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

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

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

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

3 cut three strips and layer to right of canvas behind photo

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"

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

CLUSTER #1 (continued)

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

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

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

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

use two colors that will be repeated

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

8

circle + bracket cluster

1 select three photos
one 4" square
two 3" square

add narrow white
mats or strokes to
photos

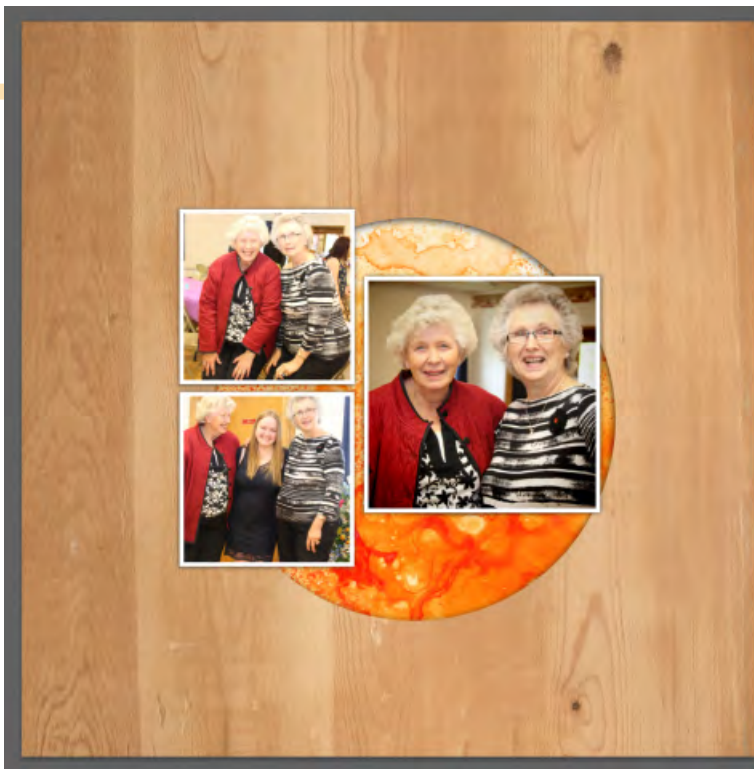**2** choose a
background paper

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

layer circle behind
photos a bit to the
right of center

4 choose 4 coordinated patterned papers

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

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

arrange as "L bracket" behind

Mom and Aunt Pat at Uncle Dick's memorial. They look wonderful. They were enjoying each other & giving Carolyn & Uncle Dick's family lots of love.

6 add 3" x 4" journaler

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

add journaling to it

CLUSTER #2 (continued)

7 look for curved elements to layer into the cluster

add biggish curves to bottom and left of cluster

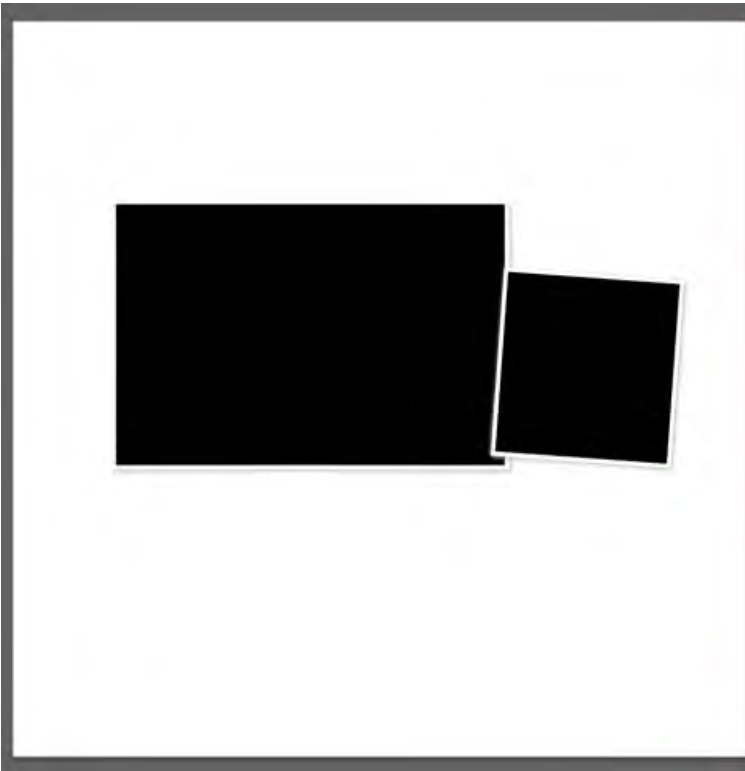**8** your title will layer over elements within the cluster

