

# Scrapbook Coach "Cluster" Quick Reference

#1: vertical cluster



#2: circle + bracket cluster



#3: loose cluster



#4: big cluster



This is the quick guide that accompanies the 4 videos in the "Clustered" class in the [Scrapbook Coach](#) series, self-paced classes by Debbie Hodge. This guide is an overview only. Be sure to view the videos for full design lessons.

Share your layouts, ideas or questions in the [Get It Scrapped Scrapbook Coach Forum/gallery](#). Questions? [Email me \(Debbie Hodge\)](#). Scrapbook Coach is a Get It Scrapped Production!



# supplies



Cruising by Debbie Hodge | Journal Strippers, Sprinkles 22, Tales of Summer by Valerie Wibbens; Flossy Stitches, Alandia Tropics by Katie Pertiet; Artplay English Rose by Anna Aspnes; Seas the Day by Ju Kneipp; Sundrifter by Laurie Ann; Every Little Bit Blue Skies by Deena Rutter; Storyteller Feb 2014 Styles by Just Jaimee; Bohemian Typewriter, Raleway fonts



Imagine the View by Debbie Hodge | Supplies: Legacy by Ardent Sparrow; Snapshot by Scotty Girl Design; Drawn Branches, Chipboard Alpha Black, Flossy Stitches Green, Arttime Elements by Katie Pertiet; Kitschy Christmas by Jenn Barrette; Composition and Color washi by Allison Kreft; April 2014 Storyteller Alpha by Just jaimee; Autumn Twist Alpha by Karla Dudley; Bohemian Typewriter font



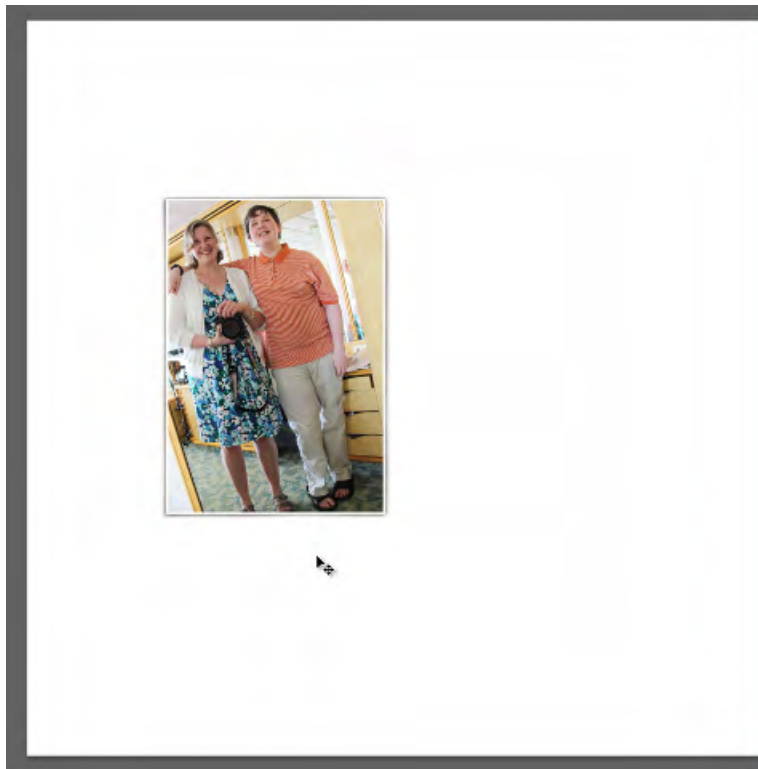
Sisters & Aunts by Debbie Hodge | Supplies: Storyteller April 2014, Storyteller May 2014 by Just Jaimee; Corked by Pink Reptile Designs; Brad Bonanza by Pattie Knox; Tag You're It by Valerie Wibbens; Scrappy Alpha by Zoe Pearn; ReMachine, Bohemian Typewriter fonts



Pre-Prom by Debbie Hodge | Supplies: Prix Fixe, Soiree by One Little Bird; Whimsy Borders by Andrea Victoria; Rain Rain by Allison Pennington; Shine by Laurie Ann; Brannboll Fett font

