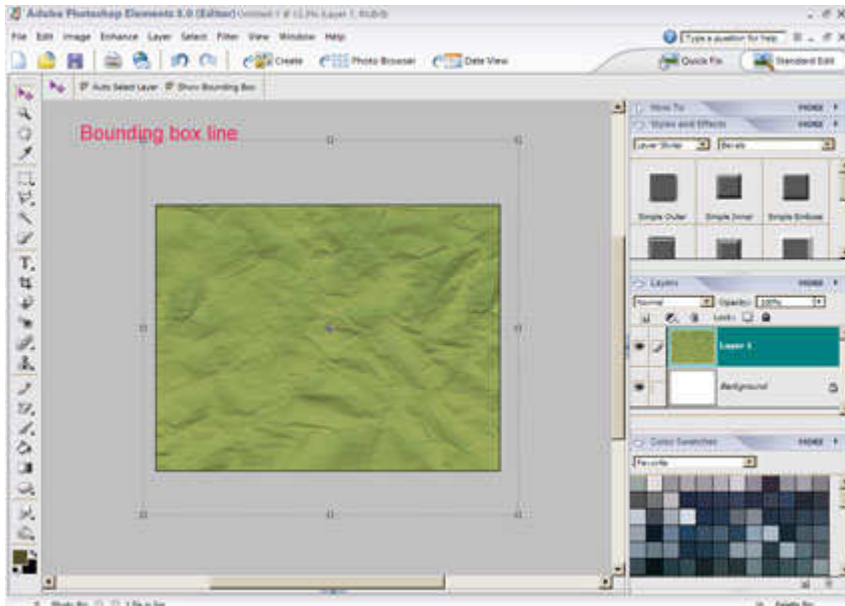# Resizing Background Papers Tutorials
## (for rectangle scrappers)
## By Hummie

If you are a rectangle scrapper, like me, you will find it sometimes difficult to resize your background papers. The majority of papers that designers create are for square scrappers. Why? The answer is because it is most often not too hard to resize them for the purpose of rectangle scrappers. After working with them so long, I do not even think about it much any more.
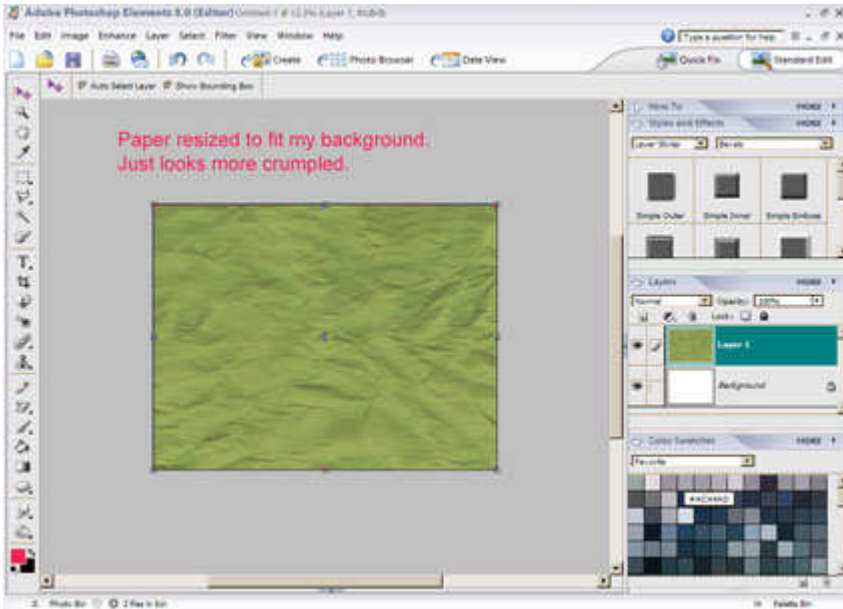


Most of the papers are like this crumpled paper in the sample below. There is nothing on the paper that would look disproportionate if it were resized.

