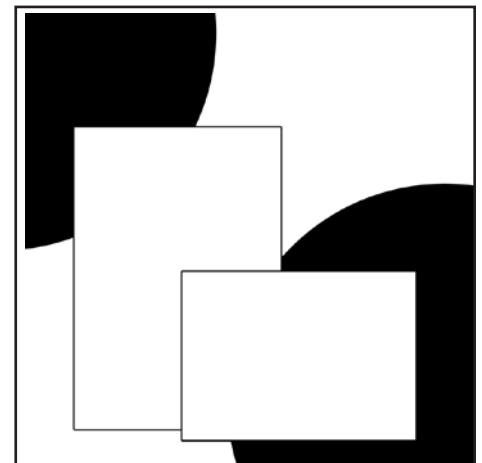
C. Use a circle as a foundation piece behind large elements - allow 1/4 or a bit more to show - thus, the circle shape is understood.



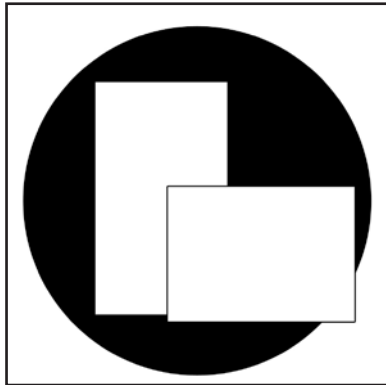
D. Use rings in background, or foreground, or looped around elements to give focus to an important spot OR just to add curves to the page.



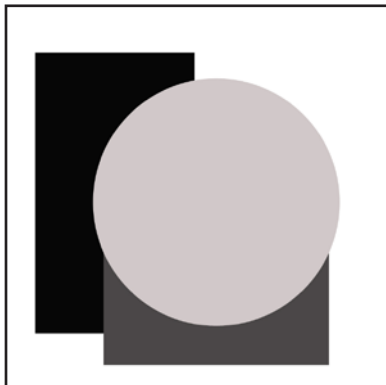
E. Play with partial circles and with filling areas of a circle with photos or other elements for strong graphic impact.



F. Bleed circles off page edge to make your page seem bigger and add graphic interest.

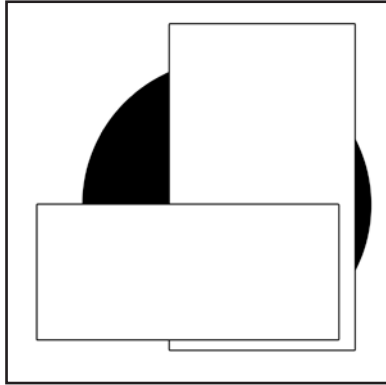


"Eat Pie" takes the approach described in variation A. Scalloped, die-cut paper is the foundation piece. It adds interest to the canvas while showing off the photos and title well,

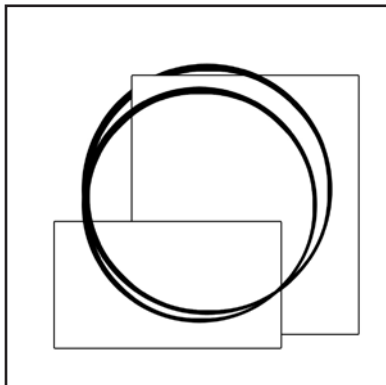


The circle in "Ice Storm" sits in the foreground and holds three photos trimmed to sit inside of it. It's backed up by a square foundation piece. The contrast between the two shapes adds interest and energy to the page.



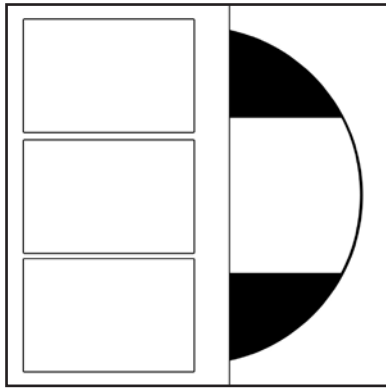


In the foreground of "So Long For Now" is an "L" shaped grouping of focal photo plus several smaller supporting photos. A large die-cut circle and several rings provide the foundation that grounds the "L" to the page.

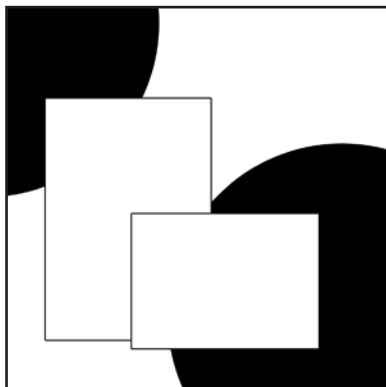


The focal photos on "Holiday Angels" is circled with felt rings that draw attention to the photo and lead the eye around the grouping on the page.