# CLUSTER #1

## vertical



one photo 3.5" x 5" portrait orientation

1

optionally add narrow white mat



one photo 3.5" x 5" portrait orientation

optionally add narrow white mat

select 3 patterned papers to be used in small amounts and a background paper

2

choose patterns to support story; choose mix in motif, scale and density



cut three strips and layer to right of canvas behind photo

3

lengths are in 2" increments: 5.5", 7.5", and 9.5"

widths are in .5" increments: 2", 2.5", 3"

final sizes are 2.5" x 7.5"  
3" x 5.5"  
1.5" x 9.5"



add foundational misting, sprinkling, splattering from bottom left to top right of cluster (an upward diagonal)

4

# CLUSTER #1 (continued)



add title, journaling and tape or paper strip in a way that they add short horizontal lines to the cluster

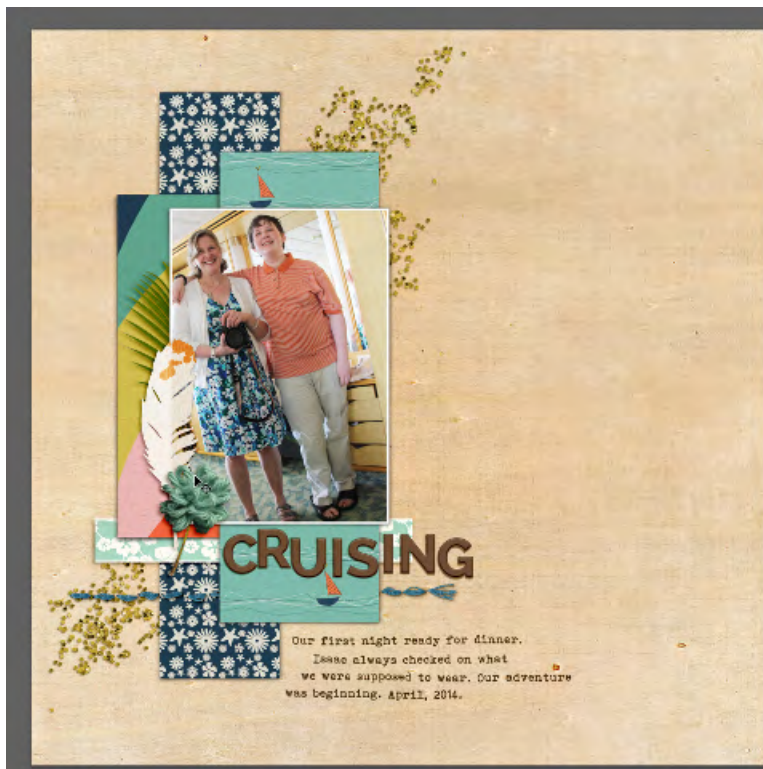
5

avoid journaling with regular block shape; rather, stagger beginning and end of lines



add embellishing at top right of cluster and bottom left of page to emphasize upward diagonal flow

8



add embellishments to ground, to add repetitions with variety, to create flow on the page

6

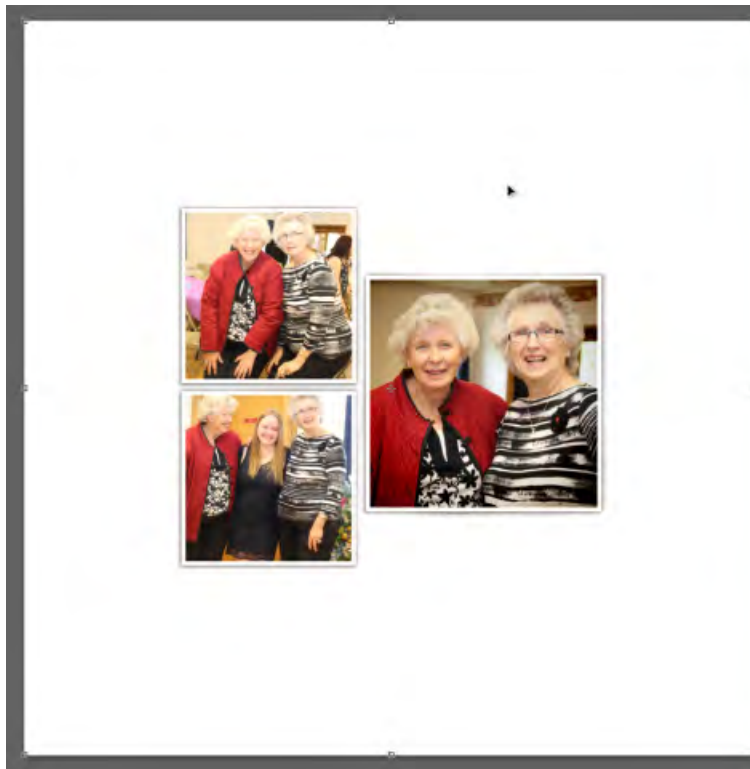
add first embellishing cluster along left side of photo incorporating elements with length (like feather, leaves, flourish)

