Perfectly Personal Word Art
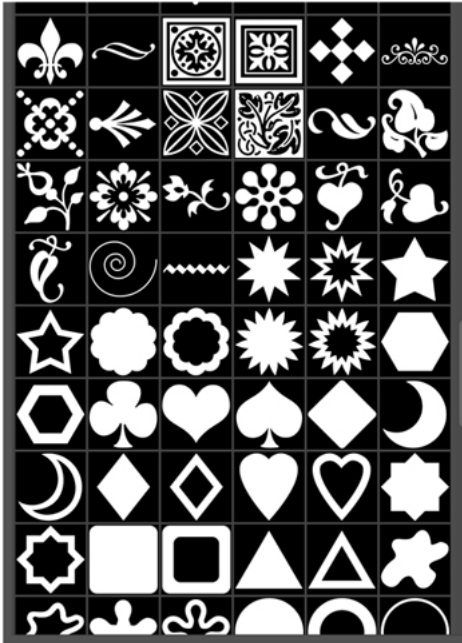**Paper Strip Homework Part 3**
© 2019 Jenifer Juris

[TOU](#)

As we've talked about before, paper strips are the most common word art element you see in kits. Paper strips are so versatile and can be used for so many great things that I think it's important to have more than 12 designs ready for customization. But so far, we've only created templates that I have designed. This time, it's time for you to try your hand at creating some of your own paper strip templates.

Before you get started, let's talk about ways you can find inspiration for your paper strip template designs. There are many ways you can be inspired. Because of the internet, we literally have unlimited sources for visual design inspiration. But I want to approach this in a simple way. Sometimes having too much inspiration is overwhelming and hard to sort through. Let's take a look at some practical places to look for quick design ideas.

1. The Custom Shape Tool.

Looking through the Custom Shape Picker can be a great way to find the design accent your paper strip template needs. Whether you prefer geometric shapes or something a little more ornate, you can find some great ideas there.

When I was perusing through the Custom Shape Picker, I came across this shape.

This inspired me to create another Paper Strip Template using this Arrow shape. There are so many ways I could use this chevron styled arrow but I wanted to keep it simple. Remember, the accents shouldn't overwhelm the type. The type is the reason we're making these - so we can make word art with custom phrases.

2. Digital Scrapbooking Kits

Do you have a favorite designer? Or maybe a favorite style of kit? There are so many wonderful digital scrapbooking stores and designers out there and their kits and their stores can be a great place for paper strip template design inspiration. Take some time to look through your stash. Or, navigate in a web browser to your favorite designer's store. See if a paper design, a paper strip design, or other element inspires you to create a unique paper strip template.

Here are just a few of the stores I enjoy to visit for digital scrapbooking supplies.

The Lilypad
The Digital Press
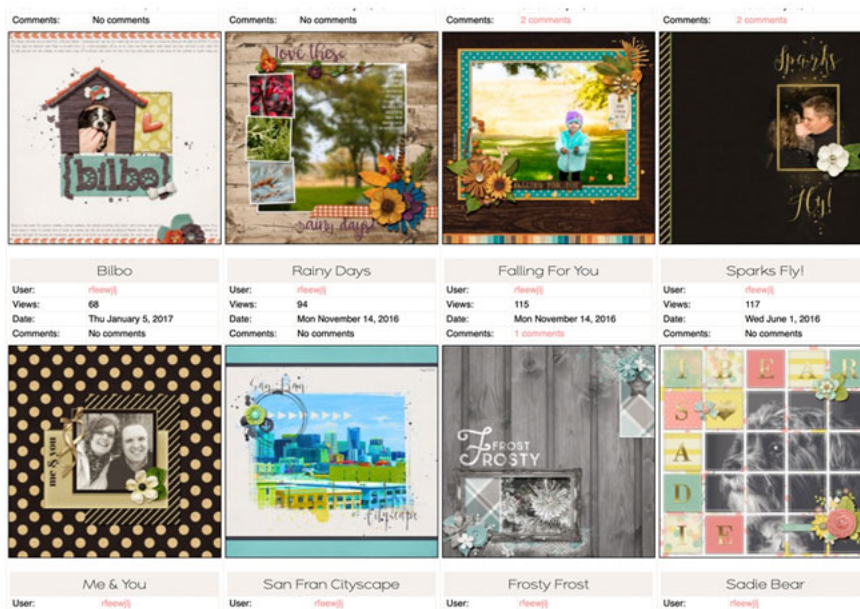Sweet Shoppe Designs
Scrap Girls
OScraps

There are many more stores than this but these are just a few to help you get started in case you are new to this hobby. Here's an image of a paper I found at one of my favorites stores by one of my favorite designers:

I really LOVED this polka dot paper and I wanted that to be a part of my next paper strip template. So I created a paper strip template that was inspired by this paper. There is so much satisfaction in creating something by myself that looks as good as something I could buy! And to top it off, I'll be able to reuse and customize it any time I want!

3. Scrapbooking Galleries

The last place I'll list here is scrapbooking galleries. This is by no means the last place we can look as there are so many places to find inspiration online. But in an effort to keep things simple, these three places are enough for what we are trying to do with this assignment.

Do you know where to find scrapbook galleries? Remember the list of stores we just talked about? Almost every digital scrapbooking store also has a gallery. Facebook is another great place where you can find private groups that are singularly for sharing scrapbook layouts. These places are ripe with inspiration! But let me tell you about one gallery in particular which is Scrapbook.com. This gallery has everything from paper to digital projects. I really enjoy being able to see all the different kinds of memory keeping there.

In that gallery website, I found a paper element that had a grid pattern inside of it. That inspired this paper strip template:

I made sure to make two different groups of layers for the two different colors in my small grid. This will make clipping papers to each set of colored squares easy peasy.

So now that you have a list of places you can look, here are the details of the Part 3 Homework Assignment.

1. Make More Paper Strip Templates.

I want you to try making at least a few more templates on your own. You can make as many as you like but try to make at least 3.

2. Use A Checklist.

I've included a generic checklist to help you with your template creation. Things like organizing your layers and cropping excess pixels are easy to forget. But with the handy checklist found in the downloads, you will have help along the way.

3. Keep it Simple.

Don't go crazy with the design accents on your templates. Remember, the focus is the type and the accents are there to help showcase the type. Keeping the designs on the simple side also helps you save time so you can create MORE paper strip templates!

4. Have Fun!

I know that sounds cheesy but I really want you to enjoy this part of the homework. Create Paper Strip Templates that make you excited about designing your own items! Take your time looking for inspiration and enjoy the creative process.

Once you finish the Homework for Paper Strips, it's time to move on to Section 2. See you there!

LINKS:
http://shop.thedigitalpress.co/Make-it-count-February-2019.html