



Placing a frame, or a mat and a frame around a picture or a graphic can be very effective and add a lot of class to y page. Following are some ideas for framing a graphic or photo. These tutorials make extensive use of the Blade Pro and several presets I have created. You can download my Blade Pro presets by clicking [here](#). I also use a Filter Fac plugin. I recommend you download the plugins before you start this tutorial. Whenever I use the Blade Pro plugin to frames, you can also use Eye Candy's Inner Bevel filter. Before you start this tutorial, I highly recommend you go th basics tutorial and my layers tutorial.



Header Graphic

1. Open a new graphic the width and height you want.
2. Add borders set to color you want frame to be (I added a border of 10).
3. Use magic wand to select frame and choose Selections|Promote to Layer. Name this layer "Frame".
4. Flood fill the "Background" layer with white (or whatever color you want to become transparent if you want yc background to show through).
5. Load your selection on your Frame layer. Flood fill with white for a Blade Pro preset or with a color or possibl fill for a regular bevel.
6. Bevel your frame. I used my gold_black preset for this frame and the text.
7. To add decorations, create another new layer and call it "Decorations" and drag it under the Frame layer.
8. I used the letter "a" from the Orna 4 font (this is a Listemageran font and can be downloaded from the Dingb link on my links page). I then beveled it with the same bevel I used for the frame. Select the dingbat graphic : a copy and paste as a new selection. Rotate the copy to the correct position for the next corner. Hint: The eas to line up these decorations is to hold down the shift key and press the arrow keys to move the selection into
9. Add another new layer and add your text and bevel.
10. Add another new layer and drop shadow if desired.



Frame a Photograph

OK, let's frame this photograph of San Francisco.



1. Open photo.
2. Add a new layer. Call this layer "Mat Frame".
3. On the new layer, Selections|All, Selections|Modify|Contract 20, Selections|Invert. Flood fill with a light color somewhere in the photo (I chose a pale blue).
4. Add a new layer with your selection active (Shift Click on the New Layers icon).
5. Invert your selection (Selections|Invert). Now, apply the cutout filter (Image|Effects|Cutout) set to Color: Black 100%, Blur: 3, Offset 2,2.
6. Add another new layer with selection still active.
7. Add a White drop shadow Opacity: 100%, Blur: 1, Offset 1,1. The Cutout and Drop Shadow make the photo and make the Mat Frame look realistic.
8. Add another new layer. Call this one "Frame".
9. Select All, contract the selection by 10, invert and flood fill with a color or pattern (I used a wood fill). Bevel w Blade Pro preset "Frame_Shiny". You can find wood fills on my [Free Wood Graphics](#) page.
10. Save as a jpg to preserve the colors of the photo.



Fancy Frames



Let your imagination be your guide when it comes to frames and mat frames. The "lace" pattern I used for the mat c photo is rendered at the size of the photo, but is actually 421x421 pixels. I like this pattern since you can resize it with

constraining the ratio and it still looks great. To create this framed photo:

1. Open the photo. Add white borders set to 10.
2. Open the lace pattern and resize to 200x246 (the original size of the photo).
3. Copy the lace pattern (Ctrl A, Ctrl C).
4. Paste on the photo as a new layer (Ctrl L).
5. Turn off the photo layer. (Don't be alarmed by the checkerboard pattern...this is the transparent part of the gr. Click inside the lace border selecting the interior portion. Expand this selection by 2. Save as a selection to a Channel (Selections|Save to Alpha Channel) name it "inner". Deselect.
6. Then you need to make a mask out of the lace pattern. To do this, choose Masks|New|From Image, Source This Window, Create Mask From: Source Luminance, Invert Mask Data: Checked. Then Masks|Save to Alph Channel, naming it "Lace".
7. Delete the mask: Masks|Delete, and say "no" when asked if you want to merge with layer.
8. Clear the layer (Edit|Clear).
9. Click on the photo layer. Load your "inner" selection. Invert your selection and flood fill with white.
10. Go back to the layer that is now clear and load your Lace Border selection. Flood fill with white. Bevel with m Gold_Old Blade Pro preset.
11. Add another new layer. Select all, then contract your selection by 10. Invert and flood fill with white. Bevel wit Gold_Old preset.
12. Add another new layer. Load your "inner" selection and apply the cutout filter as outlined above.
13. Add another new layer (with your selection active). Apply the cutout filter again except this time the color is wl blur is 1 and the offset is -1, -1.
14. Save as a jpg to preserve the colors of the photo.