7

use two colors that will be repeated

## CLUSTER #2

# circle + bracket cluster



select three photos  
one 4" square  
two 3" square

1

add narrow white  
mats or strokes to  
photos



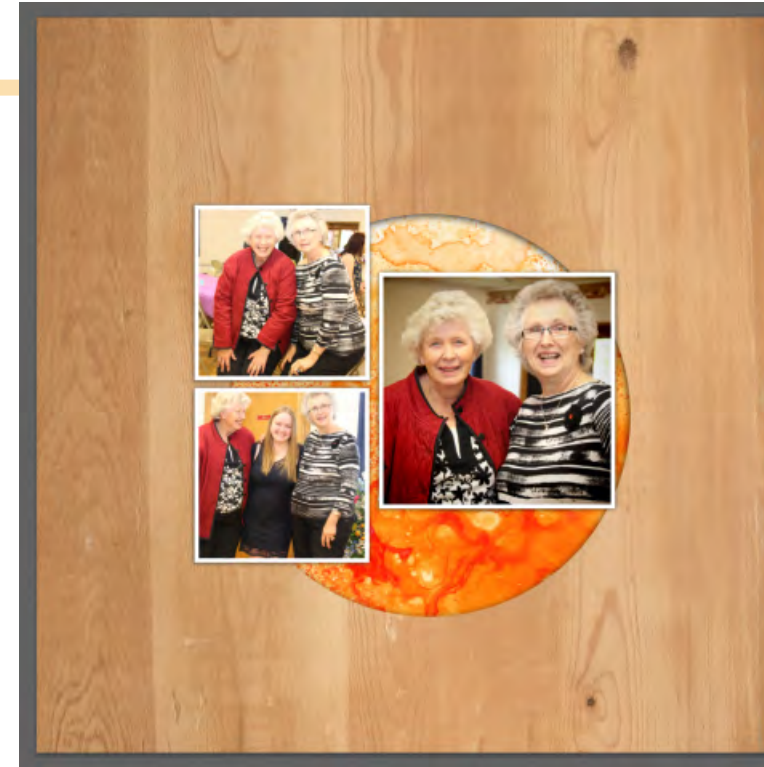
choose a  
background paper

2

choose a tone-on-  
tone or neutral print  
and cut a 6.5" circle  
foundational piece

3

layer circle behind  
photos a bit to the  
right of center



choose 4 coordinated  
patterned papers

4

cut two horizontal  
strips:  
8" and 9" long  
vary widths by .5"

5

cut two vertical strips  
6.5" and 7.5" long  
vary widths by .5"

arrange as "L  
bracket" behind



add 3" x 4" journaler

6

layer behind photos,  
poking up to  
continue upward  
steps started by  
vertical strips in  
bracket

add journaling to it

## CLUSTER #2 (continued)



look for curved elements to layer into the cluster

7

add biggish curves to bottom and left of cluster



repeat colors and textures from title in other embellishment points building a circular flow but leaving the top right area of the cluster open (don't box the arrangement in)

9



your title will layer over elements within the cluster

8

it will function as both title and embellishment--you will pull color, shape or texture from title for embellishing

## CLUSTER #3

# loose cluster



1

choose two photos  
(one) 6" x 4" landscape oriented  
(one) 2.75" square

add narrow mat or stroke to smallest photo (and optionally to larger)

place photos together above vertical center and approximately at horizontal center

tilt and overlap smaller photo



2

choose a background paper

choose a 3"x4" journaler or cut a card from patterned paper -- it should include some bold color that is not in your photos

place it behind your smaller photo



3

add a title in large, high-contrast alphas below both of the photos and spanning much of their width



4

add a high impact, oversized embellishment (or cluster) to the left of the title - be sure to include your bold accent color (stuck on this? handcut a heart or star and add stenciling to it. diecut a story-supporting shape and mist it)

