

SHADOWING ON YOUR DIGITAL LAYOUT

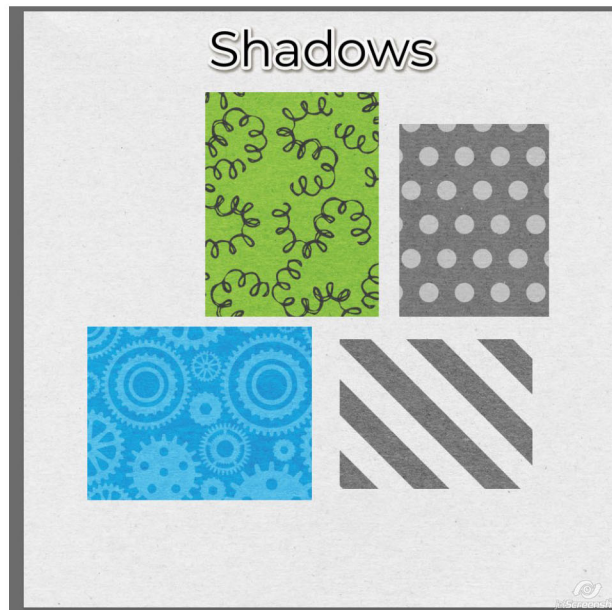


FOR PS & PSE USERS

SHADOWING ON YOUR DIGITAL LAYOUT

Shadowing papers and elements on your digital layout can be a daunting task. After all, we don't have to add those to our actual paper layouts, they just occur naturally. Here are some tips for adding shadows to make your digital page look a little more natural.

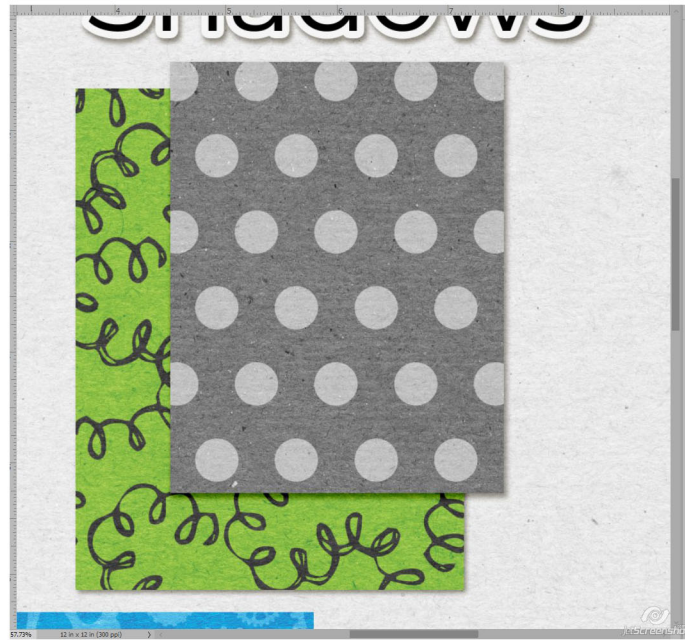
Let's start with papers.



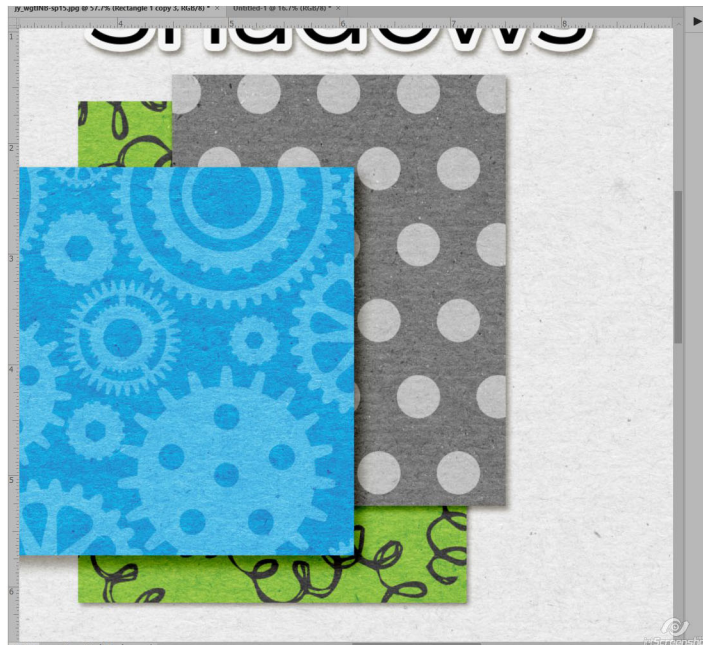
First, I want you to grab a piece of paper and lay it on a flat surface. You can BARELY see the shadow between the paper and the surface. That's how it is on a scrapbook page, too (unless you use something like pop dots or whatever, yea yea, I get it!)



