

MA2-L12-1-el-Sticker-Title-transcript



Digital Scrapbooking Mastery, No. 2

Lesson 12, Part 1: Classic Sticker Title for Photoshop Elements

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Lesson 12 of Mastery 2 is a three part lesson. Here in Part 1 we'll combine a classical font and a simple stroke style to add additional depth and interest to our nearly finished scrapbook page. I'm beginning here in Expert mode, of Photoshop Elements and I have open the document that we ended with in Lesson 11. Press the letter D to reset the Color Chips to the default of black over white, and then in the Layers panel, click on the Round Speckled Fastener group to activate it.

It's always an added bonus when you can work an element cleverly into the title of your scrapbook page. For my page, I'm planning to create a title that says I love 48, where this corrugated whimsical heart will represent the word love. And, here's how I'm going to do that. Get the Horizontal Type Tool, and in the Tool Options, open the Font Picker and choose a title font. I'll be using Athelas. When choosing a font, here are a couple of suggestions. In this tutorial, we'll be putting each letter or number of the title on its own layer, so each letter will be individually stroked and shadowed. For that reason, I recommend using a print font as opposed to a script font. Also serif fonts, those are the ones with the extensions poking out on the ends, will be much more decorative than sans serif fonts, which are ultra basic.

So back in the Tool Options, we'll set the Size of our font to 140, and then click on the Color

Chip to choose a color. In the dropdown, click on the color wheel to open the Color Picker. And then on your document, click to sample a darker color of the background paper. Back in the Color Picker, choose a slightly darker shade of that same color, and then click OK. Now on the document, click to place your cursor and type a letter. I'll type a lowercase l. Then, click the checkmark to commit. Next, we'll add a stroke to the letter. In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Layer Style > Style Settings. In the Style Settings dialog box, click to check Stroke and twirl it open. Set the Size of the stroke to 13, the Position to Outside, and the Opacity to 100%. Then, click on the Color Chip inside Style Settings dialog box. And then on the document, click to sample a color from the letter that you just typed, and then back in the Color Picker, choose a slightly lighter shade on that same color. Then, click OK. And then finally, click OK to close the Style Settings dialog box.

Now I'm ready to add a drop shadow, but because the stroke will hide the drop shadow on this layer, I'll add the drop shadow on a different layer. Then, the layer will be created non-destructively and we can change the color of the letter or the stroke at any time. Here's how I'm going to do that. In the Layers panel, the Type layer should be the active layer. Press Ctrl J, Cmd J on a Mac, to duplicate the type layer. And then in the Layers panel, click on the original type layer to activate it. Then we'll want to simplify this layer, so go into the Menu Bar and choose Layer > Simplify Layer. And then in the Layers panel, double click directly on the name of this simplified layer and rename it, Custom Shadow. Press the letter D to reset the Color Chips. And then, press Shift Alt Backspace in Windows, or Shift Opt Delete on a Mac, to fill the pixels of this layer with black. In the Menu Bar, choose Filter > Blur > Gaussian Blur. And then in the dialog box, set the Radius to 5 px and click OK. In the Layers panel, set the Opacity of the Custom Shadow layer down to 50%. And then with the Move Tool, use your keyboard Arrow keys and click down two times and to the right two times.

So, what we have now is a non-destructive stroked letter, and when I say non-destructive, what I mean is you can change the color of the stroke of this letter at any time. To do that, double click on the Effects icon of the type layer in the Layers panel and that will open the Style Settings dialog box. Under Stroke, click on the Color Chip to open the Color Picker. And here, you can simply change the color of the stroke and then click OK. I'll click Cancel because I want to keep the current color. You could also change the size of the stroke, but if you do that you'll need to redo the custom shadow. I'll click Cancel and then show you that you can also change the color of the letter. To do that, the type layer will need to be active in the Layers panel. Then, get the Horizontal Type Tool and in the Tool Options click on the Color Chip, then click on the Color Wheel to open the Color Picker, choose a different color, and then click OK. I'll go ahead and click Cancel because I want to keep the current color.

Now I'm ready to move my letter into position. In the Layers panel, I'll need to activate both of these layers in order to move them as a set. So, hold down the Shift key and click on the layer that's not active. When both layers are active, get the Move Tool, and in the Tool Options, Auto Select should be unchecked. Then, you can click and drag on the document to position the letter.

Another thing to note is, that because this is a Type layer, you can change the size of the letter without diminishing the quality of the element. You would change the size with the Transform options. I'll press Ctrl T, Cmd T on a Mac, to get the Transform options. Then, click and drag

on a corner handle of the bounding box to make the letter smaller or larger and then click the checkmark to commit.

To add additional letters to your title, here's how to do that. In the Layers panel, activate the type layer all by itself. Then, press Ctrl J, Cmd J on a Mac, to duplicate the type layer. With the Move Tool, I'll click and drag that new type layer over here by itself. And then in the Layers panel, double click on the thumbnail of that type layer to highlight it. The next letter or number that I'll be using is a 4. And then, click the checkmark to commit.

At this point, if you're planning to use the same font, you can continue on creating another custom shadow for this letter. But if you'd like to change the font as I'm going to. For my number 4, again in the Layers panel, double click on the thumbnail of that type layer to activate it and then change the font in the Font Picker. I'm going to use the font Love and Live. And while I'm here, I can also greatly increase the Size of this font and then click the checkmark to commit. Using the same instructions as before, create a custom shadow for this letter, and then follow the instructions to create additional letters.

After you've created your entire sticker title, you'll want to create a group. In the Layers panel, click on the top type layer to activate it, and then scroll down, hold down the Shift key, and click on the bottom Custom Shadow layer. Now all layers associated with your sticker title should be active. Click on the Create a New Group icon and rename the group, Classic Sticker Title. So that's how to add additional depth and interest by adding a classic sticker title to your Mastery 2 scrapbook page. This has been Jen White with Digital Scrapbooking Mastery.