Perfectly Personal Word Art
Paper Strip Template 06 – Photoshop Elements
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TOU

Step One: Prepare the Workspace

- Create a new document that is 2.75 inches wide and 0.6 inches high at 300ppi with a white background.
- Press the letter D to reset the Color Chips.

Step Two: Create the Main Rectangle

- Click on the Foreground Color Chip to open the Color Picker and choose a medium gray color. I'm using Hex #: 959595. Click OK.
- Now press Alt Backspace (Mac: Opt Delete) to fill the Background layer with the Foreground color.

Step Three: Create the Shape Accents

- Click on the Foreground Color Chip to open the Color Picker and choose a light gray color. I'm using Hex #: cccccc. Click OK.
- Get the Custom Shape tool.

- In the Tool Options, set the Style to None and the Geometry Options to Unconstrained. Click to open the Shape Picker. Click on the Shapes Drop Down Box and choose Shapes. Choose the Hexagon Shape. Click on the Create a New Shape Layer icon.
- On the document, while holding down the Shift key, click and drag to create a hexagon that fills the height of the document.

NOTE: If you need to reposition the hexagon while creating it, you can press and hold the Space Bar while you are clicking and dragging to create the hexagon.

- In the Tool Options, click on the Simplify Icon.

- Get the Move tool.
- On the document, while holding down the Shift key, click and drag the hexagon to the left until only part of it is showing.
- In the Layers panel, double click on the name of this layer and change it to Shape Accent 1. Press Enter to commit the name change.

- Now press Ctrl J (Mac: Cmd J) to duplicate the hexagon.
- On the document, while holding down the Shift key, click and drag the hexagon to the right until it's showing the same amount as the left hexagon.
- In the Layers panel, double click on the name of this layer and change it to Shape Accent 2. Press Enter to commit the name change.

- Now we need to trim the excess pixels. To do that, press Ctrl A (Mac: Cmd A) to Select All.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Image > Crop.
- Press Ctrl D (Mac: Cmd D) to deselect.
- In the Layers panel, Shift click on the Shape Accent 1 layer so that both of the Shape Accent layers are active.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Group Layers.
- In the Layers panel, double click on the name of this group and change it to Shape Accents. Press Enter to commit the name change.

Step Four: Add the Type

- Get the Horizontal Type tool.
- In the Tool Options, set the Font to Myriad Pro, the Size to 24pts, and the Alignment to Center.
- Press the letter X to switch the Foreground Color to white.
- On the document, click once and type TEXT HERE in all caps. Click the checkmark to commit.
- Get the Move tool.
- Press Ctrl A (Mac: Cmd A) to Select All.
- In the Tool Options, click on the Align Vertical Centers icon and Align Horizontal Centers icon.
- Press Ctrl D (Mac: Cmd D) to deselect.

Step Five: Save As

Now we can save this template for future use. Save this file with the name of Paper-Strip-06.psd in the same folder as all of the other templates.

Tips:

Last time, I showed you how to use a paper strip with an alpha.

But this time, I've put our custom paper strip together with a journal card to create another cluster that would look great with any project.

Here are some tips on how to put together a paper strip cluster with a journal card.

1. Use Similar Colors.

When pairing a journal card to your custom paper strip, it's a good idea to use similar colors or patterns. Doing this will give your cluster a cohesive look and people will be wondering if you did that or if a designer put that cluster together.

2. Use the Intersection

The area where the journal card and the paper strip create a right angle is a great place to tuck an element. This provides visual interest without hiding the personalized words we added to our custom paper strip.

3. Use an Anchor.

As with many of our previous clusters, using an anchor is just a good idea. In this case, the paint I used adds visual interest and a pop of color.

Here's how I ended up using my journal card paper strip cluster. The cluster was the perfect compliment to the rest of the design and it really helped me tell the story about my favorite bands and why I enjoy listening to them.

Credits:
Paper Strip Template: Jenifer Juris

Page: Jenifer Juris
Photo: Stock Photo
Paper Strip Template: Jenifer Juris
Kit: Stories 365 by Kristin Cronin-Barrow
Fonts: Camsay, Boston Traffic, Acumin Pro Extra Condensed