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

9 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)
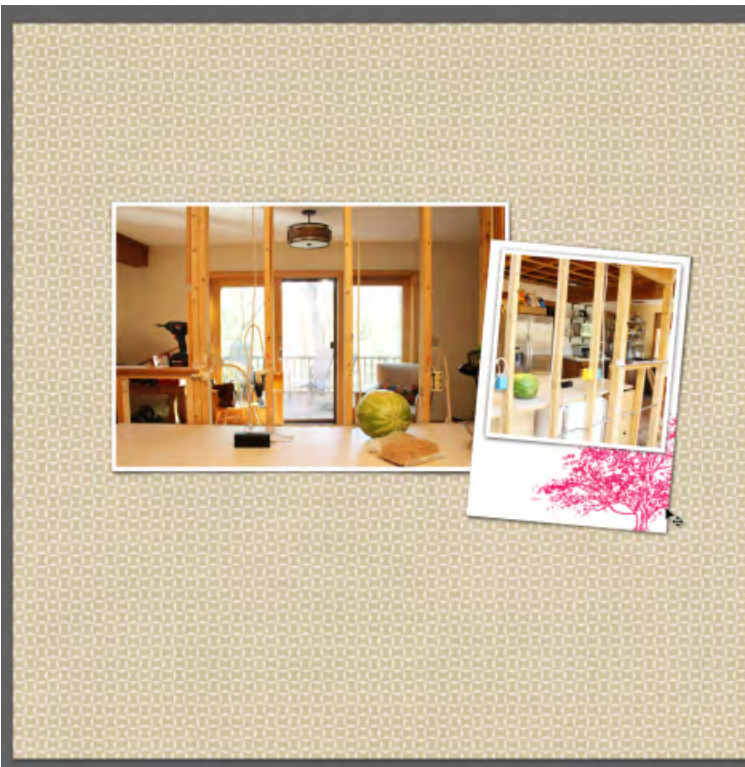
CLUSTER #3
loose cluster

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

6

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
*complete a visual triangle of your first bold color

* add a visual triangle of a 2nd bold color

* fasten and ground

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

2

arrange small photos:

align several on their left edges -- thus creating a gutter (and strong line) between the grouping and the large photo
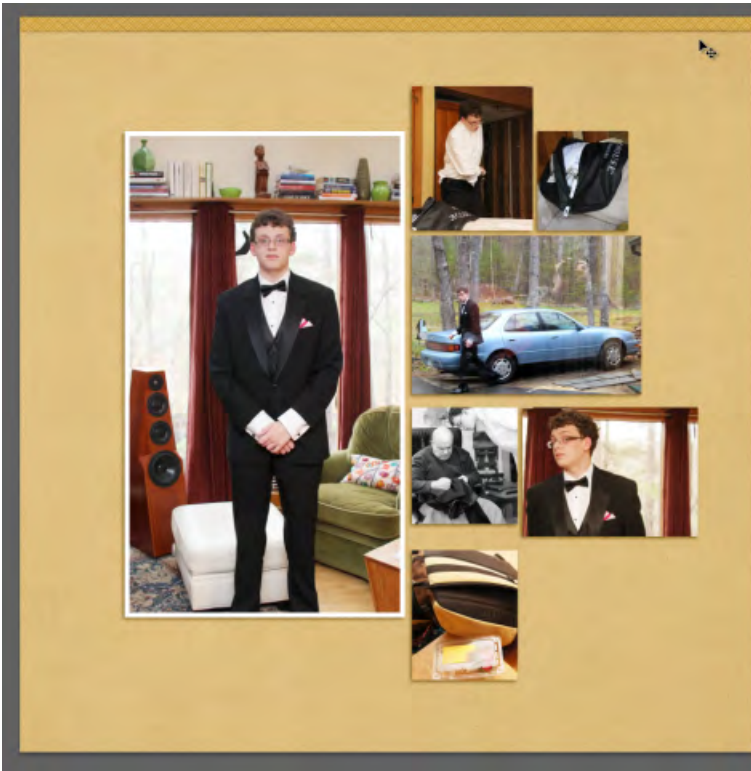
arrange somewhat in rows

create an organic, curving right edge for grouping

leave a spot for journaling
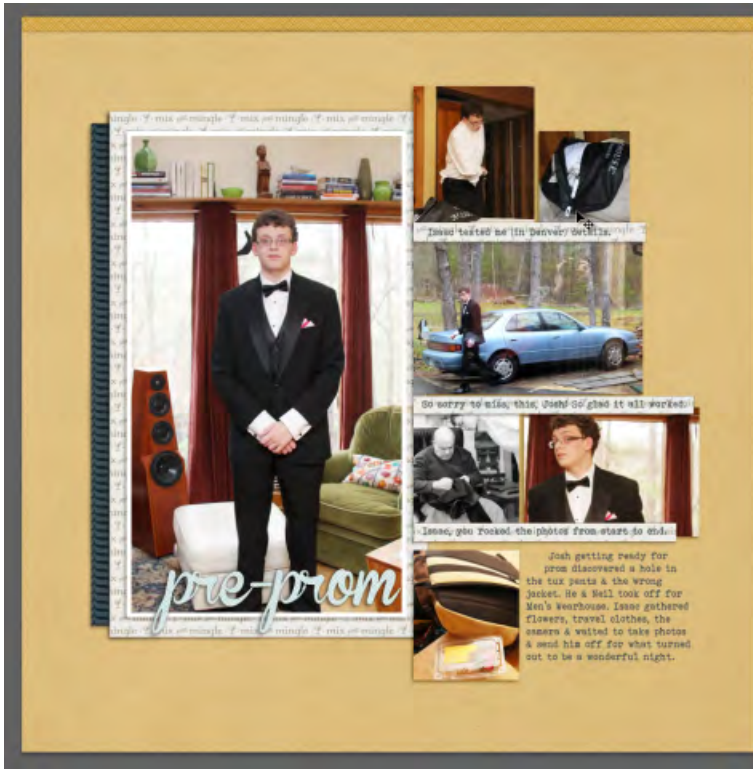
choose solid
background paper

3

consider added a
border strip at top or
bottom for interest

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

4

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

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

8

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!

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