To see the entire paper, you may need to zoom out. This is done by holding down the control key and hitting the minus sign on your number keypad. (to zoom in, use control and the plus sign). I use this keyboard shortcut all the time.
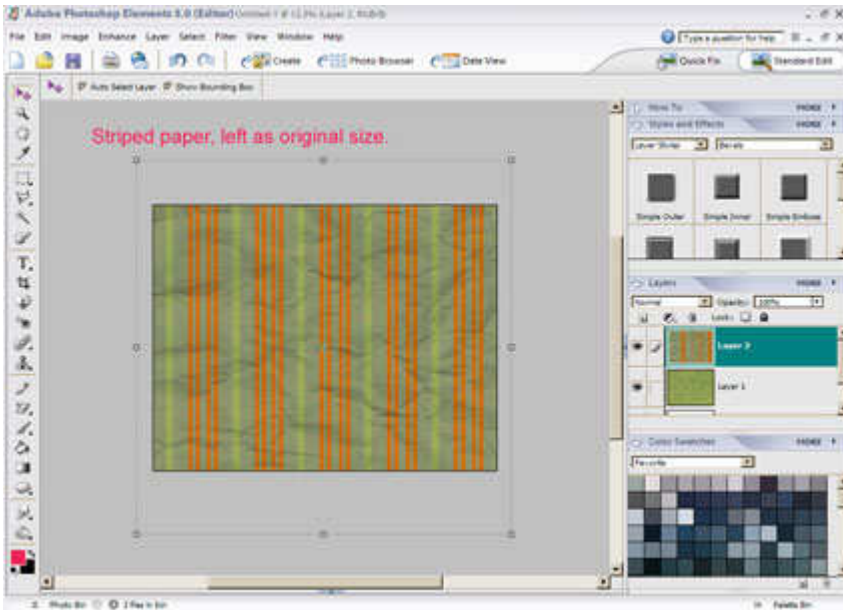
Once you are zoomed out enough, you can see the bounding box lines from the larger 12 x 12 paper.

With the move tool selected, you can use your mouse to drag the paper around until the visible part of the paper is appealing to you for your layout.
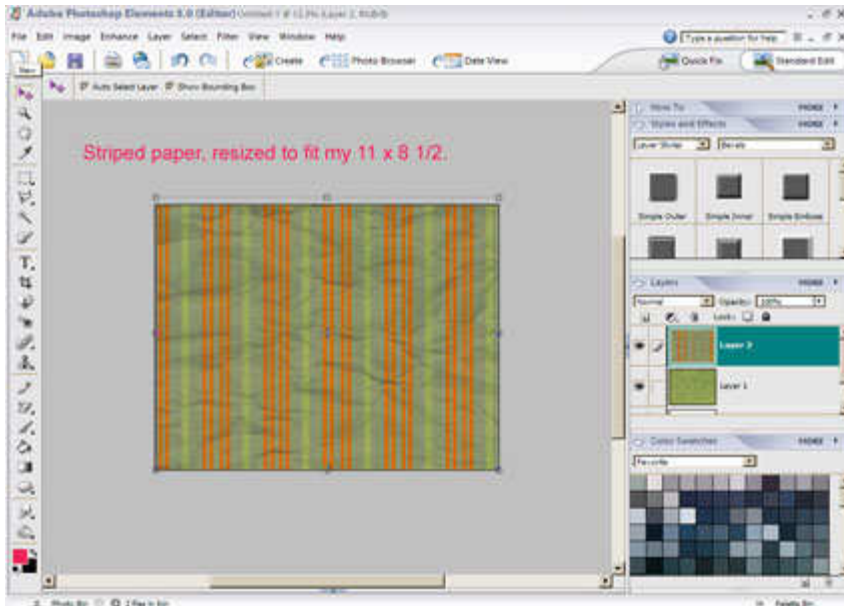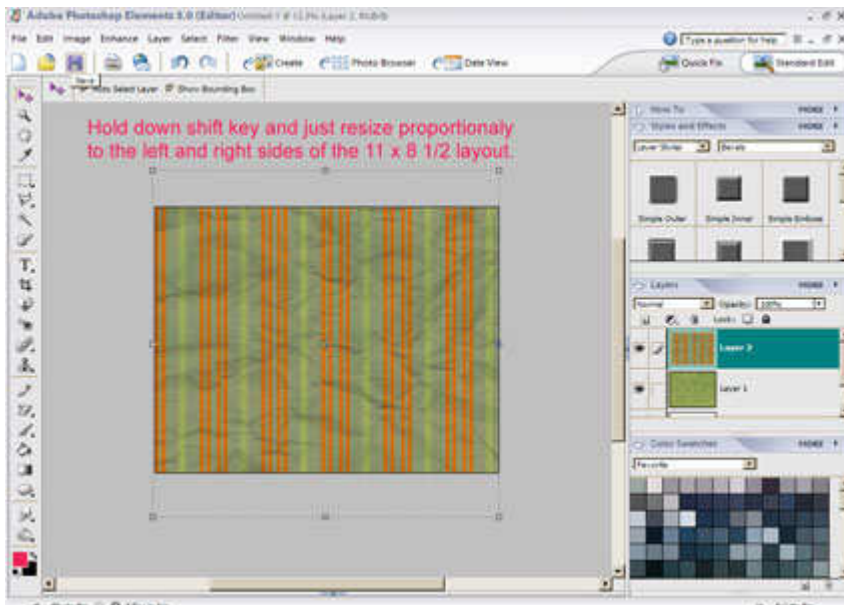
However, many papers such as this have an edge which has been darkened or grunged. If you do not resize the paper down, you would loose the wonderful detail. Below is the same paper resized down (grab the corners of the bounding box and drag it downward with your mouse).