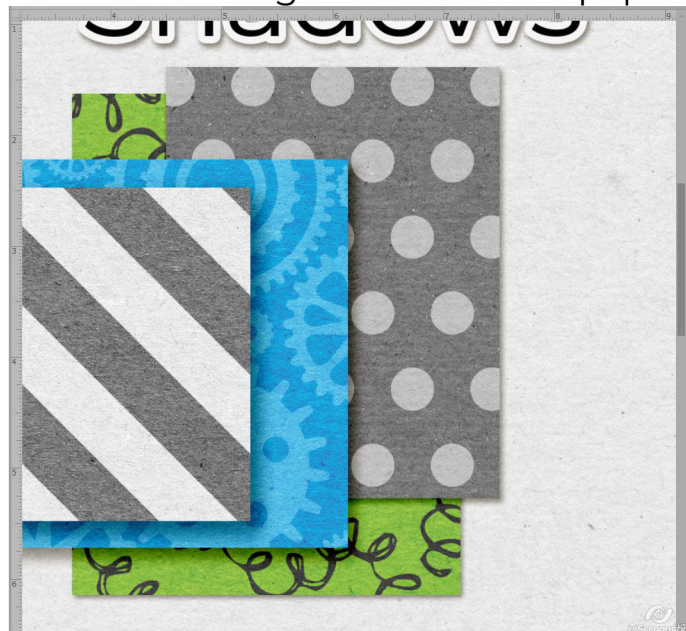
When you lay a piece of paper on top of another piece of paper, then you might notice a little more shadow...



And a little more...



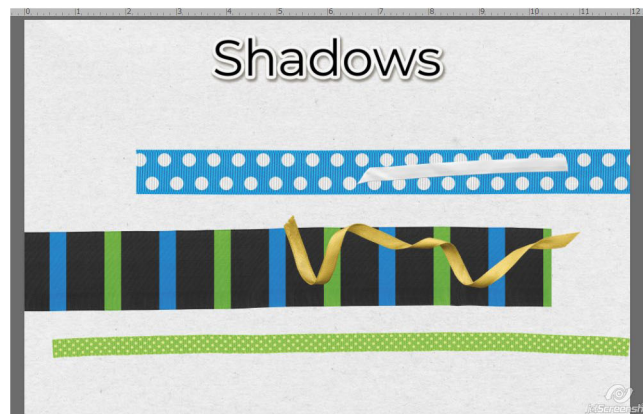
And even a little more, especially if the paper is curled or folded or you've stuck something in between the papers



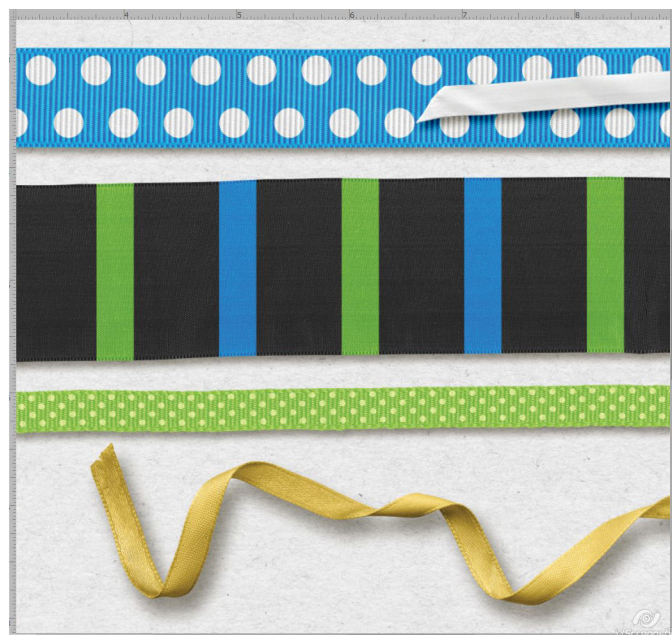
So use small shadows on papers... you can warp paper shadows to make them look like they're curling up off the page



Flat ribbons and curly ribbons...