# CLUSTER #3 (continued)



add journaling directly to the canvas and very close to your cluster - use it to expand the cluster shape in an organic way

5



finish with pieces that:  
 \* build on an organic cluster shape  
 \* complete a visual triangle of your first bold color

7



finish with pieces that:  
 \* build on an organic cluster shape

6

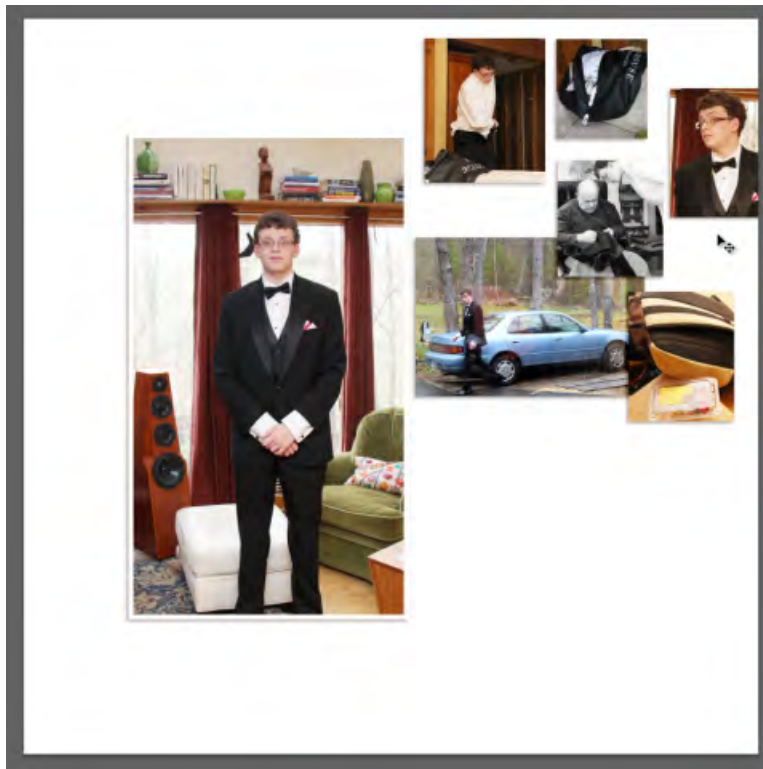


finish with pieces that:  
 \* build on an organic cluster shape  
 \* complete a visual triangle of your first bold color  
 \* add a visual triangle of a 2nd bold color  
 \* fasten and ground



# CLUSTER #4

## big cluster




1

select one large portrait-oriented photo and several shots that can be trimmed to smaller than 3" in width or height

the large photo here is 4.5" x 8"

optionally add narrow mat or stroke to larger photo

This slide shows a large portrait-oriented photo of a young man in a tuxedo standing in a living room. To its right, several smaller photos are arranged in a cluster, including a man in a white shirt, a man in a tuxedo, a blue car, and a man in a white shirt. A red triangle with the number 1 is on the right side of the text.



3

choose solid background paper

consider adding a border strip at top or bottom for interest

This slide shows the same photo cluster from step 1, but now placed on a solid tan background paper. A thin white border strip is added at the top and bottom of the photo cluster. A red triangle with the number 3 is on the right side of the text.



2


arrange small photos:  
align several on their left edges -- thus creating a gutter (and strong line) between the grouping and the large photo

arrange somewhat in rows

create an organic, curving right edge for grouping

leave a spot for journaling

This slide shows the same photo cluster from step 1, but now arranged on a white background. The small photos are aligned on their left edges, creating a gutter between them and the large photo. The arrangement is somewhat in rows, and there is a spot left for journaling. A red triangle with the number 2 is on the right side of the text.