"Big" is a page that plays with partial circles filled with photos. A portrait-oriented focal photo defines the height of the half-circle. This half circle holds three photos trimmed to fit and mounted with narrow gutters. This is a paper page, but I used Photoshop to trim my photos.

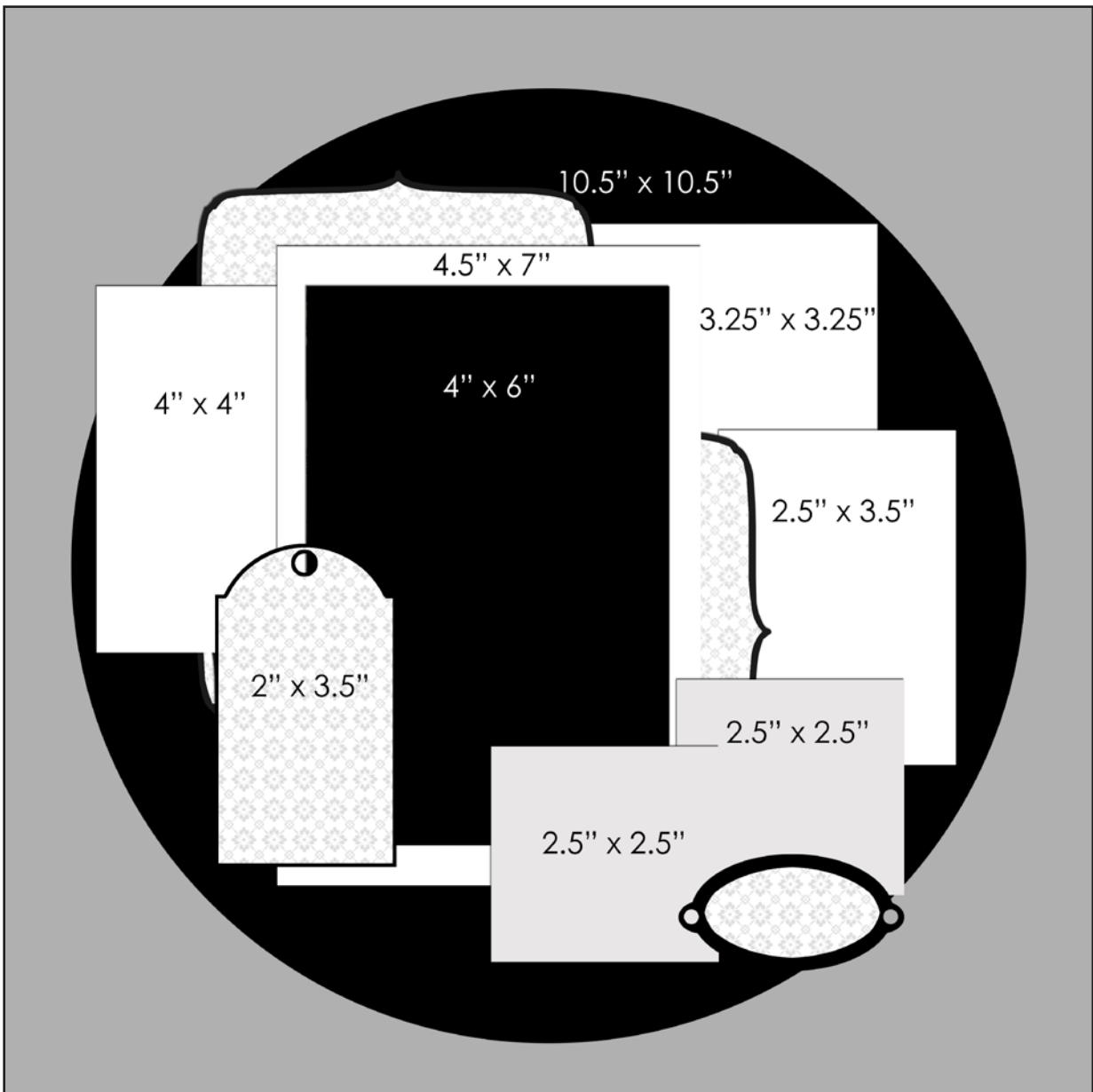


When a shape that the viewer knows well is cropped and runs off the edge of the page--like the top circle here--the viewer's mind fills in the rest of the image. As a result, you're working with invisible space: you've extended your page outside of its actual boundaries. This layout is a digital page that uses Speed Byte # 114 Layered Template by Pattie Knox. The clever layered and cropping makes this eye-catching.



**SKETCH**

This sketch has a circular foundation that holds a whole bunch of layered photos, tags, paper pieces, and whatever you thing to include. [Download layered psd for this template.](#)





## **YOUR TURN**

Now it's your turn to get some circles onto your page. Use one of the variations on page 4. Also, consider using variation A, in which a circle is your foundation piece . . . then see how you can combine a shape from a previous lesson.