



Perfectly Personal Word Art Customization How To – Photoshop Elements

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[TOU](#)

Below are the steps for customizing a paper strip template.

Step One: Open a Template

- Open Paper-Strip-Template-01.psd.
- In the Menu Bar, choose File > Duplicate. Click OK.
- Now, close the original template file.



Step Two: Clip a Paper to the Background Layer

- In the Layers panel, click on the Background layer to make sure it's the active layer.
- Open a solid paper.
- Now that you're in the solid paper document, get the Move tool.
- On the document, while holding down the Shift key, click and drag the solid paper onto your Paper Strip 01 template document.
- At this point, depending on your program's settings, you may or may not need to resize your paper smaller. If your paper fits within the bounds of the document, you can skip the next step. If, however, your paper is much larger than your document, you will be able to see every single speck of texture on the solid paper. We don't want that so make sure to complete this next set of steps.
- Press Ctrl T (Mac: Cmd T) to get the Transform options.

- Now, at this point, you'll most likely need to press Ctrl 0 (Mac: Cmd 0) to resize the document so you can see the transform handles.
- On the document, while holding down the Alt key (Mac: Opt key), click and drag from a corner handle, to resize the paper smaller. Reduce the size until it's about 40% of the original size. (You can see the % number in the Tool Options.) Click the checkmark to commit.
- Press Ctrl + (Mac: Cmd +) as many times as needed so you clearly see your paper strip template again.



Step Three: Clip a Paper to the Stripes Group Layer

- In the Layers panel, click on the Stripes Group layer so it's the active layer.
- Open a second solid paper.

NOTE: Make sure the second paper is in good contrast to the first paper for easier visibility.

- With the Move tool still active, on the document, while holding down the Shift key, click and drag the paper onto your Paper Strip 01 template document.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Create Clipping Mask.
- Now at this point, if you needed to resize your paper smaller earlier in this tutorial, then you'll need to follow those same steps here.

NOTE: If you are using an older version of Photoshop Elements, you might not have the group functionality. If you don't, you can either keep the three stripes on separate layers and clip a solid paper to each stripe layer OR you can merge the 3 stripe layers together and clip a solid paper to the one layer.



Step Four: Customize the Type

- Press Ctrl J (Mac: Cmd J) to duplicate the Paper clipped to the Stripes group.
- In the Layers panel, drag the duplicated paper above the type layer.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Create Clipping Mask.



- Now, all that's left is to change the phrase and the font we're using.
- In the Layers panel, click on the type layer to activate it.
- Get the Horizontal Type tool.
- In the Tool Options, change the font to any font that's easy to read. I'm using Bebas Neue.
- On the document, click on the type to activate it.
- Select the letters already there and replace them with your custom phrase. I'm using DOGS GOTTA SLEEP.
- Click the checkmark to commit.
- At this point, feel free to adjust the size of your font. For some, you might need to increase the size. For others, you may need to decrease it. In this case, I'm increasing my font size to 26 pts.
- You may also need to re-align your type to the paper strip. To do that, get the Rectangular Marquee tool.
- On the document, click and drag a selection that goes from the right edge of the right-most stripe to the right edge of the document and also from the very top to the very bottom.



- 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.



Step Five: Use in a Project

Now, there are different ways you can get this paper strip ready for use in a project. I'm going to show you a couple of them and you can decide which method you prefer.

The first method is to save this file as a flat JPEG.

- In the Menu Bar, choose File > Save As. Then proceed to save this file with a unique name.
- From there, you can open the saved file and use it in a project.

But, some of you may not want to do it that way. For instance, I'm creating this custom word art strip for a specific project. I don't foresee using this paper strip with this exact same wording and with this exact same kit in the future. So instead of saving a copy, here's what I'll do.

- Press Ctrl A (Mac: Cmd A) to Select All.
- Press Shift Ctrl C (Mac: Shift Cmd C) to create a merged copy.
- Go to your current project document and press Ctrl V (Mac: Cmd V) to Paste.

Now a copy of this merged layer is in your project document. So at this point, you no longer need the layered version of this paper strip. Close this file without saving.

Credits:

Papers used from Stories 365 by Kristin Cronin-Barrow