

 Digital Scrapper Premier 2021, Volume 5

Knockout Letter Boxes

Digital Scrapper Premier 2021, Volume 5 **Knockout Letter Boxes (Adobe Photoshop)**

by Carla Shute

Create a catchy word or phrase for any digital project using knockout letter boxes with the knockout blending option.

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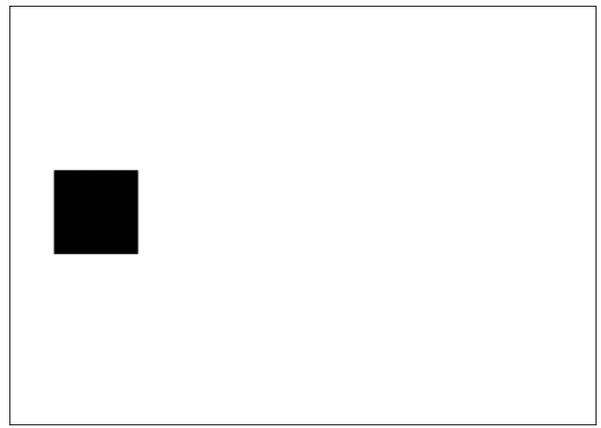
Prepare the Workspace

- Begin in Adobe Photoshop.
- Create a new 7x5 inch document (File > New) at 300 ppi with a white background, or create a new document in your preferred scrapping size at 300 ppi with a white background.
- Press the letter D to reset the Color Chips to black over white.

Create the First Letter Box

- In the Layers panel, click on the Create a New Layer icon.
- Double click directly on the name of the new layer and rename it Block 1.
- Press Enter/Return to commit the change.
- Get the Rectangular Marquee tool.

- In the Tool Options, click on the New Selection icon. Set the Feather to 0 and the Style to Fixed Size. Set the Width to 1 inch and the Height to 1 inch.
- On the left side of your document, click once to create the selection.
- Press Alt Backspace (Mac: Opt Delete) to fill the selection with black.
- Press Ctrl D (Mac: Cmd D) to deselect.



Add a Paper to the First Letter Box

- In the Layers panel, the Block 1 layer should be active.
- Open a paper (File > Open) you would like to add to your project. Choose a paper that contrasts with the background color for the best look. I'm using the DSP21-V5-paper3 from the downloads.
- Get the Move tool.
- Click and drag the paper onto your document, making sure the block is completely covered by the new paper.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Create Clipping Mask.



Create the First Knockout Letter

- Get the Horizontal Type Tool.
- In the Tool Options, open the Font Picker and choose a thick sans serif style font. I'm using Arial Black. Another good font choice is Impact.

Note: You want the layer below your letter box to show through your paper, so the thicker the letter, the more the layer will show.

- Set the Size to 60. Click on the Left Alignment icon. Click on the Color Chip, choose black, and click OK. In the Character panel (Window > Character), set the Leading to Auto, and the Tracking to 0.
- On the document, click once in the center of the letter box to place the cursor.
- Type the first letter of the word or phrase you want to create with the knockout boxes. I'm going to type an "h" for the word "hello".

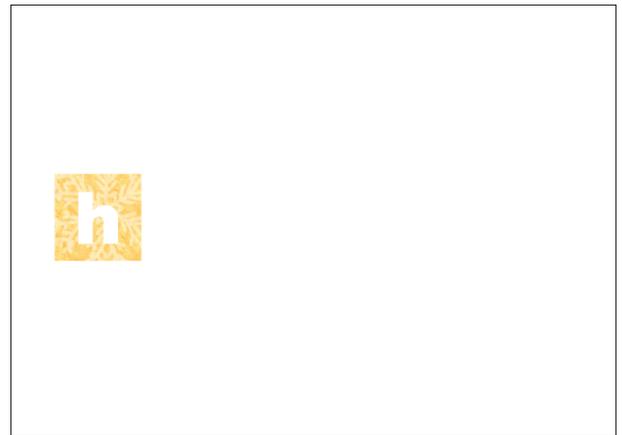


Note: If you want to reposition the letter so it's in the middle of the knockout box, hold down the Ctrl key (Mac: Cmd key) and click and drag inside the bounding box. It doesn't have to be centered. The type just needs to be within the box.

- Click the checkmark to commit.