The crumpling looks smaller, but the change is so minor, it does not make a difference. This is what I usually do with the majority of my papers.
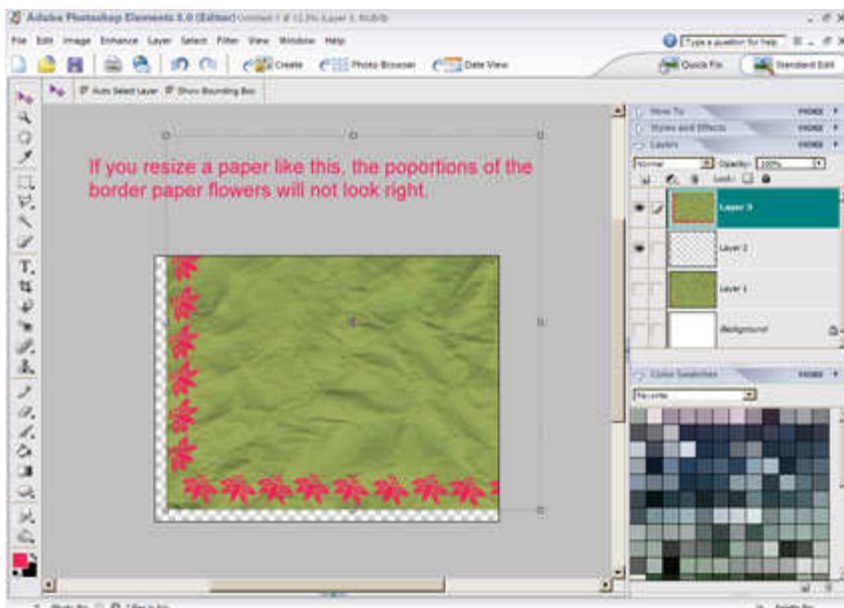