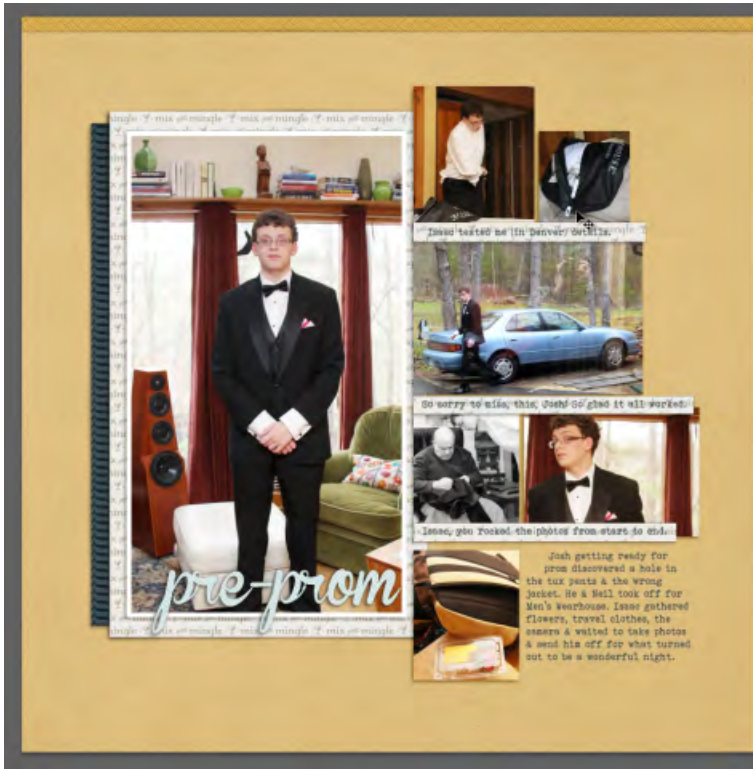


4

layer two blocks of patterned paper below focal point photo to give it a foundation and interest

This slide shows the same photo cluster from step 1, but now placed on a solid tan background paper. Two blocks of patterned paper are layered below the focal point photo, giving it a foundation and interest. A red triangle with the number 4 is on the right side of the text.

# CLUSTER #4 (continued)

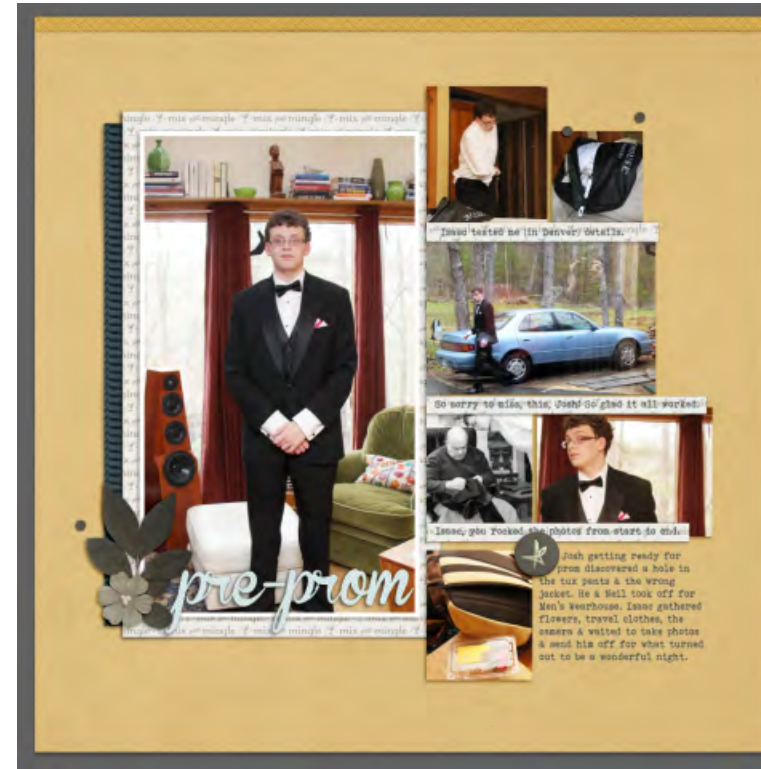


add journaling in the block you save for it -- somewhere in the grouping of smaller photos

5

add additional journaling, thoughts, quotes, or messages on strips layered between the "rows" of your photo cluster

6



begin embellishing with largest cluster at bottom left of large photo and near title -- choose a color to repeat in two other spots to create a visual triangle

8

begin two other embellishment points with repeated color in smaller doses



begin embellishing with largest cluster at bottom left of large photo and near title -- choose a color to repeat in two other spots to create a visual triangle

7



begin embellishing with largest cluster at bottom left of large photo and near title -- choose a color to repeat in two other spots to create a visual triangle

begin two other embellishment points with repeated color in smaller doses

layer clusters, giving them foundations and variety, and--finally--fasteners!

9