Perfectly Personal Word Art
Paper Strip Template 05 – Photoshop Elements
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[TOU](#)

Step One: Prepare the Workspace

- Create a new document that is 3 inches wide by 0.6 inches high at 300ppi with a white background.
- Press the letter D to reset the Color Chips.

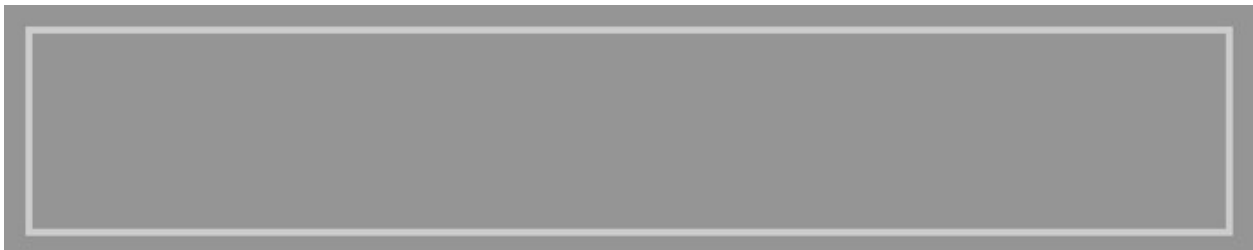### Step Two: Create the Main Rectangle

- Now, click on the Foreground Color Chip to open the Color Picker and choose a medium gray color. I'm using Hex #:959595. Click OK.
- Press Alt Backspace (Mac: Opt Delete) to fill the Background layer with the Foreground color.

Step Three: Create the Bracket Accents

- Click on the Foreground Color Chip to open the Color Picker and choose a light gray color. I'm using Hex #: cccccc. Click OK.
- In the Layers panel, click on the Create a New Layer icon.
- Get the Rectangular Marquee tool.

- In the Tool Options, click on the New Selection icon, and set the Feather to 0px. Set the Aspect to Fixed Size and enter a Width of 870 px and a Height of 150 px.
- On the document, click and drag to create the selection. Don't worry about perfectly centering it. We'll take care of that in a minute. Just make sure the entire selection is visible on the document.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Edit > Stroke (Outline) Selection.
- In the dialog box, set the Width to 5 px, set the Location to Inside, set the Blending Mode to Normal and the Opacity to 100%. Uncheck Preserve Transparency. Click OK.
- Press Ctrl D (Mac: Cmd D to deselect.
- Press Ctrl A (Mac: Cmd A) to Select All.
- Get the Move tool.
- In the Tool Options, click on the Align Vertical Centers icon and the Align Horizontal Centers icon.
- Press Ctrl D (Mac: Cmd D) to deselect.

- Get the Rectangular Marquee Tool.
- In the Tool Options, leave all the settings the same except set the Width to 2.5 inches and the Height to 0.6 inches.
- On the document, click and drag the selection until it's centered on the document.

- Press Backspace (Mac: Delete) to remove the stroke outline from the selected portion.
- Press Ctrl D (Mac: Cmd D) to deselect.
- In the Layers panel, double click on the name of this layer and change it to Bracket Accents. Press Enter to commit the name change.

Step Four: Add the Type

- Press the letter X to switch the Foreground Color to white.
- Get the Horizontal Type tool.
- In the Tool Options, set the Font to Myriad Pro, the Size to 24pts, and the Alignment to Center.
- On the document, click once and type TEXT HERE in all caps. Click the checkmark to commit.
- Get the Move tool.
- Press Ctrl A (Mac: Cmd A) to Select All.
- In the Tool Options, click on the Align Vertical Centers icon and the Align Horizontal Centers icon.
- Press Ctrl D (Mac: Cmd D) to deselect.

Step Five: Save As

Now you can save this template as Paper-Strip-Template-05.psd in the same folder as the previous templates.

Tips:

In the last two lessons, I've showed you that you can create a simple cluster using your custom paper strips. But the options don't stop here. This time around, I've created a cluster using my custom paper strip and an alpha from a kit.

Here are some tips on how to create your own alpha plus custom paper strip cluster.

1. Use an Anchor.

Similar to the other clusters, providing an anchor behind your cluster is a great way to add visual interest without overpowering your focal point. In this case, I used a star scatter but you can also use paint, scribbles, or a mask of some kind.

2. Keep it Simple.

When you use an alpha, there are already a lot of pieces to this cluster. You don't need a lot of stuff here to make a great visual impact. So, keep the extra elements to a minimum.

3. Use Custom Shadows.

When you have simple clusters like this, take the time to use a custom shadow on your paper strip. It adds that special touch that really makes your designs look top notch.

And to help inspire you, here's how I used my alpha paper strip cluster on a digital scrapbook page. It was the perfect way to draw the eye to the photo without distracting from the design.

Credits:
Paper Strip Template: Jenifer Juris

Page & Photo: Jenifer Juris
Paper Strip Template: Jenifer Juris
Kit: Liberty For All by Mommyish
Fonts: Boston Traffic, Veteran Typewriter