Striped papers usually do not cause me too much trouble either. Here is a sample of a striped paper left as the original size. To make the lines look appropriate and not half off the page, you may want to use the arrow keys to nudge the paper.
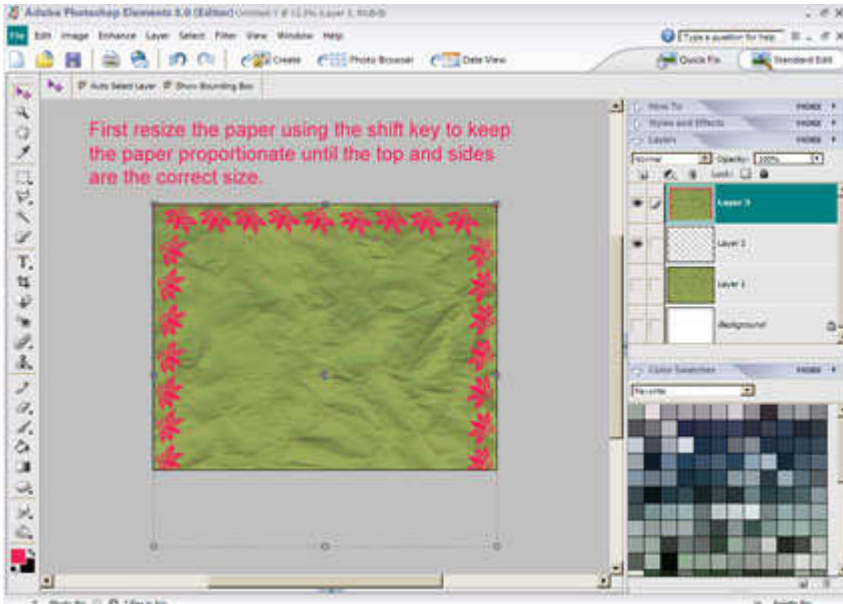
Here is the same striped paper resized down to fit my page. I prefer the way this looks. The stripes are too big for me if left un-resized.



You may wish to keep the stripes proportionate. In that case, hold down the shift key when resizing and make it just small enough so it fits the left and right sides of your layout. It does not make much difference on this paper, but occasionally some papers do look better using this technique.
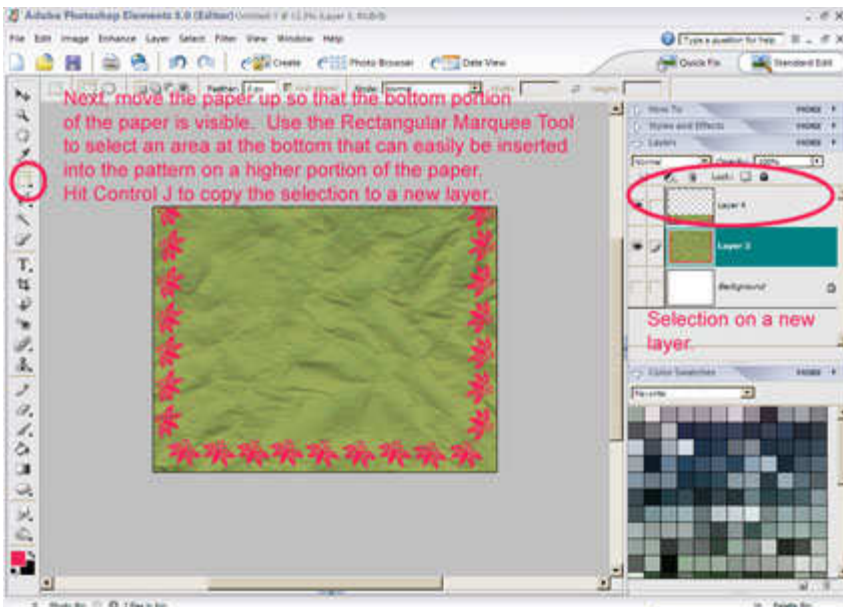


I rarely use papers that have a design that cannot be resized as above, but occasionally you will run into papers that will not look right resized, as in the below paper that has poinsettias around the edges. If the paper is resized, the poinsettias will look squished.
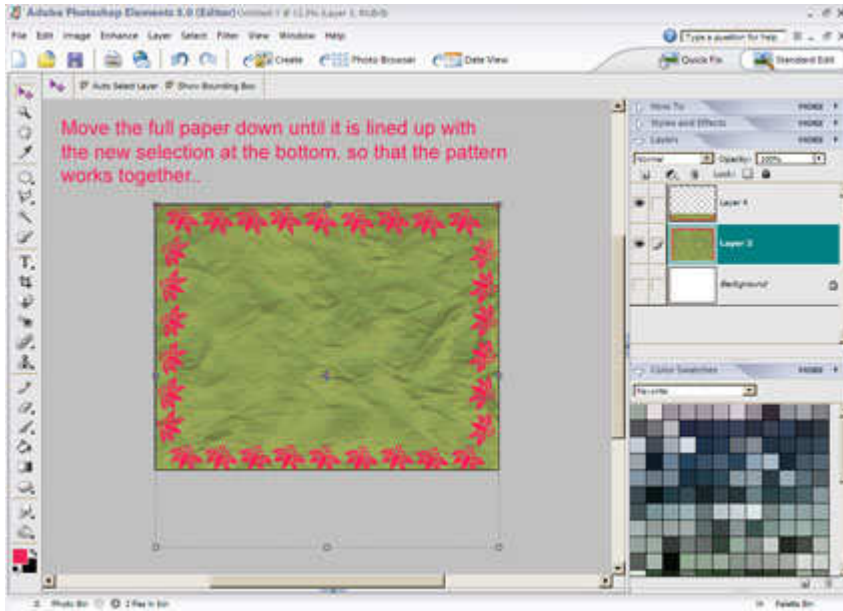
This is a bit harder to fix, but it can be done if you want to take the time to do so. First, resize the paper using the shift key to keep the paper proportionate until the top and sides are the correct size for your layout. Notice the bounding box? It drops below my layout indicating that the whole paper is not visible.



