

How to Make a TRIPTYCH version #3

PHOTOSHOP

1) USING LAYERS FREEHAND

Create a document 1920 x 1080 pixels

Resize your 3 donor images to **about** 572 x 914 pixels. This is just a starting point and is by no means a perfect border in all directions, you **have** to experiment.

Copy and **paste** each image into your triptych document. They will be on separate layers.

Move them about with the **Move Tool** and most likely you will see some guidelines indicating the gaps are equivalent... or do it by eye, or have them all different. Nothing wrong with that.

Each layer will “float” above the white background. The choice of background colour is yours. It might be black, to be less “bright,” or grey, or another colour. To **Fill** the background layer, select it and go to **Edit > Fill**

You could even have an image in the background above which your triptych floats.

To put a **border** around each image, go to each layer one at a time

EDIT > STROKE

WIDTH 1, 2, 3, 4, etc

COLOUR make a choice by clicking in the box

LOCATION > Inside as **centre** and **outside** tend to round off the outside of the stroke

PRESERVE TRANSPARENCY leave this alone

Repeat for each of the 3 layers. It will be quicker the 2nd time as you have the parameters set.

2) MEASURING/GUIDES

Create a document 1920 x 1080 pixels

VIEW > GUIDES > NEW GUIDE LAYOUT

Go to **CUSTOM**

Columns tick > **Number** 3

Width ignore this and untick if necessary

Gutter something like 30 pixels, this is the distance between the 3 panels

Rows don't tick

MARGIN this is the outside border and ideally, they should be all the same eg 50 pixels (yes, it's a little wider than the two columns. Do what looks best to you. They may be the same size, they maybe larger.

Selecting the Panels

With the **Rectangular Marquee Tool** click on the corner guide line and drag over the remainder of the rectangle. It will click into place if **SNAP** is turned on **View > Snap**

Copy and then **Paste (command/control C and command/control V)**

It will appear on a new layer for each section of the image

Repeat with the three panels of your triptych.

You can then “stroke” each one (as above) for further drama!!!

3) CREATE YOUR OWN BORDER

On a separate layer using the rectangular Marquee Tool drag a selection from one side to the other side of the image about the thickness you suspect your border should be.

EDIT > FILL > White, or Black, or whatever colour you desire.

With **Move Tool (V)** drag to the bottom of image

Duplicate Layer **EDIT > COPY > PASTE**

Move to the top of image

Duplicate layer as before **EDIT > TRANSFORM > ROTATE 90 degrees**

Move to left of image

Repeat for right hand side edge

Same process for the two central columns.

Get one in the right position, then move the other. It should tell you with numbers and kind of click into place when they are the same distance from the opposite edge.

Using NIK collection

Resize your image to **1920 x 1080**

Open it in the program which has the **NIK COLLECTION** bolted on to it.

Find **NIK Collection** and go to **Analogue Pro** (eg. PS > Filters > Nik Collection > Analogue Pro).

Find **Multi Lens**. There is a choice of 5 layout options, but only two are useful for us in our quest for the perfect Triptych. Either a horizontal, or a vertical version of 3 panels.

Select the one which seems most suitable, but afterwards try the other one... you just never know.

It will then create the 3 panels and your image may look a bit weird with the 3 sections seemingly all over the place.

No one said it would be easy!

Each panel can be moved around, or resized, or rotated, by hovering over the panel to find a square. Move it around until you have the desired effect. Grab the corners to resize or rotate. If you carefully align the panels it will look like viewing the scene out of the bay windows of your New York mansion.

When fiddling be very careful with your corners to avoid creating a grey triangle where there is no image.

To add extra effects, play with, border variations from none to wider, border colour, vignetting and so on. Some of the other presets can be added, at least with the paid for version.

I have a feeling in the free version the playing needs to be done separately... but that's what you pay for. It might work as I'm describing though.

LIGHTROOM

Select your three images and “faff” about in the **Develop Module** until you are happy with each one. It may pay to make sure they are **all** the same size.

Equally, it is best to have them in the same folder too. You can make virtual folders too (might be the wrong name).

Go to the **Print Module**

We are now working down the menu on the right of screen.

LAYOUT STYLE

Go to **CUSTOM PACKAGE** click on it, then scroll down to **CUSTOM FILE DIMENSIONS**. I put in 50.8 x 28.575 cm which is = to 1920 x 1080 pixels. Although, when it was saved, it was larger, however the ratio was the same. After the next million steps you can resize to fit as you would normally with an image.

RULERS GRID GUIDELINES

Grid Snap > off, actually turn it ON. I had it on GRID.

I'm not sure why I said this as originally it seemed to work better off, but with time I like it “snapping.” Still, it's a handy thing to know about!

Show Guides turn on > Page Grid > Image Cell

CELLS

CLEAR LAYOUT

This button will remove whatever **was** there and give you a fresh starting point. You don't need to **add a new page** if you found that!

PRINT JOB

Print to: change the pull-down menu from Printer to **JPEG FILE**

CELLS

ADD TO PACKAGE

Click **10x15 button** (bottom left one) and press the **rotate cell** button and your **trptych panel/cell** will flip around to get you started. Click and hold in the centre to drag it about.

It probably doesn't matter which size cell button you click on as you are going to customise them anyway. See how in the next step.

LOCK TO PHOTO ASPECT RATIO (bottom left corner)

Unclick the Photo Aspect Ratio so you **CAN** alter the specifications of the cell.

You **need** to be able change these dimensions, so find **ADJUST SELECTED CELL** then watch the **Height** and **Width** numbers to make sure they are all the same. Height certainly needs to be the same, to line up the top and bottom, but width can vary.

If you think the cell is correct option/alt click it and drag off a second copy.

Move the panels around so you have an appropriate border space to work with.

If you want a **larger middle image** and **two smaller side images** make sure the height remains the same and the width of the two outer ones is identical.

INSERT YOUR PHOTOS

From your **Film Strip** (I think that's the correct terminology) grab the selected images one by one and drag into the desired cells. If you get the order wrong, just redo it.

PAGE

Tick **Background Colour** and select White or Black, or any other colour by going further up the colour picker.

IMAGE SETTINGS

Select **Inner Stroke** and appropriate colour and size.

PRINT JOB

Scroll down the bottom to the **PRINT TO FILE** button and the jpeg will pop out on your desktop, or designated spot.

Okay you now have 2 more triptychs to construct!!!