

Mastery1-12-el-Custom-Text-Box-transcript



Digital Scrapbooking Mastery, No. 1 Lesson 12: Custom Text Box for PSE Transcript © 2019 Jen White

In the wide world of digital scrapbooking, type and journaling is not only a necessary addition of data, it can also be a huge part of the design of the scrapbook page. The tips and tricks and instruction I provide you here in lesson 12 will equip you to produce even the most complicated of text boxes.

Here in Expert Mode of Photoshop Elements, I'm beginning with a scrapbook page that we ended up with at the end of lesson 11 and in the Layers panel, the Basic Chrome Staple group is the active group. I'm wanting to create a text box where the type starts up here at the top and then flows through the box including this little area right here by the frames and then trickles down below the frames and continues going on. In order to create a flowing text box though, there has to be some space between the frames and the edge of the velum. If you don't have any space here between the corner of the frames and the right edge of the velum, here's how to create some.

In the Layers panel, click on the Pattern Paper Anchor group. Then hold down the Ctrl key in Windows, or the Cmd key on a Mac, and click on any additional groups that might need to be moved in order to make room. And that includes the set of arrows since we specifically made the arrows look like they're going over the edge of the paper. While holding down the Ctrl or Cmd key, I'll also click on the grungy arrow stamp group and both of these paper frame groups. For now I'm gonna leave the ric rac group and the paper ribbon group where they

are. I can always move them later. So now with the Move tool, I can use my left keyboard Arrow key and move those items over a little bit. In fact I may want to give them a little bit more tilt. So I'll press Ctrl T, Cmd T on a Mac, to get the Transform options, then hover my cursor over a corner handle of the bounding box and click and drag in a circular motion. Something like that, I think that looks good. I'll click the checkmark to commit. Now go back into the Layers panel and click on that top group to make it the active group.

Now we're ready to create the custom text box. And we'll do that with the Shape tools. We'll begin with the Rectangle tool. It doesn't really matter the color that you have, but if you'd like to have black press the letter D to reset the Color Chips. The Style should be None. Then open the Settings and choose Unconstrained, uncheck From Center and Snap. Then on the scrapbook page, click and drag a rectangle inside the boundaries of the velum. If you need to reposition while dragging, press and hold the Space bar. And when you let go, the shape is going to fill with black. Notice that the top of my rectangle is inside the stroke outline, the left side of the rectangle is placed a little bit to the right of the paper ribbon. The bottom part of the rectangle completely encompasses the velum and the right side of the rectangle is placed slightly to the left of the edge of the velum. Now in order to continue, we're going to have to be able to see the elements below this rectangle. So in the Layers panel, lower the Opacity of this rectangle down to around 50%.

Next, get the Polygon tool. In the Tool Options set the Sides to 4. Again the color doesn't matter. The Style should be None and Smooth Corners should be unchecked. And then as a general rule when I'm working with shapes, I'll always work with them using shortcuts instead of the options in the Tool Options. So I want to keep the New Shape layer icon active. Then we'll close the Tool Options. For this part, I'll zoom into the scrapbook page by pressing Ctrl +, Cmd + on a Mac, and then to reposition, press and hold the Spacebar and click and drag on the page. To subtract from the shape, press and hold the Alt Key in Windows, or the Opt key on a Mac, and when doing that you should see a minus sign beside the cursor. But as soon as you click and start to drag, you can let go of the Alt or Opt key and then continue to drag. To reposition while dragging press and hold the Spacebar. I'm going to position a square shape around this tag like so. And when I let go of the mouse button, the shape will subtract.

Now I'd like to add this corner back into the shape, so to add to the shape, press and hold the Shift key and you'll see a plus icon appear next to the cursor. Click and drag. Then you can let go of the Shift key and it'll continue to add. Press and hold the Space bar to reposition. And I'll position that square right here in the corner and rotate it a little bit so that it kind of follows the contour of that ticket. And then, when I let go, that will fill some of the shape back in.