Next, move the paper up so that the bottom portion of the paper is visible. Use the Rectangular Marquee Tool to select an area at the bottom that can easily be inserted into the pattern on a higher portion of the paper. I chose to draw my line between two flowers. (of course, if you want

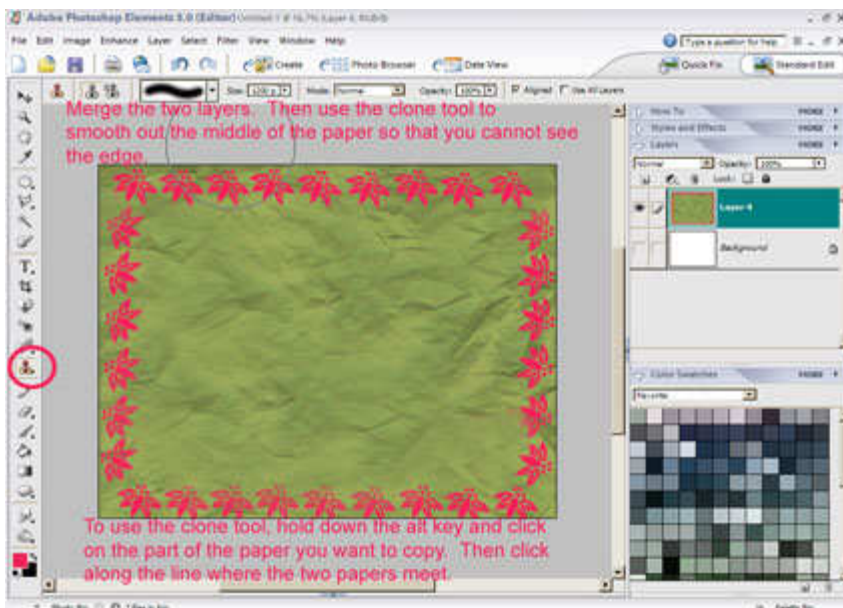to cut the top of your paper, rather than the bottom, that would work too!)

Hit Control J to copy the selection to a new layer. Note in the layer's palette the new layer.



Move the full paper down until it is lined up with the new selection at the bottom, so that the pattern works together. I had to nudge both layers just a tad using the arrow keys on my keyboard to get everything to line up.

Notice on the below screen cap that you can see a line across the paper where the two meet. We will fix that with the next step.



Merge the two layers together.

Click on the clone tool (circled below) to activate it.

Use the [ and ] keys on your keyboard to make the brush of the clone tool larger or smaller as needed.

Hold down the alt key and click with

your mouse somewhere above or below the line edge.  Wherever you click, that is what will be used as the starting reference point for copying.

Now click (without holding alt key) along the edge of the line where the papers meet with your mouse to paste a copy of the section you chose to copy.  You may even be able to just drag your mouse along the line.  However, usually, I have to use my alt key to reselect another area and then paste again several times before it looks right.  Most often, you do not want to see direct side-by-side repeating of a texture.

That's it!  You may find that you can utilize this technique in other circumstances.  For instance, maybe you want to create a tag using only part of a paper.  Have fun!