Lesson 2: Basic Dots Pattern Manual © Syndee Rogers

This video was filmed in Photoshop Elements but the instructions are just the same in Adobe Photoshop unless where noted.

**If you have taken Jen White's Mastery 2 class and want your Layers to look like mine during this class enable Default Masks by doing the following:

- In the Layers panel, click on the fly-out menu and choose Panel Options.
- In the dialog box, check Use Default Masks on Fill Layers. Click OK.

Prepare the Workspace

- In the Menu Bar, choose View > Snap to > Guides.
- Get Move tool.
- In the Tool Options, check Auto Select Layer and Show Bounding Box. (**Photoshop:** Check Auto-Select Layer and Show Transform Controls)
- Press the letter D to reset the Color Chips to the default of black over white.

Create the Pattern Swatch

- Create a new document (File > New > Blank File) that is 200px x 200px at 300 ppi with a transparent background. Click OK. (**Photoshop:** File > New)
- In the Menu Bar, choose View > New Guide, and set Vertical to 50%.
- In the Menu Bar, choose View > New Guide and set Horizontal to 50%.
- Zoom in by pressing Ctrl + (Mac: Cmd +)
- Get the Ellipse tool
- In the Tool Options, click Create New Shape Layer, open the Settings and choose Fixed Size, then set both the width and height to .25". Check From Center. (**Photoshop:** In the Options Bar, choose

Pixels, and in the Path Options choose Fixed Size, set both the Width and Height to .25" and Check From Center)

- In the center of the document, right on top of the crosshairs of your guides, click and drag slightly to create a circle, it should snap right into place. But if not, get the Move tool and on the document click and align the shape with the guides.
- Press Ctrl J (Mac: Cmd J) to duplicate the layer.
- In the Menu bar, choose Filter > Other > Offset. The dialog box will ask if you want to rasterize or convert to a Smart Object. Choose Rasterize, then click OK. (**Photoshop**: You will not need to rasterize since we set it to Pixels)
- In the Offset dialog box, set both Horizontal and Vertical to 100 pixels. Set the Undefined Areas to Wrap Around. Click OK.

Save the Pattern Swatch

- In the Menu Bar, choose File > Save As and Navigate to a folder where you want to save it and give it a name, save it as a layered psd. Click save.

Define the Pattern

- In the Menu bar, choose Edit > Define Pattern. In the dialog box, name the pattern Dots1. Click OK.

Create the Dot Overlay

- In the Menu Bar choose File > New > Blank File. Set the width and height to 12 inches at 300 ppi with a white background. Click OK. (**Photoshop:** File > New)

One of the best features that Patterns offer, is the ability to adjust the Scale or size of the pattern. Since it's a seamless pattern, we can make the dots smaller or larger.

- In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > New Fill layer > Pattern. Click OK. If your pattern doesn't show up right away, open on the Pattern Picker and choose your newly created dot pattern. You can move the slider to the left to reduce the size of the pattern or right to enlarge it. Click Snap to Origin and select the Link with Layer option. Click OK.

Save Your Document

- Save the Dots overlay (File > Save as) as a layered psd. I like to put 'Master' in the file name so that I know to always make a copy when I use the file.

LICKETY SPLIT TIP:

Once you have some basic patterns created you can add a non-editable (meaning you won't be able to adjust the pattern) quickly by using the Paint Bucket tool!

- Create a new (File > New > Blank File) 12" x 12" inch blank document at 300 ppi with a white background. (You can easily change the background color later). (**Photoshop:** File > New)
- Get the Paint Bucket Tool.
- In the Tool Options, click on the Pattern Icon. The Dots Pattern should already be selected but if not, open the Pattern Picker and choose your Dots pattern.
- Click with the mouse, inside the blank document to fill with the dot pattern.

***Remember with this method you won't be able to adjust the size of the dots but it's a fast and fabulous way to use your patterns quickly!