

# Mastery1-08-el-Handmade-Paper-Polaroid-Frame-transcript



## Digital Scrapbooking Mastery, No. 1

### Lesson 8: Hand-made Paper Polaroid Frame for PSE

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Do you have old Polaroid prints lurking in your photo boxes? Nowadays, digital photo frames are quite trendy and come in many shapes and sizes. We will create this set with the Rectangle tool, the Pattern Picker, and a couple super sweet shortcuts. I'm beginning in expert mode of Photoshop Elements by opening the document that we ended with in lesson 7. In the Layers Panel, the RicRac group is the active group. The first step to create the frame is to get the Rectangle tool. In the Tool options, the color chip can be black. The settings should be set to unconstrained, and the New Shape Layer icon should be active. Click and drag out a shape that's approximately 4" tall by 3" wide. To reposition while dragging, press and hold the Spacebar. When you let go, the shape should fill it with the color that you chose. I'm going to rename this Shape Layer, Frame. Holding down the Alt key in Windows, or the Opt key on Mac, click and drag inside that shape to create a part of the shape that's going to be subtracted out. Before you let go of your mouse, go ahead and let go of that Alt or Opt key, and then you can press the Spacebar and reposition that shape inside the original shape. And kind of eyeball it to what you want your Polaroid frame to look like. When you let go of the mouse, the shapes will subtract from one another, and now if you're shaped contains a style, you may want to go back into the Tool Options, open the Style Settings, open the fly out menu and choose Remove Style.

Next, we'll attach a pattern to this frame by going into the Layers panel, clicking on the

Adjustment Layer icon and choosing pattern. In the pattern fill dialogue box, open the pattern picker, then open the dropdown menu, and choose grayscale paper. Choose homemade paper from the list. If you don't see the names of the patterns, open the fly out menu and choose large list, close the pattern picker. I'll keep the scale at 100% and then click OK. Now in the Menu Bar, choose > Layer > Create Clipping mask. Next we'll add a style to the frame, but first I'm going to zoom in a little bit so I could more see what we're doing. In the Layers panel, activate the Frame layer. Then in the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Layer Style > Style settings. In the style settings dialogue box, the lighting angle should be approximately 120 degrees. Then Click on drop shadow and add a very basic drop shadow. We can always change this later. I'll set the size to 8, distance to 11, and the Opacity to around 50%, and then we're going to add a very small bevel, and the reason I'm adding a bevel to this frame is because it's made out of homemade paper. And homemade paper tends to be a lot thicker than regular paper, but just as before, we don't want to overdo it with the bevel. So for the size of this bevel, I'm going to move it down to 3 and make the direction be up and then click OK. When you're pairing a style with a shape layer, sometimes it's difficult to see, so if that outline around the shape layer is bothering you, just click on a different layer so that you can get a better idea of what it looks like. I think that looks good to me, and then I'll go ahead and activate the frame layer again.

Next we'll want to add a photo mask to this frame. Again, we'll do that with the Rectangle tool, but instead of adding or subtracting to the original shape of the frame, we're going to put this shape on a layer of its own. So holding down the Ctrl key, or the Cmd key on Mac, click on the Create a New Layer icon. That should create a layer below the frame layer. I'm going to rename this layer photo mask. Then on the document, click and drag out a shape just inside the edge of the inside of your frame. Notice how I can see just a sliver of white inside the boundaries of that shape, and again, I see that a style was added to my photo mask. I don't really want a style on this photo mask, so I'm going to click and drag it to the trash. Sometimes Photoshop Elements can be just a little buggy that way.

Now for this next part, I want you to be able to see clearly inside that frame. So, to change the color of the photo mask, all you have to do is double click on the thumbnail, the photo mask that opens the Color Picker. Now you can choose a different color. For the photo mask, I'll choose a light gray and then click OK. Okay, here's approximately what your photo mask and frame are going to look like. And what I mean by that is the photo and the frame. They appear like they're separate, but in the olden days the photo in the frame we're not separate. They were all one piece. So if you want to gain that look, all you have to do is to go into the Layers panel and drag the Photo Mask layer to the very top above the Pattern layer. That simple movement now makes the photo look like it is part of the frame with no shadow on the inside. Now for my scrapbook page, I think I'm going to leave the photo mask under the frame though. So now let's group these together. The Photo Mask layer is the active layer, and then I'll hold down the Shift key and click on the pattern layer so that now all three layers are active. Then click on the Group Layers icon, then I'll rename this group.

Next, I'll zoom out by pressing Ctrl 0, Cmd 0 on a Mac, and now they're all my frame layers are all in one group. I can transform them altogether. I'll do that by pressing Ctrl T, Cmd T on a Mac, To get the Transform Options, click and drag inside the bounding box and move the frame over here. The reason I'm putting it over here is because it's now within the flow of the page. Remember the flow is starting at the top and moving toward the bottom. Also, I'm moving it over here to be with the anchor. The anchor is there to draw your eye to the subject of the page. So this is where the subject needs to be. I'll make my frame a little bit smaller

and then I'm going to rotate it. Now when rotating something that's in a stack like this where there's a piece of paper behind it, you want the frame to be at a little different rotation than the paper. They shouldn't be the same. It kind of breaks things up and adds interest for your eye. So I'm going to rotate it a little bit different than what the paper is rotated. So something like that. Then I'll click the check mark to commit.

Holding down the Alt key in windows, or the Opt key on Mac, click and drag the frame layer so that you create a duplicate directly under it. Or another way of doing that is just to press Ctrl J, Cmd J on a Mac, to create a copy of the frame layer, and then I'll remove the word copy because quite frankly it just bothers me. So now I have one on top and one on bottom. I'm going to activate the bottom frame group and then using the Move tool and in the Tool Options auto select needs to be unchecked. I'll click and drag that new frame up a little bit. Now again, here comes that design rule. We don't want the angle of the second frame to be the same as the first, so I'll get the Transform Options again and then rotate it so it's a little bit different. It should not only be different from the first frame, it also needs to be different from the paper and while you have the Move tool, you can also use the keyboard Arrow keys to nudge things into place. I'll click the check mark to commit.

And then I'm going to take this opportunity to move that anchor out a little bit so I can see the pattern some more. There, that's much better.

When you're ready to add a photo to your frame, which I suggest this is a great time to do that, what you'll need to do is to activate that top frame group and twirl it open. And then click on the Photo Mask player to activate it. Then open a photo and click and drag it onto your scrapbook page. You'll need to resize this photo for sure. So after I get the Transform Options, I'll have to press Ctrl 0 in order to see the bounding box. Then I can resize, and rotate the photo so that it goes inside the frame. Now if you notice the boundaries of the photo should line up with the same angle as the frame. Then click the check mark to commit, and in the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Create Clipping mask. One more thing because that second frame is underneath of the first and only a little part of it is peeking out. Here's a little secret, just use the same photo. With that photo layer is active. I'm going to hold down the Alt key in Windows, or the Opt key on Mac, and click and drag a copy of it down to right above the second photo mask. And then again in the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Create Clipping mask. Now so that they don't look like exactly the same photo with the Move tool and auto select unchecked. You can move that second photo around so that it looks a little different than the first. You can even rotate it a little bit. There we go. You can't even tell it's the same photo. Click the check mark to commit. So now when I close my groups, everything looks nice and tidy again. So that's how to create a Polaroid frame in Photoshop Elements. This has been Jen White with Digital Scrapbooking Mastery.