Flat ribbons lay FLAT so they get a smaller shadow, especially if you tack them down with buttons, staples, etc. Curly ribbons get a larger shadow because they don't lay flat on the paper:



Strings also get small shadows:



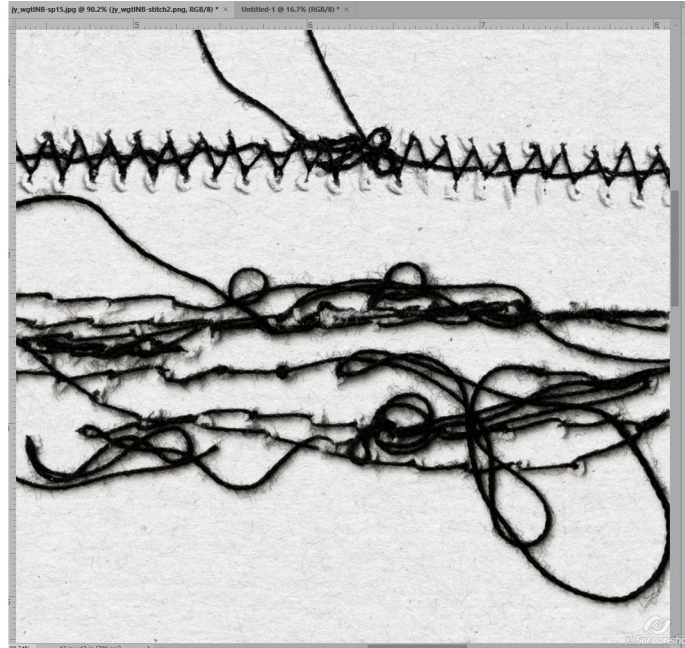
It's fun to warp their shadows, too!



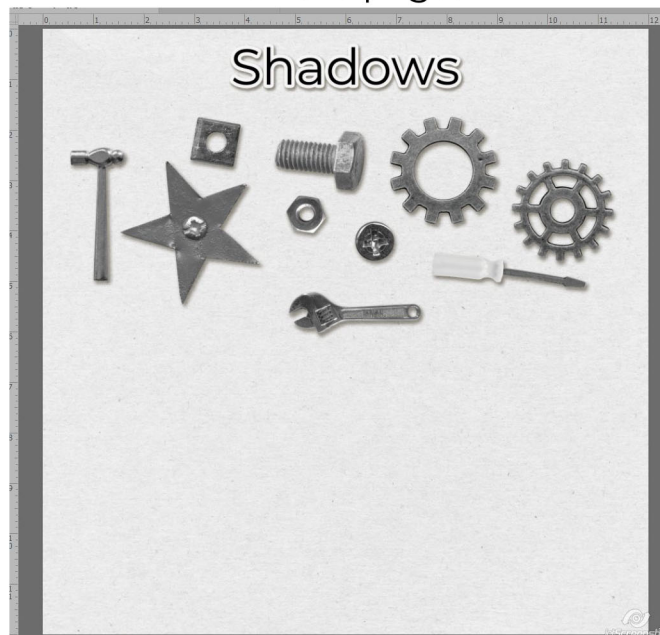
Flowers – if they're flat, they get small shadows.
If they aren't flat, they get bigger shadows:



Stitching – this is the same thing you see with paper, but the shadows for stitching are even harder to see in real life, unless they're big loopy stitches. They get super small shadows because they're tight with the paper:



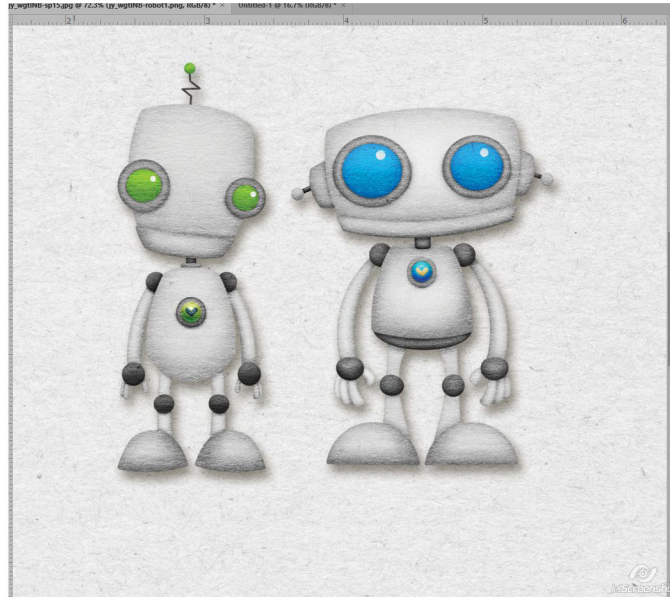
Shadows for things like these metal bits will vary, but they will cast some sort of shadow on the page:



