Perfectly Personal Word Art
Hexagon Template 01 – Photoshop Transcript
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The last main category of the paper pieces, word art we're going to cover is hexagons. While paper strips are the most common, circles, triangles, and hexagons are right behind them. As with the triangles, we are going to complete two hexagon templates step-by-step together. And then we'll get to the homework. So let's not waste any time. Let's get to the fun part and start making our first hexagon template.

So here I am in Photoshop. I've already created a new file that is 2.25 inches by 2.25 inches at 300 pixels per inch with a transparent background. Press the letter D to reset the color chips to the default of black over white. The first thing we need to do is create the main hexagon. So click on the foreground color chip to open the color picker and choose a medium gray color. I'm using hex number nine five nine five nine five and then click okay. Now get the custom shape tool and in the tool options, set the tool mode to shape, the fill to solid color, and the stroke to none. Click to open the path operations and choose new layer. And then click to open the geometry options and choose fixed size. Enter a width of two inches and a height of 1.73 inches. Then click to open the custom shape picker and choose the hexagon shape. If you don't see the hexagon shape, click to open the fly out menu and choose large list. If you still don't see the hexagon shape, then click to open the fly out menu and choose the shapes list and then you'll need to click okay to amend the list shown. Also, make sure align edges is checked.

Then on the document, click and drag until the hexagon is fully within the bounds of the document and then let go. Then press control A in windows or command A on a Mac to select all. Get the move tool and in the tool options, click on the align horizontal centers icon and the align vertical 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 hexagon and then press enter to commit the name change.

Next we're going to make the line accents, so in the layers panel, click on the create a new layer icon. And 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. Then get the rectangular marquee tool. In the tool options, click on the new selection icon, set the feather to zero, and set the style to fixed size. Enter a width of two inches and a height of 0.05 inches. On the document, click and drag to create the selection, placing it under the top edge of the hexagon.

And then press alt backspace in 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. Now get the move tool and on the document move the line up or down until it's positioned under the top edge of the shape, with some space in between the top edge of the hexagon and the top edge of the line. You can also use the arrow keys to nudge if you need to, and about there. Now press control J in windows or command J on a Mac to duplicate the line. Then on the document while holding down the shift key, click and drag the second line down until it's the same space above the bottom edge of the hexagon shape. Now in the layers panel control click in windows or command click on the thumbnail of the main hexagon layer to get a selection outline.

In the menu bar, choose select, inverse. In the layers panel, activate one of the line layers and then press the backspace key in windows or the delete key on a Mac to remove the excess pixels. And then in the layers panel activate the other line layer and repeat that. Then press control D in windows or command D on a Mac to de-select. In the layers panel shift click on the other line layer so that both line layers are active. Then in the menu bar, choose layer, group layers. Double click on the name of this group and change it to line accents and then press enter to commit the name change. As a side note, once you do this, you cannot change the position of the line layers on the document. So make sure they are positioned where you want them before you remove the excess pixels.

Now we need to add the type, so press the letter X to switch the foreground color chip to white. And then get the horizontal type tool. In the tool options, set the font to something basic like myraid pro. Set the size to 24 points and set the alignment to center. On the document, click once and type the word text in all caps, press the enter key, type the word here in all caps, and then 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 horizontal centers icon and the align vertical centers icon. Then press control D in windows or command D on a Mac to de-select. Now we need to save the template, so in the menu bar, choose file save as. Now let's go back to the slides to review our folder structure.

Here's a quick review of the folder structure we've set up. You should save your hexagon template in a folder called hexagons. This folder should be located within the folder called custom word art. Now that we've completed the hexagon template, let's take a look at how I used this template in a project.

So here's how I chose to customize my hexagon template. I love how the black contrasts with the pretty pink. And here is how I used my custom hexagon to create this neat cluster. I used a journal card of matching colors to carry the black and pink theme from the left side of the photo to the right. I also placed a black string behind the paper pieces to carry the eye across the cluster and here is how I used this cluster on a scrapbook page. I contrasted the original cluster by placing some elements and journaling along the vertical. I kept the background fairly simple so as not to compete with the main subject, the photo. I hope this helps inspire you and gets you excited about your new custom word art stash. The amount of ways you can use these templates is limitless.

Next up, we're going to tackle a second hexagon template. I'll see you there. This is Jenifer Juris with perfectly personal word art.