

Duplicating Layers in Photoshop Elements by Rande Hanson

Have you ever had an image that you wanted to use, but it just didn't seem like enough? In some cases, by duplicating the layer, you can rearrange and re-size, and have more to work with.

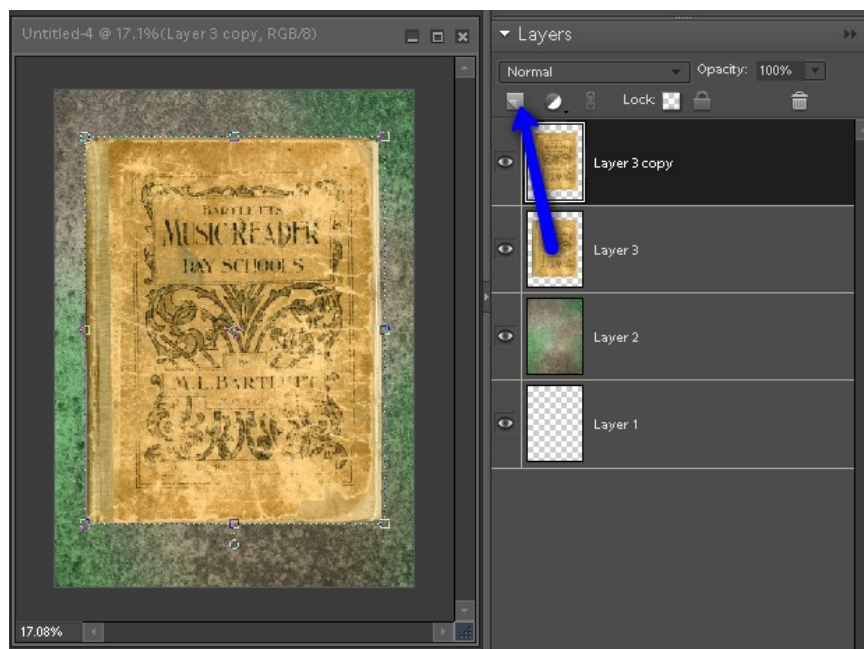
Start by opening a new blank file, 5 x 7, and 300 dpi. Next open a texture file, or something you want to use as a background. You could also just select a color and fill the background with the paint bucket tool. I am using Texture 18 from the Paperwhimsy shoppe.

I also opened Old Book 03 png file, and Botanique 03 png to use for the images I will be duplicating.

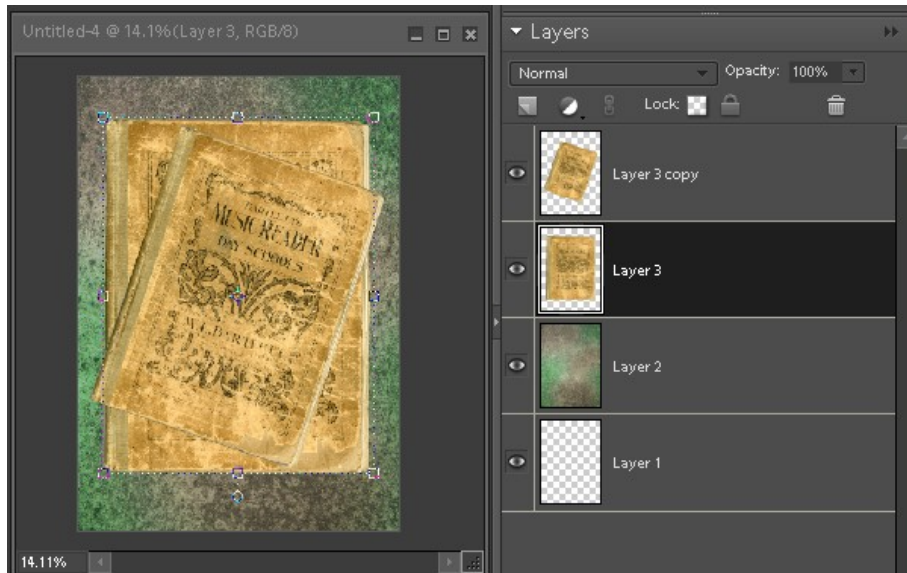
If you have selected something like the book image, make it the active image, and click and drag it to the new file. Re size, and position the image to the center area of the new file. You can then close book the file.