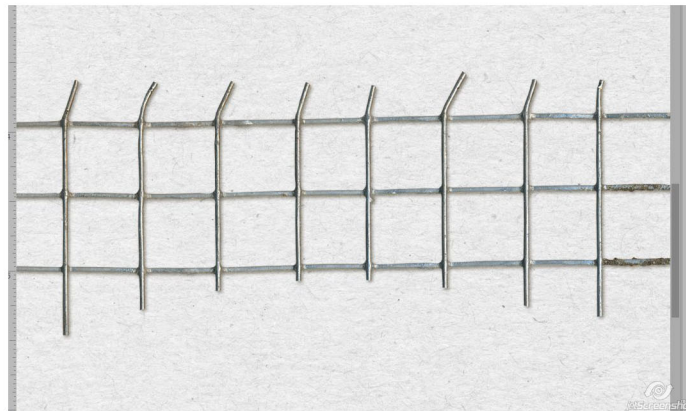
Here's a closer look:



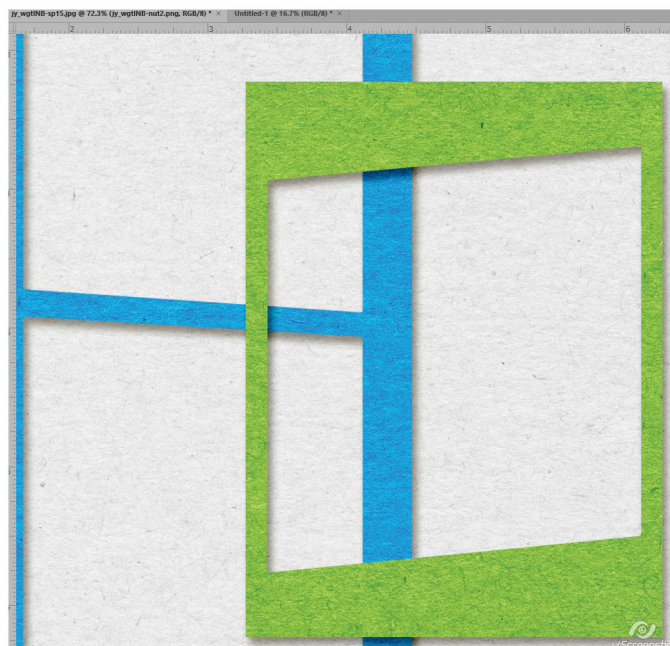
Doodles like this get the same shadow as the metal bits on my pages. If they were stickers, the shadow would be smaller (see below). If they were just the outline, there would be NO shadows. They are like ink and paint when they are just outlines (see below).



Wires, laces, and doilies all get small shadows. These usually lay flat against the page, like stitching, but not as tight to the page.



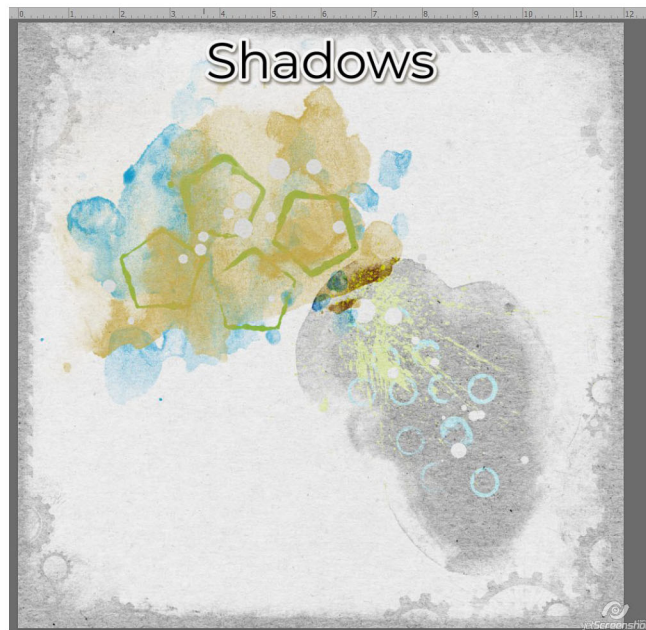
Frames get a bigger shadow since they're usually on top of a photo, and most likely other items on the page as well:



Paint and overlays – these DO NOT get shadows!



If you do anything with these, it will be changing the blend modes



Paper pieces and tags, also get a smaller shadow.



Plain text DOES NOT get a shadow, however, stickered text DOES.

Think of plain text like you do paint.

The ink seeps into the paper.

If you write a word on your arm, does it have a shadow?

