TYPE TOOL
SELECTION TOOL
Custom
Text Box

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TUTORIAL

Custom Text Box
by Gina Harper

Snuggle your journaling around elements on your page with a custom text box.

For this tutorial you will need:
• Photoshop Elements
• A print-style journaling font
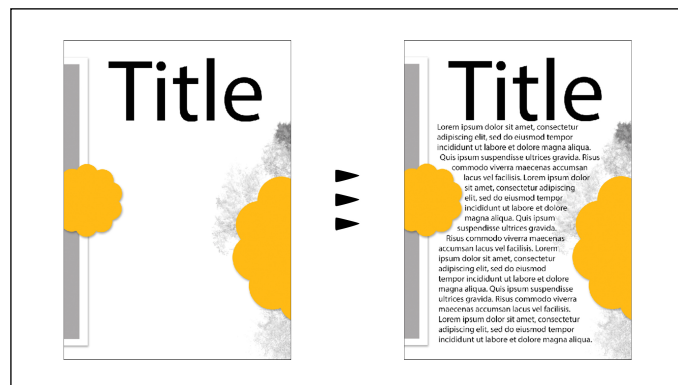• The template-dst-Tools-Type-Custom-Text-Box-DS.psd file from the download folder

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Step One: Prepare the Workspace
• Open the template-dst-Tools-Type-Custom-Text-Box-DS.psd file (File > Open).
• Press the letter D to reset the Color Chips to the default of black over white.

Step Two: Create a Selection
NOTE: For this technique to work 100% of the time, it's best to begin by activating a layer with no transparency.

• In the Layers panel, click on the Background layer to activate it.
• Get the Polygonal Lasso tool.
• In the Tool Options, click on the New Selection icon, set the Feather to 0 px, and check Anti-
   aliasing.
• On the document, click to place a series of segments that
   loosely outlines the shape you want your type to fill.

NOTE: When placing horizontal segments, hold down the Shift key to ensure the segment will be level. This will prevent words from becoming isolated in a line of type.

NOTE: Snuggle each segment closely enough to the element to create a connection and to avoid trapped space. Avoid placing it too close or your journaling may appear crowded.

• To undo a segment, press the Backspace key (Mac: Delete
   key).
• To close the selection, click at the beginning of the first
   segment.
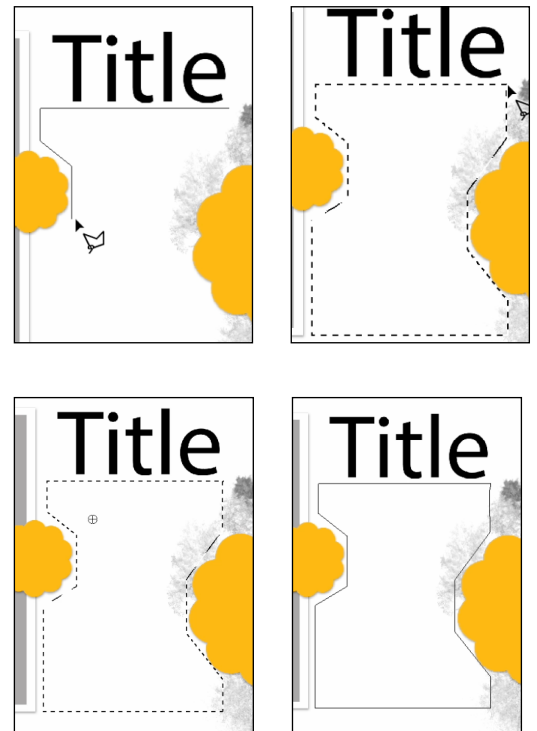
Step Three: Convert the Selection to a Path
• Get the Text on Selection tool. It's nested with the other type
   tools.
• On the document, hover the cursor inside the selection and
   click once.
• Click the checkmark. This causes the selection to turn into a
   path that you can type inside.
• Get the Horizontal Type Tool.

NOTE: When you click on the Horizontal Type tool, this will cause the Path to disappear.

• In the Menu Bar, choose Edit > Undo Delete Path. This will restore the Path.

Step Four: Add a Type Layer
• The Horizontal Type tool should still be active.
• In the Tool Options, open the Font Picker and choose a journaling style font. I'm using Myriad Pro
   Regular. Set the Size to 12 and press Enter or Return. Set the Leading to Auto and the Tracking to
   0. Click on the Left Align icon.

Choosing a Font:
- Use an easy-to-read print style or handwritten font.
- Use a font size of 12-14 pts for journaling.
- Avoid hard-to-read and script-style fonts.
- Avoid using all capital letters.
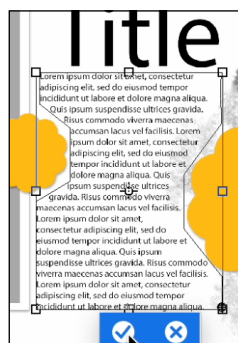
✓ GOOD FONTS:
Easy to read

✗ BAD FONTS:
Hard to read

Print-Style

Script

Handwritten

ALL-CAPS

- On the document, hover the cursor inside the custom text box until you see the I-beam with the dotted circle around it.
- Click once to place the cursor inside the custom text box and type your journaling.
- Click the checkmark to commit the type.
- In the Layers panel, click and drag the Replace Paint layer below the Type layer.

Step Five: Finish and Save the Document
• Finish the page as desired.
• Save the document (File > Save As) as a layered PSD file with a unique name.

Here is my finished page! It was so nice to have my journaling fit between the photo and the elements on my page.

Page & Photo: He Has Potential by Gina Harper
Tutorial: Custom Text Box by Gina Harper
Kit: Choices by Vicki Robinson Designs
Fonts: Caroni, Celestina