Now we will duplicate the book image. In the layers palette, click on the book image, and drag it to the little create a new layer icon.

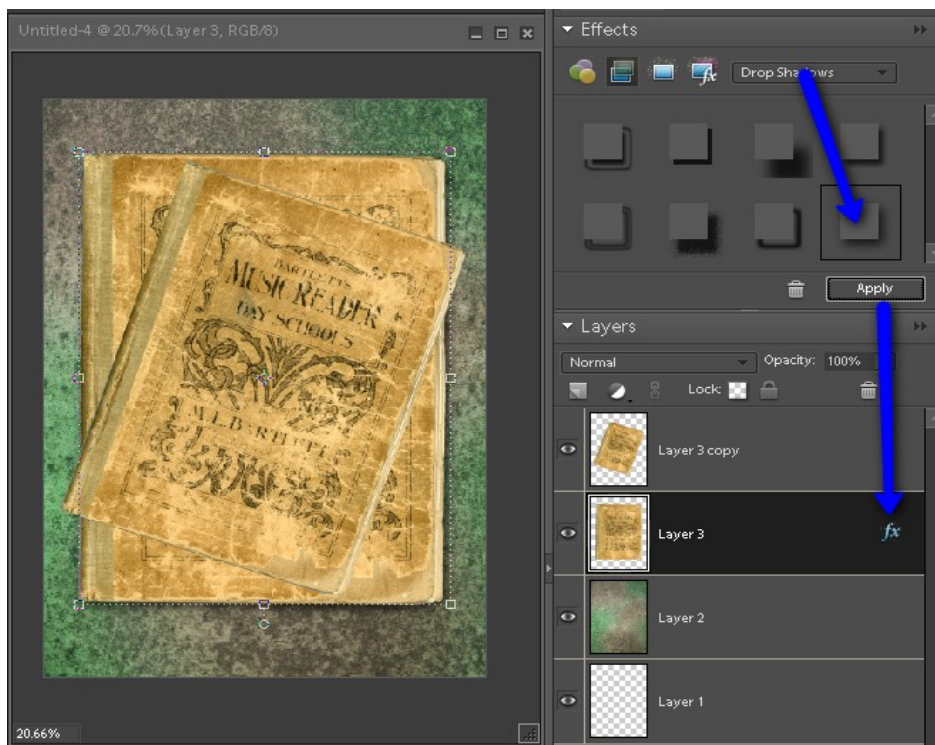
You can also duplicate the layer from the top drop down menu. Select Layer then duplicate. Be sure the layer you want to duplicate, is selected in the layers palette.



You won't see anything different in your new file because it will duplicate the image on top of the original image. Select the new duplicated layer in the layers palette, and with the Move tool, reposition the newest layer and you can reside if you want. You will need to commit the change by clicking the green arrow. You can also rotate any image by using the Move tool, by hovering over the corner of the image, till you see a little curved arrow. Click, hold, and rotate the image. Then commit the change.

