

MA2-L09-el-Shadowing-transcript



Digital Scrapbooking Mastery, No. 2

Custom Shadowing Lesson 9: Bent Paper Flower for Photoshop Elements

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After you've completed your Mastery 2 scrapbook page or other project using the Bent Paper Flower, you'll likely want to add a custom shadow to that flower in order to help make it look more realistic. Here's how to do that.

Begin in Expert Mode of Photoshop Elements by opening a document that contains the Bent Paper Flower group from Lesson 9 of Mastery 2. Click on the arrow of that group to twirl it open, scroll down to the Flower Template layer and double click on the style of that layer or the Effects icon, to open the Style Settings dialog box. Uncheck Drop Shadow and click OK. Before moving on, I'm going to zoom way into that flower so that we can see better what we're doing, and then I think I'm going to drag the flower over here over top of the paper so that the black background is not distracting it. And then in the Layers panel, scroll down and click on the Flower Template layer to activate it. Then get the Actions Panel, click on the arrow to open the Custom Shadow Action group, and then click on the Custom Shadow Black 50% action to activate it, then press the Play icon. Elements will automatically activate the Smudge Tool and tell you how to use it. I'll click Stop and then return to the Layers panel.

In the Tool Options of the Smudge Tool, you should have a Soft Round brush in the Brush Picker. The Mode should be Normal, and the Strength should be around 50%. Sample All Layers and Finger Painting should both be unchecked. Then hover your cursor over the flower to see the size of the brush. You want the size of the brush to be about half the size of the flower, and to change the size, press the Right or the Left Bracket key. I'll set the size of my brush right about there. It looks like that's 200 px.

Now take a look at the flower. Because the bend is on the lower right half of the flower, you would have to assume that this portion of the flower is going to be closer to the paper than the portion that is not bent. So the first thing I'll do is to click and push the drop shadow from the two outer petals back up underneath the petals. Then this middle petal here would also be touching the paper, so I'm going to click and push the shadow from the sides back under, and then here at the tip, I'll also push the shadow back under there. And now it looks like the middle of the flower is being lifted up off the page like it would be if the flower was bent in real life, and the places that should be touching the paper, have nearly no shadow at all. Now I'll go into the History panel and show you what this looked like before and what it looks like now.

Now because of the placement of this little tiny flower on my scrapbook page, a custom shadow on this particular page is probably not necessary. But if you're adding the flower to a different document that has like a white background, then it's really going to make a difference to add a custom shadow. When you're finished, you'll want to close the Bent Paper Flower group and then save your document. So that's how to add a custom shadow to the Bent Paper Flower from Lesson 9 of Mastery 2. This has been Jen White with Digital Scrapbooking Mastery.