Perfectly Personal Word Art
Circle Template 01 – Photoshop Elements Transcript
© 2019 Jenifer Juris

As we talked about in section one, paper strips are the most common paper pieces you see in the average digital scrapbooking kit. But even though paper strips are the most common, they are not the only kind of word art that are available. In this next part of the class, we're going to look at a handful of other shapes and make some more custom word art templates. First up are circles. Circle paper pieces can be a great way to mix things up. In scrapbooking, we often use rectangular backgrounds with rectangular photos and other rectangular shapes. Having some circle word art templates we can customize can be a great way to add something round to our digital projects. So let's go ahead and get started on our first circle template.

So I've already created a new document that is 2.25 inches wide by 2.25 inches high at 300 pixels per inch with a transparent background. The reason we're using a transparent background is because we won't be filling the entire document like we did with our paper strip templates. This will require a transparent background so that our circle word art doesn't end up having a white background behind it. So first, press the letter D to reset the color chips to the default of black over white. Then get the elliptical marquee tool. In the tool options, click on the new selection icon, set the feather to zero and set the aspect to fixed size. Enter a width and height of two inches and make sure anti-aliasing is checked. On the document, click and drag to create the selection. Don't worry about making the selection centered for now. We will center the circle after we create it.

Now click on the foreground color chip to open the color picker and choose a medium gray color. I'm going to use hex number nine five nine five nine five and then click okay. Now press alt backspace and windows or option delete on a Mac to fill the selection with the foreground color. Then press control D in windows or command D on a Mac to de-select. And then press control A in windows or command A on a Mac to select all. Then get the move tool. And in the tool options, click on the align vertical centers icon and the align horizontal centers icon. Then press control D in windows or command D on a Mac to de-select. In the layers panel, double click on the name of this layer and change it to main circle and then press enter to commit the name change.

So now in the layers panel, click on the create a new layer icon. Get the elliptical marquee tool and in the tool options leave all the settings the same except to change the size. We're going to make the width and the height both 1.8 inches. And then on the document, click and drag to create the selection

and just like before we don't have to worry about perfectly centering it at the moment. Then click on the foreground color chip to open the color picker and choose a light gray color. I'm using hex number, CCCCCC, and then click okay. Now in the menu bar, choose edit, stroke outline selection. In the dialog box, set the width to eight pixels, set the location to inside, set the blending mode to normal, the opacity to 100%, and uncheck preserve transparency, and then click okay. Now press control D in windows or command D on a Mac to de-select. Press control A in windows or command A on a Mac to select all. Then get the move tool and in the tool options, click on the align vertical centers icon and the align horizontal centers icon. Then press control D in windows or command D on a Mac to de-select. So now in the layers panel, double click on the name of this layer and change it to border accent and then press enter to commit the name change.

Now the next thing we need to do is add the type, so get the horizontal type tool. Then press the letter X to switch the foreground color to white. In the tool options, set the font to myriad pro or something similar. Set the size to 24 points and set the alignment to center. On the document, click once and type the words text here in all caps, and then make sure you place an enter between the two words and then once that's done, click the checkmark to commit. Now press control A in windows or command A on a Mac to select all. Then get the move tool and in the tool options, click on the align vertical centers icon and the align horizontal centers icon. Then press control D in windows or command D on a Mac to de-select. Now your first circle template is ready to be saved. Let's take a quick look at the folder structure we started in section one.

In the last section of the class we talked about creating a folder for all of the templates we're going to create in this class. Go to that folder now. Inside that folder, there should already be a folder called paper strips. Create a second folder called circles. This is the folder where you should save all of your circle templates. Save this file as circle template zero one dot PSD just like before.

After each template I'll show you how to use your customized circle template in a project. We'll also go over a few tips. So first, here's how I customized the template. I kept things very simple because I wanted the words to be the highlight. And here's how I used this customized template in a cluster. I made a top edge cluster using some long paper strips, a staple and some paint. I also added a date because I planned to use this cluster on a scrapbook page. And here's the page that I made using the customized circle template and the top edge cluster. I really like how my top cluster reflects the main photo cluster. My Sadie Bear circle word art helps draw the eye from the photo across the page in a diagonal direction.

Now here's a few tips on how to use our circle template in a cluster like this. Keep in mind, many of the tips we used for paper strips will also be seen with the other paper piece templates that we create. But I've always learned things best when it's been repeated, so I hope these tips are helpful for you to remember ways to make great use of your custom word art. Number one, use a fastener. In this case, I used a staple element to Fasten the customized circle template to the rest of my cluster. Number two, use a custom shadow. In this case, a custom shadow underneath the circle word art is just the thing this cluster needed to add that special touch of realism. And number three, use an anchor. As I often recommend, using an anchor, (in this case I used paint) is a great way to ground the cluster and give it visual interest at the same time. Up next, we'll create our second circle template together. I'll see you in the next video. This is Jenifer Juris with perfectly personal word art.