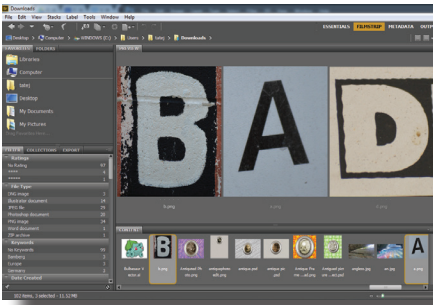


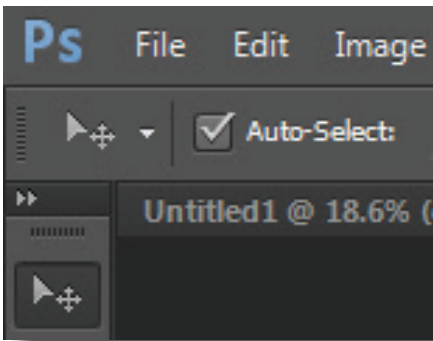
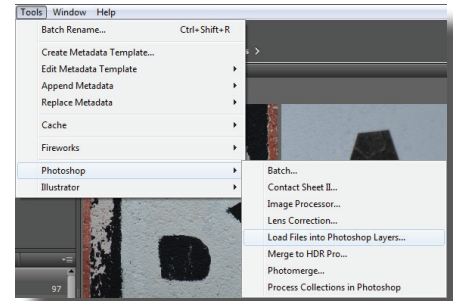
Making a Triptych

Adapted from The Mindful Eye



1. Open Bridge and select the files that you would like to use together in one file.

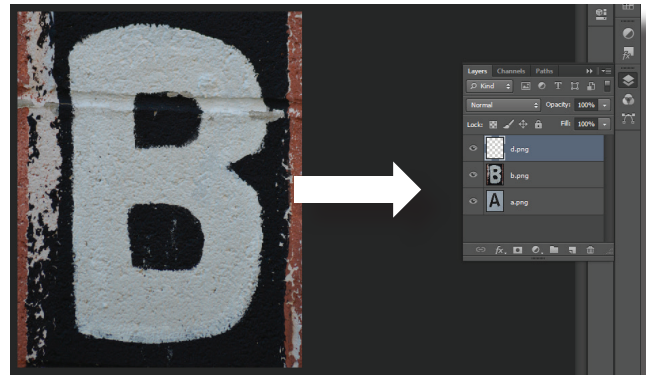
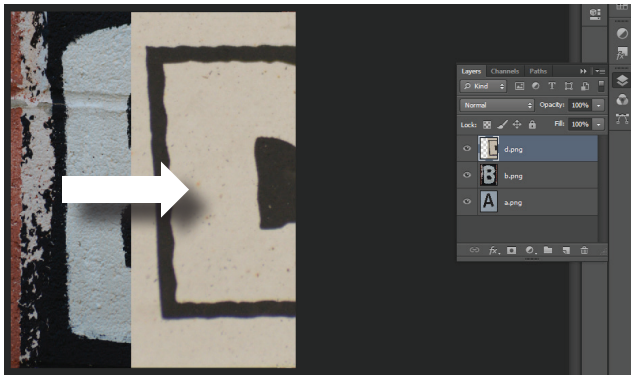
2. With all the files now selected, choose Tools>Photoshop>Load files into Photoshop Layers. This should launch Photoshop, create a new file and place each of the photos on its own layer.



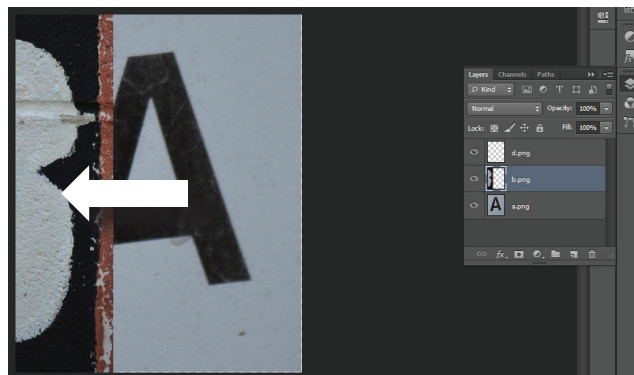
3. Now in Photoshop, if a photo isn't the same size as the others, select its layer, and rescale it using the transform tool (ctrl T).

4. Select the move tool and make sure the Auto Select box in the options bar is checked. This ensures that when a picture is click on, the layer for it is automatically selected.

5. Click on the layer for the image that should move to the right. Click on the left side of the image and start to drag the file to the right and then, while still mid drag, hold the shift key for the rest of the drag. The image should move out of view and the layer thumbnail become empty.



6. Repeat the same process for the image that will be on the left side. Don't worry about how equal the distance is, this is something that will be addressed later!



7. Only one of the images should be visible. To change that, choose Image>Reveal All. Each of the photos should now be visible because the canvas size has been adapted to include each of them.



8. Now choose the crop tool. While holding Alt, drag the top middle node upward. The bottom node will move equally as long as the Alt key is pressed.