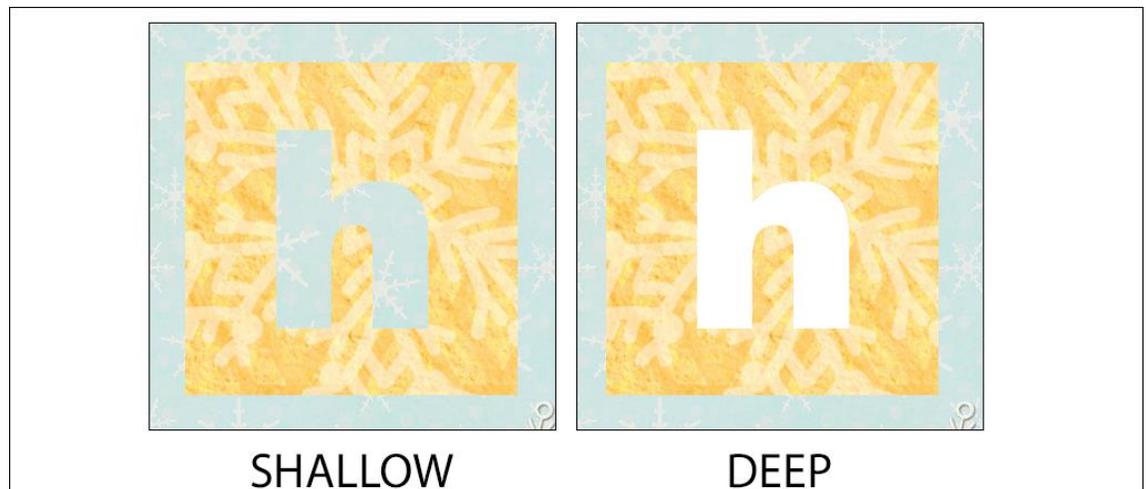
Create the Knockout Effect

- In the Layers panel, the type layer should be active.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Layer Style > Blending Options.
- In the General Blending options, set the Blend Mode to Normal and the Opacity to 100%.
- In the Advanced Blending options, set the Fill Opacity to 0%. Set the Knockout to Shallow. Check Blend Clipped Layers as Group and check Transparency Shapes Layer.
- Click OK to close the dialog box.
- In the Layers panel, the type layer should be active.
- Holding down the Shift key, click on the Block 1 layer. All the layers between the type layer and Block 1 layer should now be active.
- Click on the Create a New Group icon.
- Double click directly on the name of this group and rename it Letter Box 1.
- Press Return/Enter to commit the change.



How Does the Knockout Effect Work?

The Knockout Effect allows you to “punch out” part of a layer to reveal layers below it. We are using type for this effect, but you can use shapes as well. The Knockout Effect has two

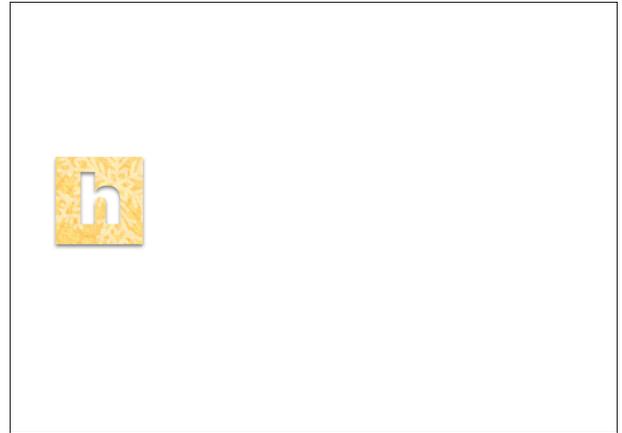


settings: Shallow and Deep. Shallow will knock out any layers below the layer that has the Knockout Effect applied. By grouping the layers, the Shallow effect will only punch through the layers in the group. The Deep effect will punch through all the layers below the layer with the effect applied, regardless of whether it's in a group or not. A background layer cannot be

punched through no matter which effect you choose. This is a non-destructive method that can be easily modified if needed.

Add a Drop Shadow

- The Letter Box 1 group should still be active.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Layer Style > Drop Shadow.
- In the dialog box, click on Reset to Default.
- Set the Blend Mode to Multiply, the Opacity to 50%, the Angle to 120°, the Distance to 8, the Spread to 0 and the Size to 13.
- Click OK to close the Layer Style dialog box.



Create Additional Knockout Letter Boxes

- In the Layers panel, the Letter Box 1 group should be active.
- Press Ctrl J (Mac: Cmd J) to duplicate the group.
- Double click directly on the name of the new group and name it Letter Box 2.
- Press Enter/Return to commit the change.
- Get the Move tool.
- In the Tool Options, uncheck Auto Select Layer.
- On the document, click and drag directly on the letter box to reposition it to the right of the first letter box.



Note: If you would like to keep the groups aligned, press and hold the Shift key as you drag the letter box to the right.

- In the Layers panel, click to open the Letter Box 2 group.
- Double click directly on the thumbnail of the type layer and type in the next letter in your word or phrase. I'm typing the letter "e".

Note: To reposition the letter so it's in the middle of the knockout box, hold down the Ctrl key (Mac: Cmd key) and click and drag inside the bounding box. It doesn't have to be perfectly centered.

- Click the checkmark to commit.
- In the Layers panel, click to close the Letter Box 2 group.



- Repeat these steps for each letter in your word or phrase.

Note: You can change out papers or substitute photos for papers for each group for some fun effects.

