



Digital Scrapper Premier 2023, Volume 5

Lesson 3, Cluster Recipe 3

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Lesson 3, Cluster Recipe 3

by Jen White

Dust off an alpha and use it in combination with three more elements to create a classic alpha title cluster.

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NOTE: Please complete the lessons in the order they are provided.

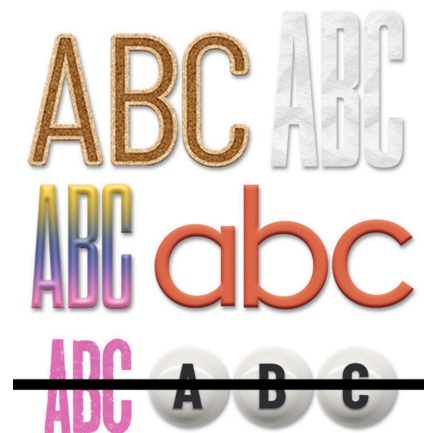
For this lesson you will need:

- alpha-0 from the Class-Files folder
- alpha-2 from the Class-Files folder
- alpha-3 from the Class-Files folder
- bow2 from the Class-Files folder
- leaves3 from the Class-Files folder
- the tape from the Class-Files folder



Cluster Recipe 3 - Alpha Title Cluster

- **Thin alpha characters**
 - Shadowed
 - Avoid thick letters, alpha chips, or alpha stamps
- **Thin bow**
 - Shadowed
 - Goes on top of the alpha characters
 - Connects with one part of one character
 - Examples: string bow, ribbon bow, cord bow
 - Avoid thick bows that will hide the alpha
- **Thin horizontal element**
 - Shadowed or unshadowed
 - Goes behind the alpha characters
 - Examples: tape, ribbon, paper strip, arrow, border, stamp, overlay
- **Wide vertical element**
 - Shadowed or unshadowed
 - Examples: leaves, berries, curly ribbon, wide paper strip, overlay



Credits: Alphas from Just Jaimee, bows from Anita Designs, horizontal elements from Vicki Robinson, vertical elements from CarolW Designs.

Additional Guidelines for Recipe 3

- All elements should connect at the same point on an alpha character.
- Always add a shadow to elements, but never shadow overlays.
- Use the same kit for all parts of the cluster.

Quick Steps for Lesson 3, Cluster Recipe 3

Step-by-step instructions are below.

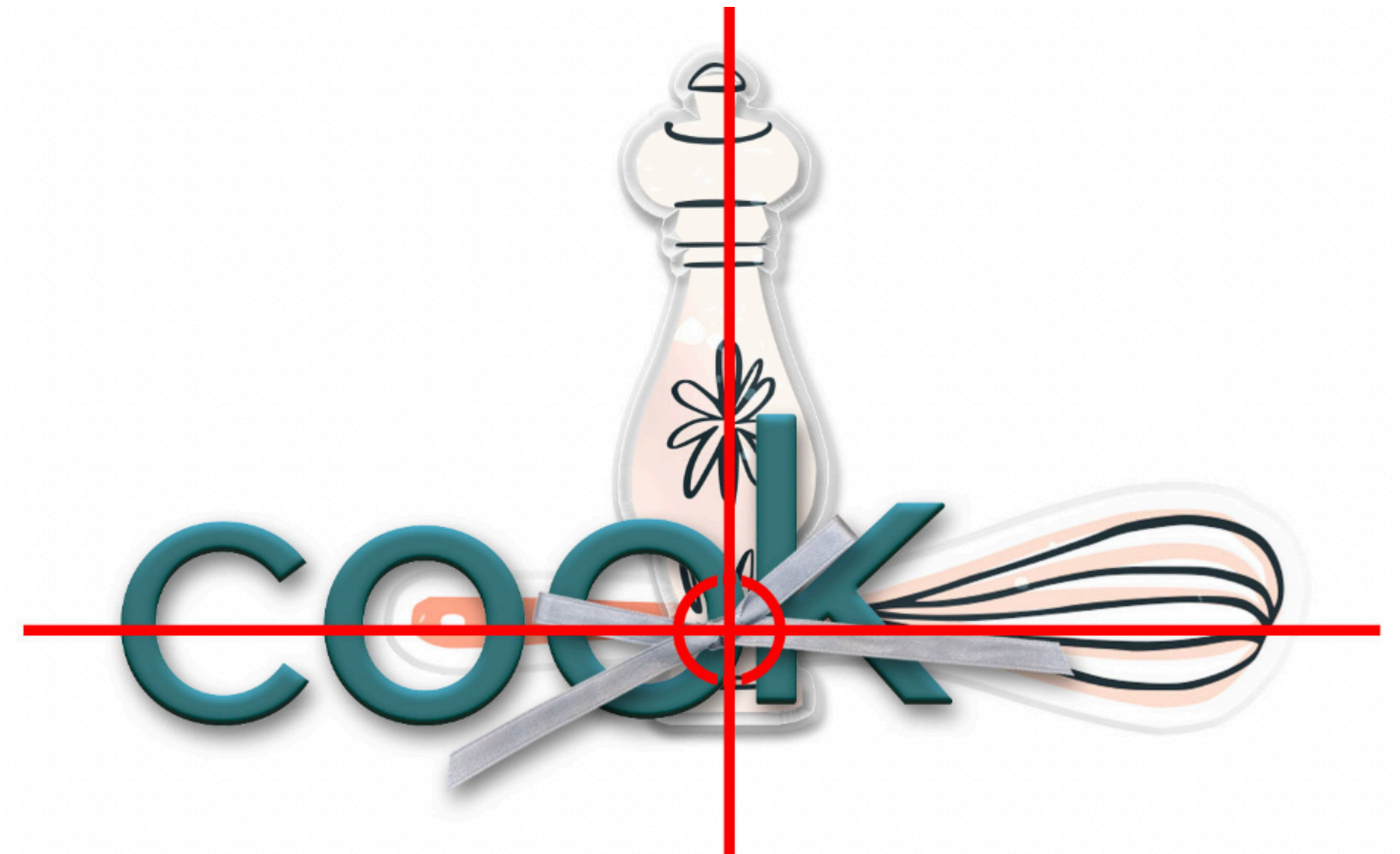
- Add characters from an alpha to form a word or number.
- Place a thin bow above the alpha characters.
- Place one horizontal and one vertical element behind the alpha characters.