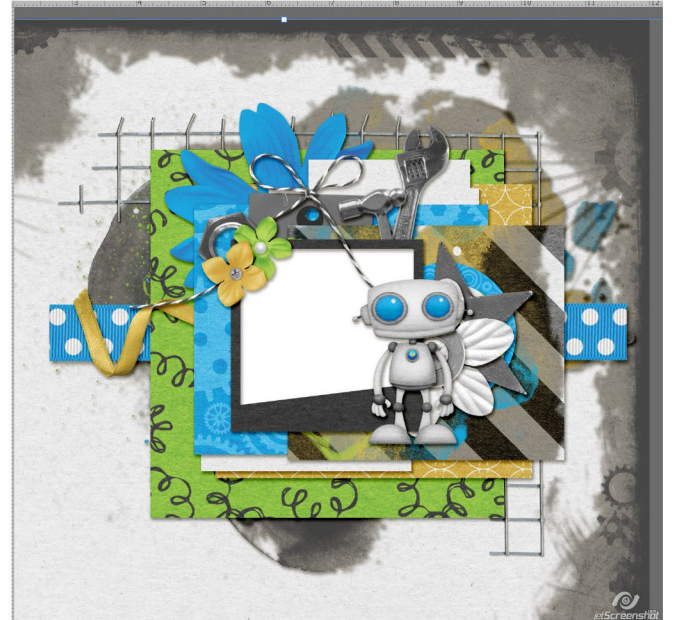
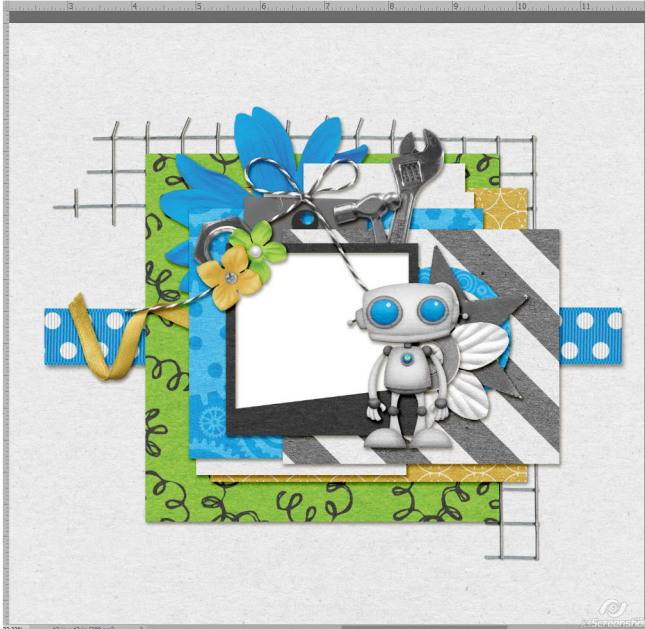
Does a tattoo design inked on your skin have a shadow?

NO.

Don't do it unless it's stickered, papered, metal, etc. If it's just ink on paper, leave it alone.



If I were to put the same shadow on all of my papers and elements on the page, it would look something like the left image:

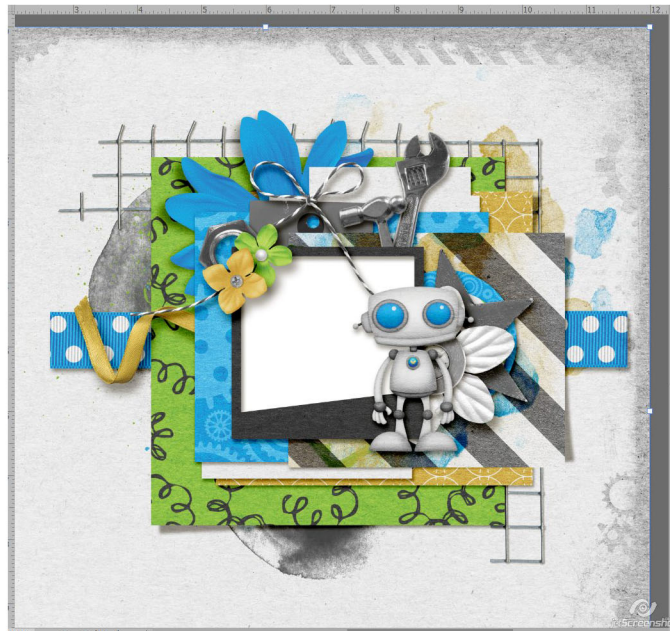


Then I want to add paint and an overlay... and if I shadowed them, I'd get what you see on the right.

EW!



Putting everything from this post together, you get something like this instead:



Nice, right? It has varying shadows and it all looks natural!
I hope you've gleaned a little bit of insight today!

And if you'd like to make your scrapping even EASIER,
check out my Shadow Styles 2 in the shop!