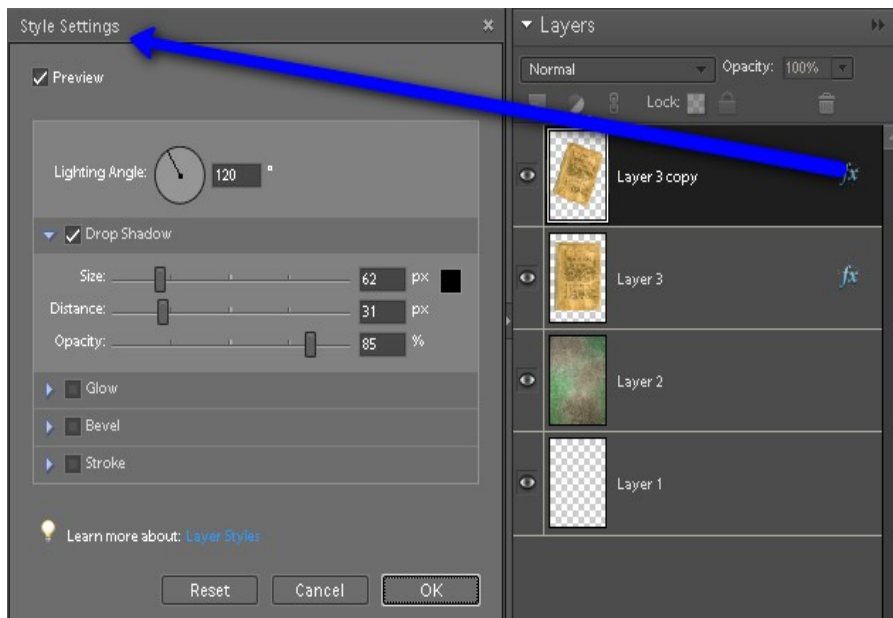


Next we will make the two books look a little more dimensional. In the layers palette, make active the book image which is on the bottom. Next find the Drop Shadows from the drop down menu in the Effects Palette. Click on the Soft Edge Shadow, then click Apply. You should see the shadow under the book, and also a small *fx* on the layer in the layers palette.



Next, click on the top book image (the duplicated layer) and do the same steps to apply a shadow to that image.

You can make several adjustments to the shadow, by double clicking on the small *fx* to the right of the layer, in the layers palette. You can change the size, distance, opacity and angle of the shadow. And, at times you may want to change the color of the shadow. You can do that in this settings box, by selecting the color picker box to right of the Size slider. If you have time, play with the different sliders to see what changes can be made with these settings.

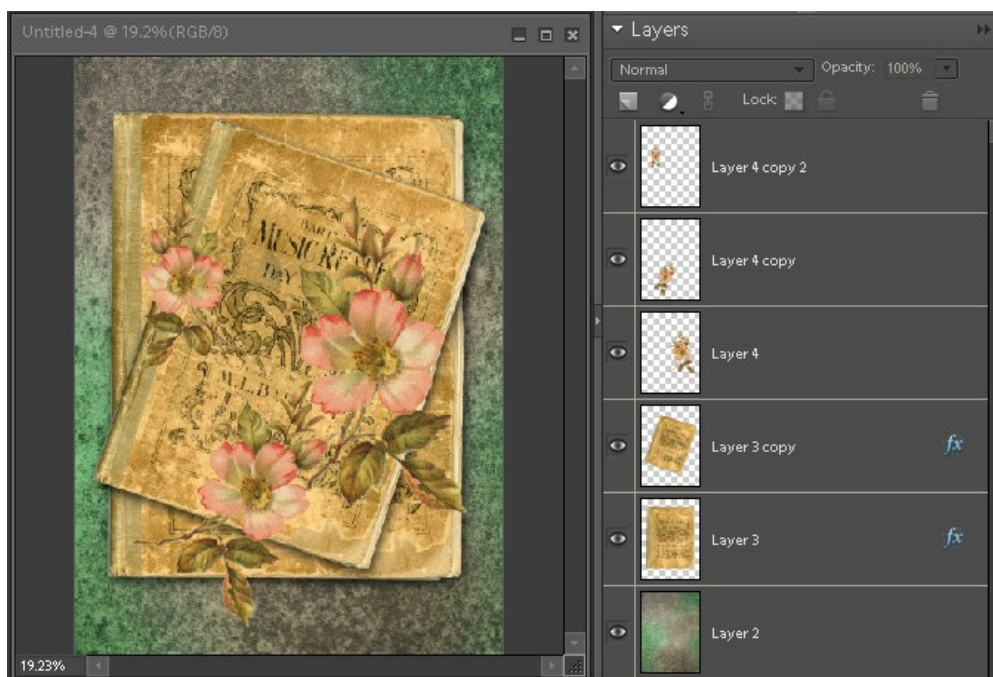


Next open another png file, I am using Botanique 03. With the flower image active, click and drag it to the new file. It should be the topmost layer in the layers palette of the new file. If it is not in the top position, click on that layer in the layer palette, and drag it to the top position. You will use this technique often when building collages. You can then reside and position the flower.

One flower is nice, but a grouping might be fun also. Duplicate the flower image.

Click on the duplicated layer, reside and reposition. Try using the Move tool with the rotate image, and turn it a little. Then try making it a little smaller than the original layer. Duplicate the original layer one more time. Move and reside this layer. You can also flip an image. Using the Move tool, click on right side bounding dotted line, and drag across the left side bounding box, until the proportion looks the same as the original. This may take a few adjustments.

Note: This is just one technique to duplicate, reside, and flip images. You will find your favorite techniques as you use PSE more and more.