Credits: Left cluster from Just Jaimee, middle cluster from Angie Briggs, right cluster from CarolW Designs.

Secret Ingredient of Cluster Recipe 3

Keep all elements intersecting in imaginary crosshairs.



Step-By-Step for Lesson 3, Cluster Recipe 3

Prepare Your Workspace

- Create a new 12x12 inch document (File > New > Blank File) at 300 ppi with a white background. (PS: Choose File > New.)
- Get the Move tool.
- In the Tool Options, uncheck both Auto Select Layer (PS: Auto-Select) and Show Bounding Box (PS: Show Transform Controls).

Add the Alpha-2 Character

- Open alpha-2 (File > Open) from the Class-Files folder.
- Click and drag the 2 onto the center of the new document.

Add a Drop Shadow to the Alpha

- **Photoshop Elements Only:** In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Layer Style > Style Settings. In the dialog box, set the Lighting Angle to 120. Click on Drop Shadow to activate it and reveal the settings. Set the Size to 25, the Distance to 15, and the Opacity to 40. Click OK.
- **Adobe Photoshop Only:** In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Layer Style > Drop Shadow. In the dialog box, set the Blend Mode to Multiply, the Opacity to 40, the Angle to 120, the Distance to 15, the Spread to 0, and the Size to 25. Click OK.

Add the Alpha-0 Character

- Open alpha-0 from the Class-Files folder.
- Click and drag the 0 onto the document and position it to the right of the 2. See the screenshot.
- In the Layers panel, hold down the Alt key (Mac: Opt key) click and drag a duplicate layer style from the 2 layer to the 0 layer.

Add an Additional Alpha-2 Layer

- In the Layers panel, click on the 2 layer to activate it.
- On the document, hold down Shift Alt (Mac: Shift Opt) and click and drag a duplicate 2 to the right of the 0. See the screenshot.

NOTE: Holding down the Shift key keeps the two numbers aligned.

Add the Alpha-3 Character

- Open alpha-3 from the Class-Files folder.
- Click and drag the 3 onto the document and position it to the right of the second 2. See the screenshot.
- In the Layers panel, hold down the Alt key (Mac: Opt key) click and drag a duplicate layer style from the 2 layer to the 3 layer.



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Add Bow 2

- Open bow2 from the Class-Files folder.
- Click and drag the bow onto the document and position it over bar of the first 2. See the screenshot.
- In the Layers panel, hold down the Alt key (Mac: Opt key) and click and drag a duplicate layer style from the 3 layer to the bow layer.



How to Resize and Rotate Elements

- Press Ctrl T (Mac: Cmd T) to get the Transform options.
- To resize, click and drag from a corner handle of the bounding box.
- To rotate, hover your cursor near a corner handle of the bounding box until you see a curved, double-headed arrow. Then, click and drag to rotate.
- To reposition, click and drag inside the bounding box.
- Click the checkmark to commit the change.

Add Leaves 3

- In the Layers panel, click on the Background layer to activate it.
- Open leaves3 from the Class-Files folder.
- Click and drag the leaves onto the document and position the element so that it's intersecting with the center of the bow. See the screenshot.
- In the Layers panel, hold down the Alt key (Mac: Opt key) click and drag a duplicate layer style from the 2 layer to the leaves layer.



Add the Tape

- In the Layers panel, click on the Background layer to activate it.
- Open the tape from the Class-Files folder.
- Click and drag the tape onto the document, and position it so that it's intersecting with the center of the bow. See the screenshot.
- In the Layers panel, hold down the Alt key (Mac: Opt key) click and drag a duplicate layer style from the leaves layer to the tape layer.
- Double click on the layer style of the tape layer to open the settings.
- In the dialog box, set the Size to 6 and the Distance to 2. Click OK.



Group the Cluster

- In the Layers panel, click on the top layer to activate it.
- Holding down the Shift key, click on the tape layer. All layers except the Background layer should be active.
- Click on the Create a New Group icon.
- Double click directly on the name of the new group, rename it ALPHA CLUSTER, and press Enter/Return to commit the change.



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