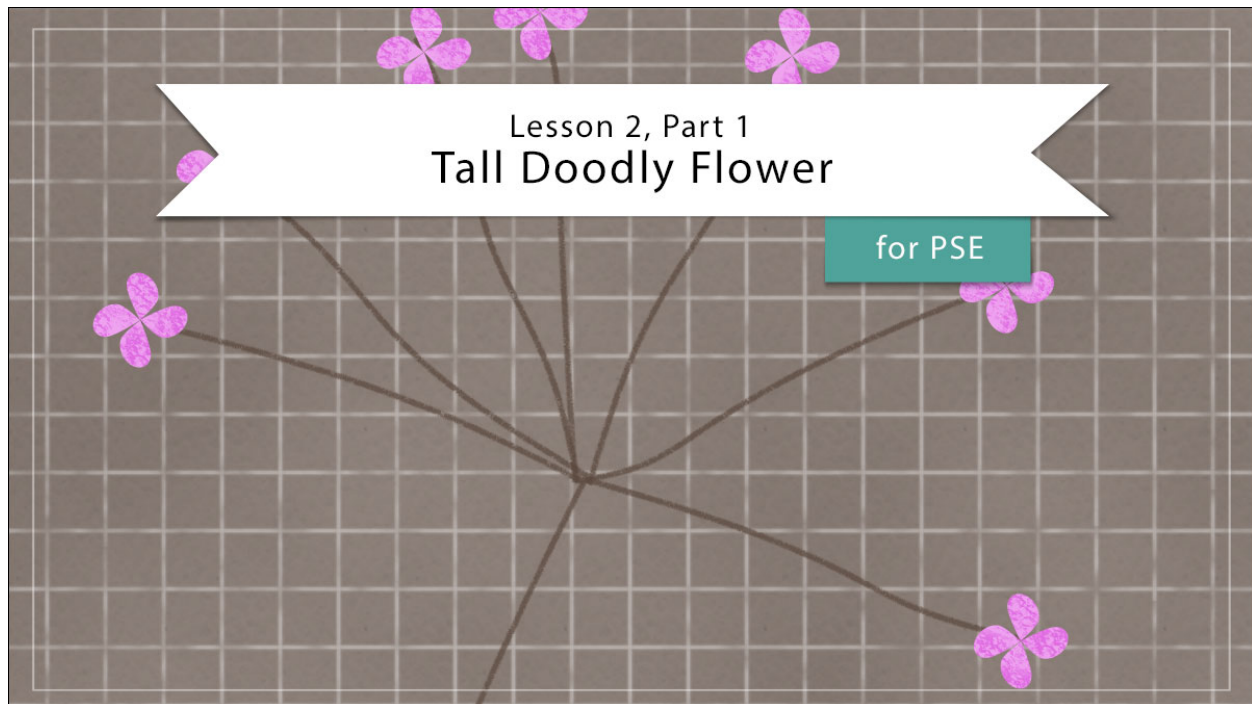


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Digital Scrapbooking Mastery, No. 2

Lesson 2, Part 1: Tall Doodly Flower for Photoshop Elements

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There's a special place in my heart for all things doodly and I love that I can use Photoshop Elements to create realistic doodling lines that come to life. In this video, you will become the master doodler drawing a sweet little bloom into existence. And the best part is, there's no green thumb required!

Begin in Expert Mode of Photoshop Elements by opening the document that you ended with in lesson one. In the Layers panel, click on the top group to activate it, and then click on the Visibility icon of that group to hide it. For this lesson we'll also need the rulers turned on. To do that, in the Menu Bar, choose View and place a check mark next to Rulers. And now that the rulers are on, click and drag at guide from the horizontal ruler down to the 3" mark. And then, press the letter D to reset the Color Chips to the default of black over white. Now we're ready to create the main flower stem.

First, I'll zoom out a little bit by pressing Ctrl - or Cmd - on a Mac. And then in the Layers panel, click on the Create a New Layer icon. Double click directly on the name of this new layer and rename it Main Stem. Get the Brush Tool and in the Tool Options open the Brush Picker. Then, open the drop down menu and choose Dry Media Brushes. Scroll down until you see the Charcoal Flat brush. Set the Size of this brush to 9 px. Set the Opacity to 100%

and the Mode should be Normal. Now on the document, hold down the Shift key and click and drag a line from the guide down to the bottom of the page. At this point you may be thinking that this is a pretty big flower stem, probably too big for your taste, but in Mastery 1 we talked about the importance of element size. If you're creating an element to save for later and it's made up of pixels like a brush stroke would be, then you should always make it a little bit too big. You can always make it smaller later, but making it larger will cause the pixels to distort in quality. Vector objects, like things made of shapes and type, do not have that problem, only pixel objects.

