

# CREATING A DIGITAL FRAME AND MAT IN PHOTOSHOP

Prepare the size of your image file of your subject photo (8 x 10, 5 x 7, etc.) With the size of your photo set you can then choose the size of your frame and mat which determines the overall document size that you will create in Photoshop. In this presentation we will be working with a document that is notecard size (5.5 x 4). The frame image has been prepared to that size.

## Frame

1. Select "file" from the upper menu, select "new", adjust the size and orientation, and select "create"
2. Open a frame image into Photoshop, and then from the "edit" menu select "copy", and then "paste" into the new document.

## Frame - Highlights and Shadows

3. Right click on 4<sup>th</sup> tool icon from top and select "magic wand tool", click on the middle area inside frame to select the inner edge of frame. Click on "select" in the menu bar, and click on "inverse", double click on the frame layer in the layer's panel which opens the layer style menu. Click on the box that contains "bevel and emboss" to open the style parameters. Move the angle to approx. 135 degrees. Adjust the size and opacity to highlight the outer top and left edges of the frame and click on "ok". In the frame layer in the layer's panel right click on "fx" and select "create layers" from the menu. Delete the "inner bevel shadow" layer.
4. With the "frame" layer selected and highlighted double click in box to open layer style menu. Click in the "inner shadow" box, change angle direction to come from the bottom at approx. -45 degrees, adjust the distance, size, and opacity to add a shadow line on the bottom and right edges of the outside of the frame, and the left and top edges on the inside of the frame. Click on "ok", right click on "fx" in the layer box and select "create layer".

## Frame - Drop Shadows

5. With the frame layer selected and the frame inverse selected double click on the frame box and then on the "drop shadow" box. Adjust the angle direction to approx. 135 degrees, change the color to black by clicking on the color sample box and moving the circle to black and clicking "OK". Adjust the distance, size, and opacity and click on "OK". Right click on "fx" in the frame layer box and select "create layer" and select "ok".
6. With the frame layer selected, double click on the frame layer box and from the layer style menu popup click on the "drop shadow" box. Move angle direction to approx. -45 degrees, adjust parameters and click "ok". Right click on "fx" in the frame layer box, select "create layer" and click on "ok". Double click on the text "frame's drop shadow" and re-name layer "frame's drop shadow 2". In the "select" menu at the top click on "deselect".

## Outer Frame - Drop Shadow and Highlights

7. Make sure the frame layer is selected and select the “rectangular marquee tool” from the tool bar on the left. Use the tool to outline the inner edge of the outer frame. Click on “select” from the top menu, and click on “inverse”. From the “edit” menu, copy and paste to create a new layer. Re-name layer “outer frame”. Double click on the outer frame layer box opening the layer style menu popup. Click on the “drop shadow” box, move angle direction to approx. 135 degrees, adjust parameters and click “ok” to create a new shadow line under the outer frame layer. Right click on “fx”, select “create layer”, click on “ok”
8. With the outer frame layer selected use the “rectangular marquee tool” to select the outer frame again, this time leaving a bit of the lower and right side. From the “select” menu click on “inverse”. From the “edit” menu copy and paste to create a new outer frame layer. Rename it “outer frame 2” Double click on the outer frame 2 box, click on “drop shadow” box, change the color to light gray and click on “ok”. Move angle direction to approx. -45 degrees, adjust distance, size, and opacity and click on “ok”. Right click on “fx”, select “create layer” and click “ok”. Move “frame’s inner shadow” layer above “outer frame 2” layer.

You can now adjust each layer independently to balance the shadows and highlights of the frame.

## CREATING THE DIGITAL MAT

### Mat

1. To create the mat for the frame, select the background layer from the frame layers, then click on the adjustment layer icon at the bottom of the layers panel, and select “solid color” from the popup menu. Adjust and then click “ok”. This will create a “color fill” layer which we will rename “mat”. From the “layer” menu in the top menu bar, select “rasterize” and then “layer”. Select “view” from the menu bar, then click on “rulers”. Select the “rectangular marquee tool” and use it to outline the inner edge of the mat. Use the guide rulers to make the mat symmetrical. From the “edit” menu select “cut” which will remove the inside of the mat layer.

### Mat - Inner Bevel and Drop Shadow

2. With the mat layer still selected, use the rectangular marquee tool to outline approx. ¼ inch inside the cut you just made. Then select “brightness/contrast” from the adjustments tab in the middle right of the photoshop interface. Adjust the brightness to obtain a lighter shade of color and close the brightness/contrast adjuster. From the “select” menu, click on “re-select”, and then “inverse”. Double click on the mat layer box, click on the “drop shadow” box and change the color to black, change the angle direction to approx. 135 degrees, adjust the distance to the edge of the inner cut of the mat and click “ok”. Right click on “fx”, select “create layer”, rename “drop shadow 1”. Move this layer above the mat layer. From the “edit” menu, select “cut” removing the outside shadow.

3. Right click on the “lasso” tool and select the “polygonal lasso” tool, and from the upper right corner line up the point of the tool on the corner and click once. Move the tool point to the inside corner and click again. Then move diagonally to the lower left inside corner and click once. Move through the outside corner and click once again. Then move the tool to the lower right corner but down below and to the right of the corner, click once and then double click to complete the selection. Then from the “edit” menu select “cut” removing the lower and right drop shadow.

#### Mat - Drop Shadows

4. Select the “magic wand tool” by right clicking on the 4<sup>th</sup> tool icon down and clicking on “magic wand tool”. Use the tool to click in the inside area of the mat which will outline the inner edge of the mat. Then from the “select” menu, click on “inverse”. With the mat layer selected, double click on the mat box, from the layer style popup click on the “drop shadow” box, move the angle direction to approx. 135 degrees, adjust the distance, size, and opacity, and click on “ok”. Right click on the “fx”, then select “create layer” and rename the layer “drop shadow 2”.
5. With the mat layer selected, double click on the mat layer box, from the layer style popup click on “drop shadow” and then move the angle direction to approx. -45 degrees, adjust distance, size, and opacity and then click “ok”. Right click on “fx”, select “create layer” and then “ok”. Rename layer “drop shadow 3”, and then from the “select” menu, click on “deselect”.

You have now created a digital mat for your photograph and can adjust individual layers to fine tune the shadows of your mat.

#### Subject (background)

You can now open the file of your photograph into Photoshop, then from the “select” menu click on “all”, from the “edit” menu click on “copy”, and then move back to the frame and mat composite and from the “edit” menu select “paste” which will insert it into the frame and mat layers. If necessary, from the “select” menu, click on “arrange”, and then “send to back”. You can then make any further adjustments on the size of the photograph.