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Secrets of Terrific Type

Lesson 04-05: Layer Styles How To—Photoshop Elements

As promised, in this video, I'll show you how quick and easy it is to use Layer Styles and how to use them to turn a piece of word art into a sticker.

Step One: Prepare the Workspace

So here we are in PSE. I've already created a new document that is 12 inches by 12 inches at 300ppi with a white background.

I've also already opened this piece of word art I created in Lesson 5 and duplicated the layer to my new document.

Thankful

Step Two: Change Background Color

Now, in order for you to be able to see the drop shadow better, I'm going to make my background layer a light gray.

To do that, in the Layers panel, click on the background layer to activate it.

Click on the Foreground Color Chip to open the Color Picker and choose Hex #: cccccc. Click OK.

Press Alt Backspace (Mac: Opt Delete) to fill the background with the light gray color.

Thankful

Step Three: Add Stroke

Now, in the Layers panel, click on the type layer to activate it.

In PSE, we access the Layer Styles by using the Menu Bar. So in the Menu bar, choose Layer > Layer Style > Style Settings.

First, click on the box next to the word Stroke to open the Stroke Layer Style Options.

In the dialog box, set the Size to 20 px, the Position to Outside, and the Opacity to 100%.



Step Four: Add Drop Shadow

Then, click on the box next to the words Drop Shadow to open the Drop Shadow options.

In the dialog box, set the Size to 24, the Distance to 17, and the Opacity to 50%.

Now you have a realistic looking sticker. How easy was that?!



Feel free to make as many stickers as you wish. Keep in mind that if you change the size of the type, you'll often need to reduce the size of the layer style settings, too. Both the stroke width and the shadow numbers.

Because layer styles are simple and not something we'll often use, I'm forgoing any big projects for this lesson. Instead, I've come up with a small quiz for you to take. The quiz will help reinforce what we've learned about layer styles so I hope you ace it!