The next step is to bend the main flower stem. In the Menu Bar, choose Filter > Distort > Shear. In the dialog box, click and drag a curve point from the upper middle grid point slightly to the left and then click OK. That does it for the main flower stem. Now let's create some smaller flower stems.

First we'll alter the View settings just a tad. In the Menu Bar, choose View and place a check mark next to Guides in the Snap To menu. Then in the Layers panel, click on the Create a New Layer icon. Rename this layer Small Stem. And then on the document, click and drag a guide from the horizontal ruler down to the 1" mark. Using the Brush Tool with the same settings as before, hold down the Shift key and click and drag a line from the top guide to the bottom guide.

Now we'll want to bend this small stem, but before we do that we'll want to select it. Get the Rectangular Marquee Tool and in the Tool Options, make sure that the New Selection icon is active. The Feather should be 0 px and the Aspect should be normal. On the document, click and drag a selection that's the same height as the small stem but is quite a bit wider. Next, you can get the Shear settings by going back into the Menu Bar or you can press Alt Ctrl F, that's Opt Cmd F on a Mac, to open the Shear dialog box with the same settings as before. Then in the dialog box, hold down the Ctrl key, or the Cmd key on Mac, and click on the Default button. At this point I wanted to mention that the reason that we selected the small stem before running the Shear Filter is that the Shear Filter is set up to distort the entire document unless you have isolated a part of the document like we have here. So to distort the small stem, click and drag anywhere on the line to create points and bend the line. You can create as many points as you'd like. Then click OK. Press Ctrl D, Cmd D on a Mac, to deselect. And that finishes up the first small stem.

Using the last two steps, create six more smaller stems. So there should be seven stems in all. Remember to create each smaller stem on its own layer. And as you bend each stem, try to do each one slightly different and only a tiny bit bent. And then once you're ready to move on, in the Layers panel, click on the top Small Stem layer, and then hold down the Shift key, and click on the bottom Small Stem layer. Do not activate the Main Stem. Get the Move Tool, and in the Tool Options, click on the Align Bottom icon, and the Align Middle icon.

And then, let's fan these smaller stems out. In the Layers panel, click on the top Small Stem layer to activate it, and then press Ctrl T, Cmd T on a Mac, to get the Transform options. In the Tool Options, set the Reference Point to the bottom middle point, and then set the Angle to 90°. Then click the checkmark to commit. Click on the next layer down to activate it. Get the Transform options. In the Tool Options, set the Reference Point to the bottom middle, and

for this angle we'll use 45°. Then click the checkmark to commit again. The instructions for rotating each of the small stem layers is exactly the same except for the angle of each one. For the third one down, we'll set the angle to 5°. The fourth stemmed down, I'll set the angle to - 25°. The next one down, I'll set the angle to - 40°. The next one, I will set the angle to -70°. And then the very last one, which is the seventh one, this angle we'll set to a -90°.

Now let's get rid of those guides to get them out of our way. In the Menu Bar, choose View > Clear Guides. And then I'm going to zoom in to the fanned out small flower stems. If you see any that you would like to adjust, like I think I would like to adjust this one right here, click on its layer in the Layers panel to activate it. And then with the Move Tool, you can use your keyboard arrow keys to nudge it into place.

Now let's attach the smaller stems to the main stem. In the Layers panel, click on the top Small Stem layer to activate it. Then hold down the Shift key, and click on the bottom Small Stem layer. Again, do not activate the Main Stem layer. With the Move Tool and Auto Select Layer unchecked, click and drag on the document to put the small stems over top of the main stem. And just as before, if you need to refine the position, use the keyboard Arrow keys.

Now let's create a group. The small stems are already active, so to add the main stem to the active layers, hold down the Shift key and click on that layer as well. Then click on the Create a New Group icon and rename this group Flower Stem.

So that's how you create flower stems for the tall doodly flower in Lesson 2. In Part Two of this lesson, we'll add sweet little blooms to the ends of our doodly stems. This is Jen White with Digital Scrapbooking Mastery.