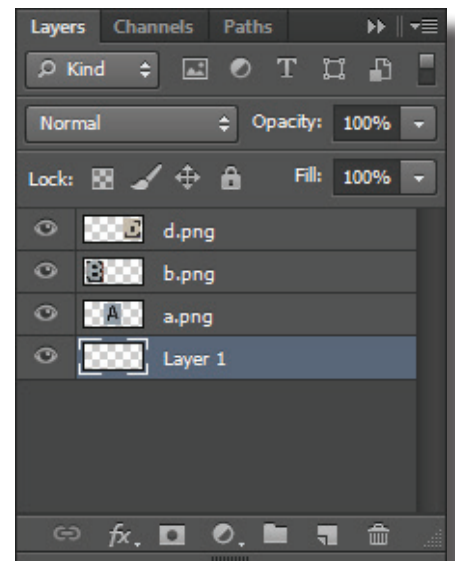
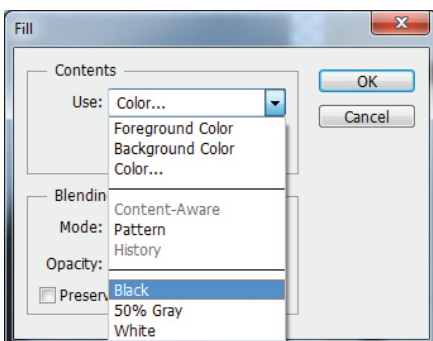
9. Repeat the same process at the left or right side. Pull the node the same amount as the top node so that the distance is equal.



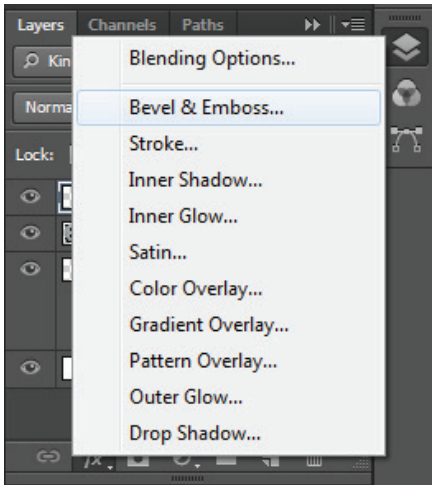
10. Once the canvas size is set, press enter or the check mark to accept the changes.

11. Now select the bottom layer in the Layers panel and while holding the Ctrl key, click on the new layer icon. This will create a new layer, but because the Ctrl key was held, it will be below the selected layer.

12. The new layer needs a background. With the blank layer still selected, choose Edit>Fill. From the Use pull down menu, select any of the color options. Traditionally white would be used for a project like this but there are also options for black, 50% gray, color (where any color can be selected), foreground or background, or pattern. Once the background has been chosen from the pull down menu, click ok to close the dialogue box. If the color doesn't look good, undo it and choose another one.

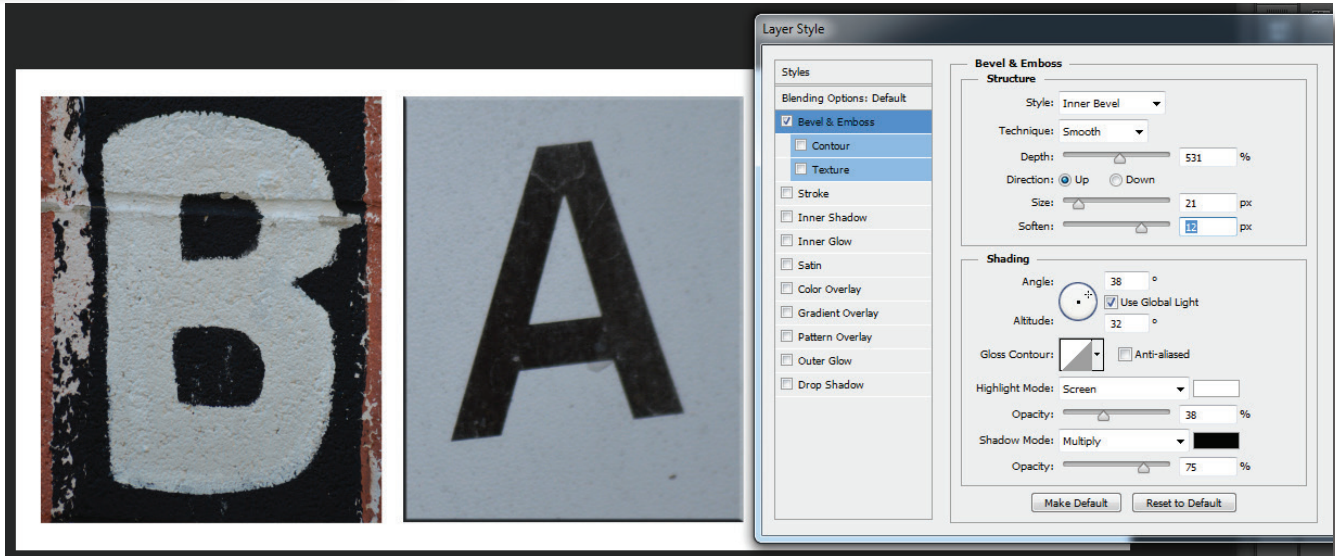


13. Now, to make sure all of the pictures are spaced apart evenly, select all 3 photo layers in the Layers panel. Then in the options bar, there are some alignment icons. Hover over top of them until the name pops up. Find the one labeled "Distribute Horizontal Center" and click on it. This will adjust the middle one until the distance is equal.



14. Now the basic Triptych is done! There is one last thing that could be added to this project though. To make this look like it is matted, select one of the photo layers and then click on the fx icon at the bottom of the Layers panel. From the pop up menu, choose Bevel and Emboss.

15. In the Bevel and Emboss layer, choose settings that apply a subtle 3D effect to the edges. Try to emulate the depth and shadow that cutout mat would provide along the edges of the photo. Just keep it subtle too! Once the effects are set, click on the Make Default button at the very bottom of the dialogue box and then accept the settings.



16. Now choose the next photo layer, select the fx icon again, and the settings should be restored from the previous layer. If so, click ok.

17. Repeat step 16 for any remaining photo layers.

18. That's it, the Triptych is done! To ensure that the layers are intact and re-editable if necessary, save it as a PSD file and then save it again as a PNG.