Now move down the scrapbook page and start to work on this area. I need to subtract this area, so I'll press and hold the Alt or Opt key. After I click and drag I can let go of that key so it doesn't have to be pressed down. And of course just as before, press the Spacebar to reposition while dragging. And I'm going to try to remove most of this frame. You might have to do a little wiggling around to get it how you like it. That looks good. The big thing to watch out here is this little section where the corner of the frame or the paper is getting close to the edge of the velum. In order for the text box to work correctly, there has to be a little bit of space in here where that shape fills in. You can't interrupt the flow of the shape. All right I'll do that again, subtracting from the shape. And then I'll move to the bottom here and do the same. The only thing that you should be concerned about is the gray area here. The actual shape what it looks like on the outside with all these little boxes, don't worry about those at

all. So I now have my whole entire text box mapped out by shapes. I'll press Ctrl 0, Cmd 0 on a Mac, to zoom out and see what that looks like.

Now at this point you may be getting a little concerned that you're going to have to fill this entire text box with words. Not to worry, a little later in this video I'll give some tips and tricks on how to get this space filled up. When the shape player is complete, get the Horizontal Type tool. And in the Tool Options open the Font Picker and choose a journaling font. My favorite journaling font is DJB Annalise 2011. I'll set the Size of this font to 9 pt and then click on the Leading dropdown menu and choose Auto. If you have the Tracking feature click on that dropdown and choose 0. You'll also want to choose a color for your font. I'll just keep mine at black for now. And then you'll want to click on the Left Align icon. The reason we're choosing left a line is because of the paper ribbon set at the left side of the velum. If the paper ribbon were on the right side of the velum we would Right Align. Typically there is one thing on every scrapbook page that is going to indicate which side your type should be aligned on. In this case the subject of the page is being anchored to that spot on the ribbon. So we'll use the ribbon as an anchor for the type as well. Now on the scrapbook page hover your cursor inside that shape until you see the Type in a Shape icon. Then click and just type out a short word. I'm going to type Hello. And then, click the checkmark to commit. Now in the Layers panel, click on the Visibility icon of the shape layer to hide it.

This is the point in the process where you might want to spend some time journaling about the scrapbook page that you've created. Occasionally, I do my journaling on my scrapbook page, but oftentimes I'll do it off the page into just a text document, something that I can go back to easily and edit and rewrite at different settings during the day. I personally like to put a lot of thought into my journaling. If you don't really have a lot to say about your scrapbook page, another thing that you could do is to paste in some poetry or you could just type in "I love you" over and over and over again a bazillion times until it fills in the text box. The point of this lesson is that the journaling on the scrapbook page is not just being used for data, it's being used as a design element. Journaling on a scrapbook page will always make the page look more personal.

When you're ready to paste in either your journaling or your poetry, double click on the thumbnail of the type player to activate the word that you typed in. It should now be highlighted. Then copy the journaling from wherever you placed it and then paste the journaling here. Then click the checkmark to commit.

Next ,we'll talk about some ways to make the journaling fill in the area. First of all, you can add returns at the top of the paragraph. To do that, highlight the text again by double clicking on the thumbnail of the type layer. And then press the Left Arrow key. Now your cursor is going to be at the very beginning of your type. Then, press Enter or Return to move the type down. Notice how it's filtering down through the edge of that text box and coming out down below. If your type is either highlighted or you've already committed the changes, you can go into the Tool Options and get the Type tool, and to spread the type out from top to bottom, you can raise the Leading. A higher Leading will put more space between the lines. A lower Leading will put less space between the lines. Another thing you can do is to increase the Tracking. The Tracking is the space between letters. Lowering the space between the letters is going to require the letters to take up less room. Whereas raising the space between the letters is going to require more room. And then, when you're satisfied with the adjustments that you've made, hold down the Shift key and click on the Shape layer, If you want to save it. And then click and drag those layers to the Group Layers icon. This will put them inside of a group which you can rename then. Don't forget to save your scrapbook page at this point. So

that's how to create a custom text box in Photoshop Elements. This is Jen White with Digital Scrapbooking Mastery.