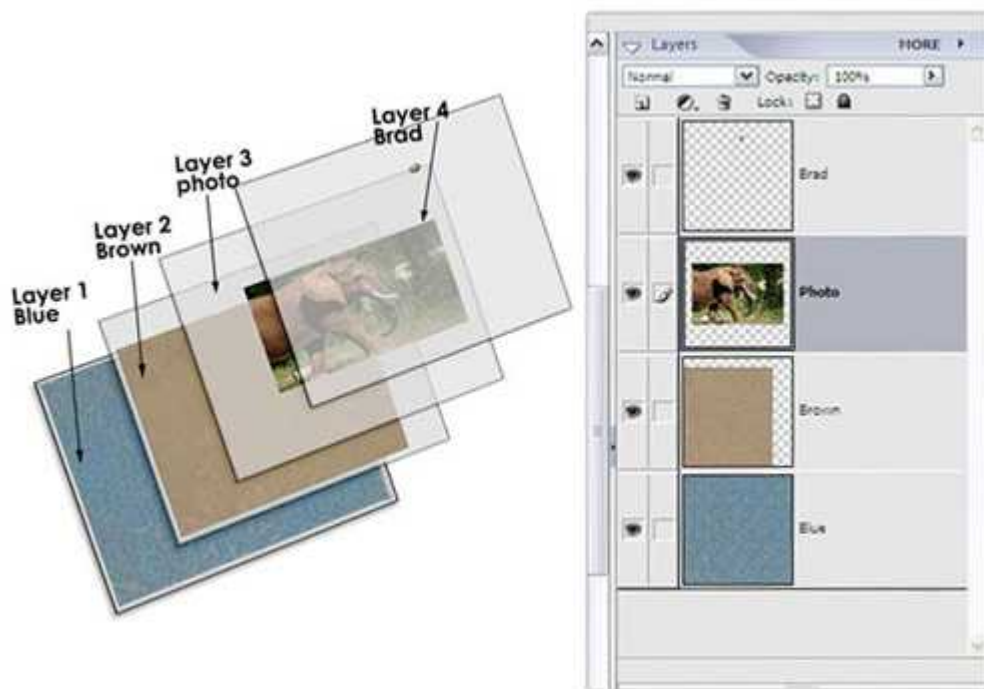




Understanding Layers for Digital Scrapbooking

By LaWanna Desjardin

No introduction to digital scrapbooking is complete without a discussion of layers, regardless of what imaging program you are using. The layers of a digital scrapbook page work the same way they do on a traditional page. The bottom layer is typically your background paper and each layer is built upon the previous layer. Each layer is independent and you can manipulate one without affecting the others. As in a traditional paper project, the top layers usually contains fasteners, titles and journaling while photos and mats are usually somewhere in the middle. Here is an illustration that may help:



The layout in the screenshot above contains four layers. The blue paper is the bottom layer. The next layer up is the brown paper. The next layer contains the photo and the top layer contains a brad. Here is a screenshot of the layout as it will appear on your canvas.



Note that I have renamed my layers to indicate what the layer contains. You can do this by double-clicking on the name of the layer in the palette and typing in a new name.

After you have added all your page elements to the canvas, you may need to re-arrange the layers and in fact, this may be necessary as you add text and other layers to the page. To arrange layers, click on the thumbnail in the *layers palette* and pull it upward. A small hand cursor will appear along with the outline of the layer. Drop the layer when you have it where you want it and when the space between layers is highlighted.

Once you get the hang of layers, they become like second nature and you begin to appreciate the beauty of them.