Crop and Save the Document

- Press Ctrl A (Mac: Cmd A) to select the entire document.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Image > Crop.
- Press Ctrl D (Mac: Cmd D) to deselect.

Note: Cropping the image removes pixels outside the document and reduces the size of the file.

- To preserve the knockout letter boxes for later use, save the document (File > Save As) as a PSD file with a unique name.
- Finish your project as desired.

Here is my finished project using the knockout boxes. I love the bright, cheerful boxes with the neutral background paper showing through the letters.



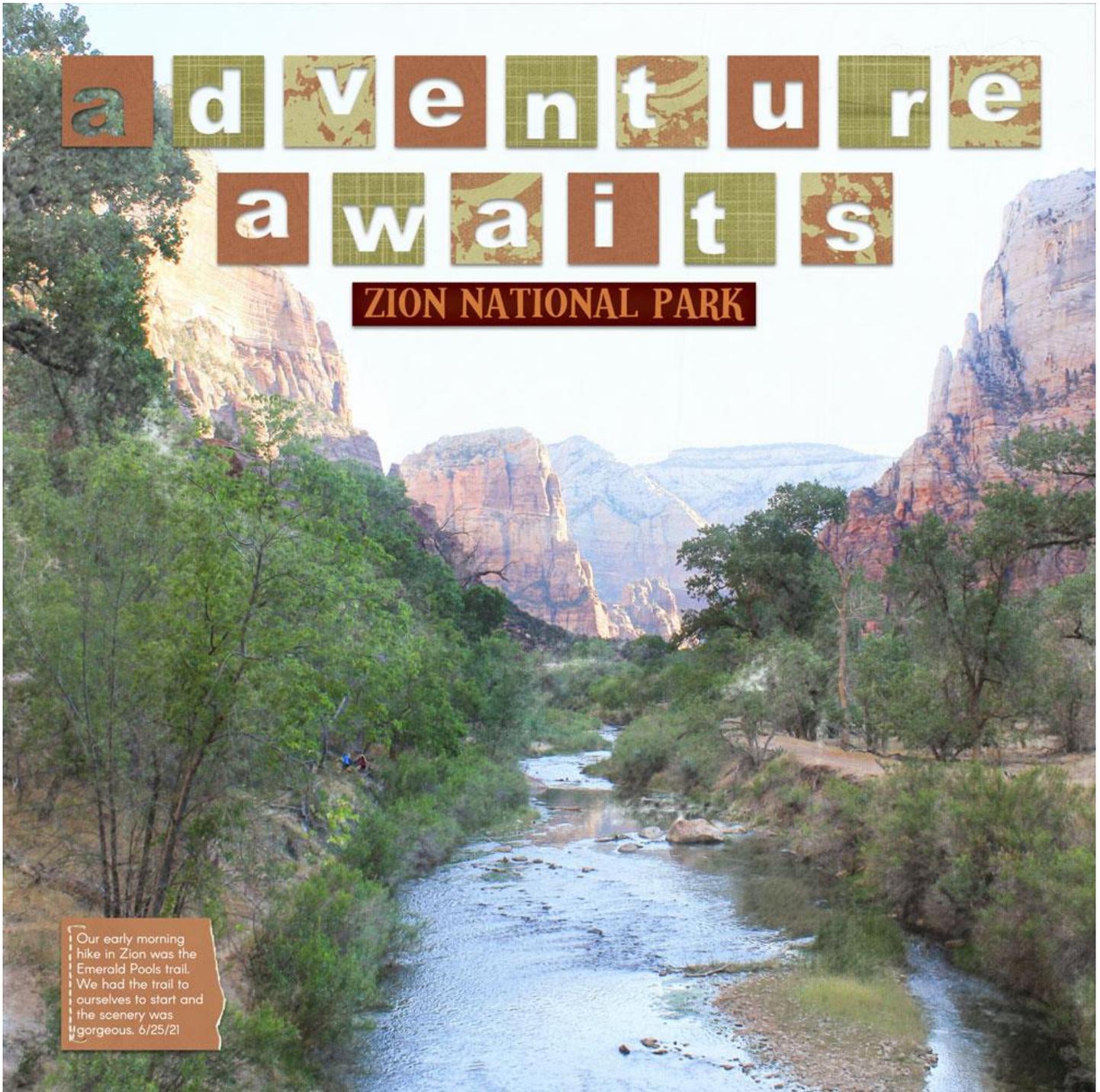
Card by Carla Shute

Tutorial: DS Premier 2021, Volume 5 Knockout Letter Boxes

Kits: DSP21-V5-paper3, Winter Woods Collection by Connie Prince

Fonts: Arial Black, Easy Going

Here is a page I created using knockout letter boxes and different papers. I also varied the position of the type in each box, creating a fun, unique look.



Page & Photo by Carla Shute
Tutorial: DS Premier 2021, Volume 5, Knockout Letter Boxes
Kit: Canyonlands by Aimee Harrison
Fonts: Arial Black, Arcon