Frame Bevel Without a Plugin



You can create a pretty nice frame without a beveling filter. To create this frame:

1. Follow steps 1-9 in Frame a Photograph (through "flood fill with a pattern or color").
2. Add a new layer with selection still active.
3. Apply the cutout filter Color: Black, Opacity 100%, Blur 8, Offset: 3,3.
4. Add another new layer with selection still active.
5. Apply the cutout filter again with same settings except for Offset: -3,-3.
6. Adjust the opacity slider on the two beveling layers until you get a good look for your frame.
7. Save as a jpg to preserve the colors of the photo.



Gold Mat Frame



A gold mat frame on a photo can be quite striking. You will need Greg's Pool Shadow filter for this effect. You can find this filter by clicking [here](#). To create this frame:

1. Open a photo and add a white border of 12.
2. Set your background color to R: 253, G: 228, B: 153 and foreground color to R: 187, G: 170, B: 114.
3. Select the white border and fill with a linear gradient set to 120 degrees.
4. Apply Greg's Pool filter. You may have to play with the controls on the filter to get the shading the way you want.
5. I then added another white border of 12, flood filled with wood and beveled the frame with my Frame_Shiny | Blade Pro.



Oval Mat Frame



An oval mat frame is another effective technique for framing a photograph. To create this mat:

1. Open a photograph.
2. Using the Selection tool set to Ellipse with "Antialias" checked, make an oval selection on your photo. You can move your selection with the mover tool if it is not exactly centered on your photo.
3. Save this selection.
4. Add a new layer with selection active. Invert this selection and flood fill with your mat color choice. If you want a drop shadow to complete the mat frame, make your mat color something other than white.
5. Add a new layer and load the selection from the Alpha Channel. Apply the cutout filter as described above.
6. Add another new layer with selection active and add the white drop shadow as outlined above.
7. Make a copy of your graphic (Shift D).
8. Working on the copy, add a contrasting border of 12. Select the border and flood fill with a color or a pattern.



Quick Frame



The easiest way to make create a frame for a photograph is to use PSP's Shapes Tool. To create a frame with the tool:

1. Open the photo you want to frame, copy and work from the copy.
2. Add white borders if you think you might need more working room to catch the part of the photo you want to
3. Promote your photo to a layer.
4. Add a layer and drag under your photo (this will be the background fill layer).
5. Add another layer.
6. Set the shapes tool to "outline" with an outline width of around 20, color black with antialias checked.
7. On your new layer, outline the part of the photo you want to frame, keeping in mind that you will add 20 pixels your selection for the frame.
8. You can move this frame by using the selection tool to select outside the frame, then drag to where you want
9. Save this selection to an alpha channel. Deselect.
10. Click inside the frame you just created with the magic wand then expand this selection by around 3. Save this (this will be the mask you will use to eliminate the unwanted part of the photo).
11. Click outside the frame, contract selection by 1 and save to alpha channel (this will be used for the shadow l
12. Clear the layer.
13. Load the frame selection and flood fill with a color or a pattern.
14. Add another new layer. Workin on this layer load your selection again.
15. Apply the cutout filter set to Color: Black, Opacity 100%, Blur 25-35, offset 0,0.
16. Adjust the opacity slider until you get the look you want.
17. Add another new layer. Load your outer selection and add a drop shadow Color: Black, Opacity 100%, Blur Offset 0,0.
18. Again, adjust the opacity slider until you get the look you want.
19. Go back to your photo layer and load the inner selection as a mask (Masks|Load from Alpha Channel). You now see your framed photo with all the exteraneous parts of the photo masked out.
20. Flood fill the bottom fill layer with your background color.
21. Save as a JPG.



Unusual Shape Frames

Frames don't necessarily need to be rectangular. Following are some unusual frame shapes for you to experiment



You can download a zip file of these three frame shapes (and several more) saved as psp files with masks and saved by clicking [here](#). To use these frame masks:

1. Open your photograph.
2. Open your frame choice and resize to the same size as your photograph.
3. Copy the photograph and paste as a new layer onto the frame graphic.
4. Drag your photo layer to just above the "Background" layer.
5. Load the "Mask" mask from the Alpha Channel (Masks|Load from Alpha Channel).
6. Delete the mask and say "yes" to merge with the layer. You should now have your photo masked in the shape of the frame with your background showing through.
7. Click on the layer above the photo. You can clear the layer of the frame. I just left the image there for reference purposes.
8. Load the frame selection (Selections|Load from Alpha Channel).
9. Fill with your frame pattern and bevel.
10. If you want, add a new layer, load the "inner" selection and add a cutout effect.
11. Flood fill your background layer with your background color of choice and save as a jpg, or gif if you need to have a transparent background.



PDF File

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