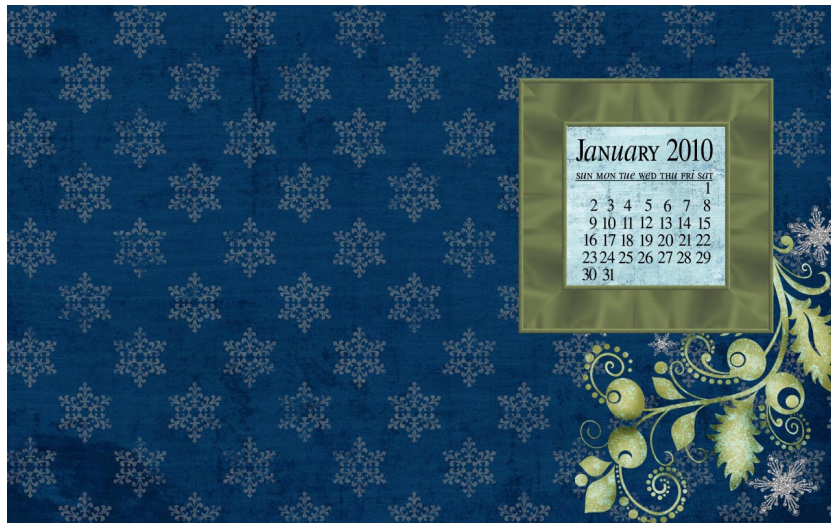


DESKTOP WALLPAPER

– SCRAP YOUR DESKTOP *quickly and easily!*

©2009 Stan and Jennifer White/ScrappersWorkshop.com All Rights Reserved- Do not Reproduce in any method, digital or otherwise without express written permission of the authors.

This tutorial includes instructions/screen shots for PSCS3 and PSE8, if you have other versions of PS or PSE it should work for you too. If you use another program, read carefully and you should be able to figure out which tools do the same thing in your program!



Making your own desktop wallpaper is quick, easy, and a great way to use your scrapbook supplies! You can put in exactly what YOU want to keep close at hand on your desktop – photos of the family, calendar, list your routines, whatever you like!

FIND YOUR SIZE

There are many different sizes and shapes of monitors, so it's important that you make your desktop the same size as your display. If you make it larger, elements will get cut off when it displays. Finding the size of your monitor is easy, though!

1. Open PS or PSE.
2. Press the Print Screen button (usually at the top right next to the function keys). This takes a snapshot of what is on your screen and saves it to your 'clipboard' (internal memory).
3. Press CTRL+ N to open a new document – DO NOT CHANGE any of the settings that come up! The computer automatically inserts the dimensions of whatever is on your 'clipboard' – in this case, the screen shot you just took!
4. This new document is now EXACTLY the size of your screen! You can save it as a master file, so next time you won't have to do this. Just name it WallpaperMaster.jpg or something you will be able to remember.

DECORATE

You don't need me to tell you how to make a layout, but here are some tips for successful wallpapers:

- Use a darker background – you want contrast for the icons you keep on your desktop, and darker backgrounds usually let them show up better. If you want to go light, go very light, again so you get some contrast from your icons.
- Use a low contrast pattern or no pattern.



A pattern with both dark and light elements will make it hard to see your icons!



A pattern with very low contrast between the elements will be easier on the eyes! →



- Be thoughtful where you place things – if you keep a lot of icons on your desktop, you will want to leave space for them. Windows tends to push the icons to the left, so keep your photos or calendar off to the right so it doesn't get covered up!
- Get creative! I've seen where people make little boxes or frames on their wallpaper, then drag their icons into them for organizational purposes. You may have to change your desktop settings to allow this – Right-Click on your desktop and choose View. Make sure the Auto Arrange and Align to Grid options are unchecked.
- Pay attention to size – because your screen displays only 72 pixels per inch, when you drag your supplies onto your document they will be REALLY big! You will want to resize your papers down so that the patterns look proportional and the texture isn't too distracting.
- Save as .jpg – and you can save at a fairly strong compression – I usually put mine at a 5, unless I have a very detailed photo then I'll use a 7. The smaller you can keep this file, the easier it is on your computer to display it. Do save the file on your machine, not on an external drive. I have a separate folder for wallpapers in my documents folder.

INSTALLING YOUR DESKTOP

1. Open your Control Panel
2. Choose Monitors or Display (in Vista you should choose Personalization – see the screen shots at right)
3. Click on Change Desktop Background
4. Browse to your file.
5. Click on the image you wish to use.
6. At the bottom, choose the first display mode, full screen.
7. Click ok! When you go back to your desktop, you will see it has changed.

Feel free to share with us your wallpapers by posting them in our gallery!

Happy Scrapping! *Jenn*

