CG2-JW-02-ps-Snowflakes-Pattern-transcript

Christmas Greetings 2 — Classic Snowflakes Card
Stamped Snowflakes Pattern (Adobe Photoshop)
by Jen White

Add a classic pattern to a dark background using my five-piece snowflake brush set and a little known blending trick. This is part two of a three part video series. In this video I'll show you exactly how to apply the snowflake pattern to the classic snowflakes greeting card.

Begin in Adobe Photoshop by opening the document that you ended with in part one of this video series. Then press the letter D to reset the Color Chips to the default of black over white, and then press the letter X to make white the foreground color. In the Layers panel, the Black Weave Background group should be active and closed. Then get the Move Tool and in the Tool Options uncheck Auto Select.

Next we'll install a set of brushes to use, so if you haven't already, download and unzip the class files for this lesson. You'll find them in the Download section of this class. You should feel free, however, to use any brushes you may have or find on the web. Begin by getting the Brush Tool. In the Tool Options, open the Brush Picker, then open the flyout menu and choose Import Brushes. Navigate to the place on your computer where you saved and unzipped the folder that contains the class files. Inside that folder you will find the snowflakes-JenWhite.abr file. That's the brush file. Click on it and then click Open. You will now see that brush folder at the bottom of the Brush Picker, and if you click on the flyout icon, you will see all the brushes listed.

We'll begin with Snowflake-2 brush, so click on that brush, and then in the Brush Picker, set the Size of this brush to 1200 pixels. Back in the Tool Options, set the Mode to Normal, the Opacity to 100%, and the Flow to 100%. The Smoothing can be 0. Then we'll set the Angle of the brush to -20˚. If you're using an earlier version of Adobe Photoshop, you would need to set the angle of the brush in the Brush Settings panel. Before stamping with the brush, we'll go into the Layers panel and click on the Create a New Layer icon. You'll want to create a

new layer for each snowflake that you add to the pattern. On the document, click once in the center to stamp the brush. Each snowflake will be stamped in the middle of the document so that none of the pixels of the brush are cutoff by the boundaries of the document itself. Next we will reposition the snowflake, so get the Move Tool, and on the document click and drag the snowflake to the bottom right corner of the card, somewhere about right there.

We'll go through these instructions one more time for adding a snowflake to the card, and then for the remaining snowflakes in the pattern, I will show you exactly where to put them and what settings I used.

Speaker 1: (03:05)
For the next snowflake, the first thing you'll want to do is to create a new layer. Get the Brush Tool, open the Brush Picker, this time I'll choose Snowflake-1. This snowflake I'll set to 1000 pixels and I'll keep the Angle set at 0°. On the document, stamp once right in the center, then get the Move Tool, and on the document, click and drag the snowflake into position. I'll position this flake right to the left of the first snowflake.

And now that you have a pretty good idea of what's going on when I go a little bit faster through the steps so we can get through all the snowflakes, feel free to pause the video at any time to catch up or consult the manual to scratch the steps off, one step at a time.

For Snowflake-3, first create a new layer, then get the Brush Tool. In the Tool Options, open the Brush Picker and choose Snowflake-3. Set the Size of Snowflake-3 to 500 pixels and the angle to 20°. On the document, click once to nestle that snowflake right in between the first and the second snowflakes. If you need to reposition, simply use the Move Tool.

Next, we'll use the same brush to stamp again, but with a different angle. Just like all the other brushes, you'll want to start with a new layer. In the Tool Options of the Brush Tool, we'll keep the same brush, but this time we're going to set the angle back to 0°. This brush is going to be off the edge of the documents, so I'll stamp in the center, then get the Move Tool and move it into place.

The last stamp of Snowflake-3 was created on a new layer once again and stamped right in the center with an angle of 30°. For this snowflake, I will click and drag it all the way over here to the left side, somewhere right in there.

For Snowflake-4, I created a new layer and set the size of the snowflake to 800 pixels. The angle is set to 35°. Clicking in the center, then get the Move Tool, and move the snowflake over to the right side of the card. We'll stamp with this brush two more times. The first time I'll create a new layer and use the same brush at the same size, but this time I'll use 5°. On the document, click and stamp to place the brush right here in this section of this little cove that the other brushes are making. And then one last time with this brush, I'll create a new layer. This time I'll use the same brush, but I'm going to change the size of the brush. I'll set it to 500 pixels and set the angle to a -5°. Click once on the document, get the Move Tool, and move the brush into place down here at the bottom left corner.

And now we'll use the last brush, Snowflake-5. I've already created a new layer in the Layers

panel and for this snowflake I'm going to set the size to 100 pixels and we'll set the angle to 0˚. First, I'll stamp one time on the document down here near the bottom, and then with the Move Tool, holding down the Alt key in Windows or the Option key on a Mac, click and drag out duplicates of that Snowflake-5 brush to different parts of the document. You just want to fill in a couple of places here and there. You don't want to overdo it. It's pretty much just to add decoration to the card. So you can see while holding down the Alt or Opt key, every time I clicked and dragged on the document, it created a new layer with the same brush in the Layers panel.

All right, now all of the brushes are added to the card, so here we are in step eight of the process and here we'll be grouping the snowflakes. The top snowflake should be active in the Layers panel. Scroll down, hold down the Shift key and click on the bottom snowflake layer. Now all snowflake layers should be active. Click on the Create a New Group icon and then rename this group Snowflake Pattern.

The next step is to mask away the top of the card where I want my ribbon and bow and title to be. To do that, get the Rectangular Marquee Tool, and in the Tool Options click on the New Selection icon, set the Feather to 0 pixels and the Style to Normal. And then on the document click and drag a selection outline around the bottom two thirds. Start by clicking outside the document up here where the guide is and it should snap into place. Then click and drag down to the bottom right corner again outside of the document, so now the whole entire two thirds of the bottom of the document should be selected. In the Layers panel, click on the Add Layer Mask icon.

And now to blend the snowflakes into the card. In the Layers panel, the Snowflake Pattern group should be closed and active. Set the Blend Mode of this group to Exclusion. Here's the reason this Blend Mode works so well on this card. If you have a layer that contains all white pixels, which is what our snowflakes are, and then you change the Blend Mode of that layer to Exclusion, all the colors underneath that layer will be inverted. So black pixels will appear white and white pixels will appear black. All that to say, when blending with black and white, the Exclusion Blend Mode is a great way to get texture to show through.

The final step of this video is to save your document. We'll be finishing up the Classic Snowflakes Greetings Card in the next lesson. This has been Jen White with Christmas Greetings 2.