Next we can arrange the flowers in more of a grouping. We will use the first flower layer as the anchor to build a group with the other flowers around. With the move tool click on the first duplicated layer, and move the flower a little to the right and below the anchor flower. You may want to also rotate the flower a little. If you notice the stems can be placed so they look as though they are coming from the same stem.



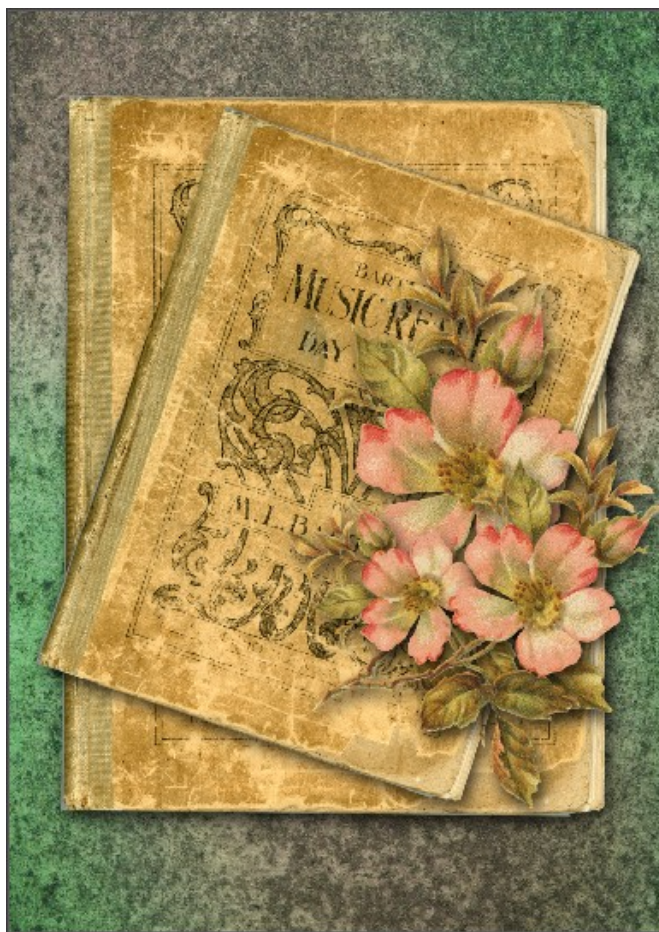
On the second duplicated layer, move it over to the grouping. I placed it to the lower left of the anchor flower, and made it smaller than the first two flowers. If the this layer is showing the stem, then click and drag the layer in the layers palette, to below the topmost layer. Sometimes, you will want to try different sizes and orientations, along with layer placements to find a pleasing grouping.



When you have the flowers placed where you like them, you will want to add drop shadows to each flower layer. The drop shadows are under the Effects palette, like we did for the books. Click on the *fx* to make any adjustments to the shadow.

After you have the first shadow created, if you make any adjustments, there is a way to copy those same settings to other layers, so you won't have to recreate the settings for each layer. After the settings are changed, go to the top menu, select the layer drop down, and select Layer Style, and Copy Layer Style. Go to the layers palette, and click on the next layer you want to add the setting to. Go back to the top Layers menu, select Layer Style, and paste layer style. This is really helpful especially if you make changes to any of the settings, and want a consistent look. It can also be copy and pasted to any other layers in the collage.

This is the end of the Duplicating tutorial.



There are still a few little things that you can do to tweak the layers, to make the layers a little more 3D looking. By changing the brightness/darkness of the lower layers. Be sure the layer in the layers palette is selected. From the top menu, select the Enhanced drop down menu, click on Lighting, then Brightness/Contrast. Using the slider, adjust the brightness. I chose to darken the flower that seemed to be on the bottom. Then chose the flower that looks like it is on the top, I brightened it just a little. I also chose the bottom book and darkened it a little.

You can also increase the intensity of the colors. Again select the layer in the layers palette, and then back to the Enhanced top menu. This time select the adjust Color, then Hue/Saturation. To change the color of the layer, a little or a lot, you will use the hue slider.

For this collage, I tweaked the drop shadows and changed the color to a dark brown. Then copy/pasted the layer style to the other flowers. I also added a butterfly from butterfly 02 png.

