

## Custom Text Box

by Gina Harper

Snuggle your journaling around elements on your page with a custom text box.

For this tutorial you will need:

- Photoshop
- A print-style journaling font
- The template-dst-Tools-Type-Custom-Text-Box-DS.psd file from the download folder

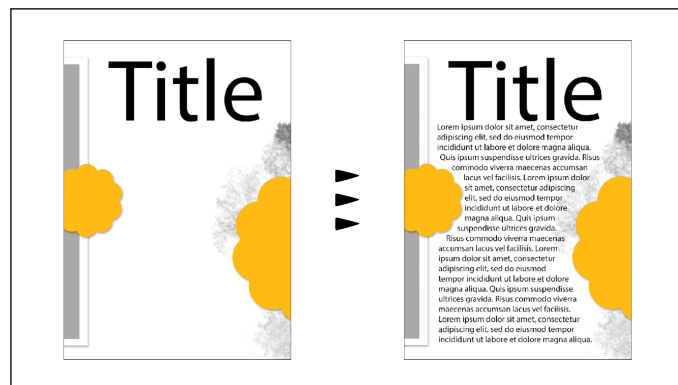
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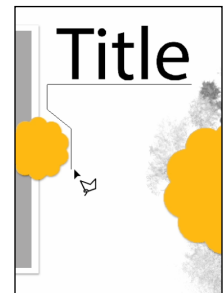


## Step One: Prepare the Workspace

- Open the template-dst-Tools-Type-Custom-Text-Box-DS.psd file (File > Open).
- Press the letter D to reset the Color Chips to the default of black over white.

## Step Two: Create a Selection

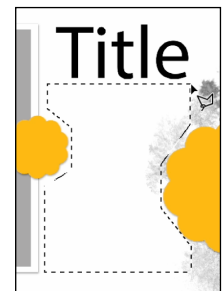
- In the Layers panel, click on the Replace Paint layer to activate it.
- Get the Polygonal Lasso tool.
- In the Tool Options, click on the New Selection icon, set the Feather to 0 px, and check Anti-aliasing.
- On the document, click to place a series of segments that loosely outlines the shape you want your type to fill.



NOTE: When placing horizontal segments, hold down the Shift key to ensure the segment will be level. This will prevent words from becoming isolated in a line of type.

NOTE: Snuggle each segment closely enough to the element to create a connection and to avoid trapped space. Avoid placing it too close or your journaling may appear crowded.

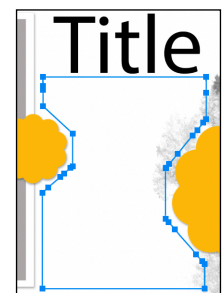
- To undo a segment, press the Backspace key (Mac: Delete key).
- To close the selection, click at the beginning of the first segment.



## Step Three: Convert the Selection to a Path

- In the Paths panel (Window > Paths), click on the Make Work Path from Selection icon. It's the circle with four anchor points on it.

NOTE: The selection should now be outlined with anchor points.



## Step Four: Add a Type Layer

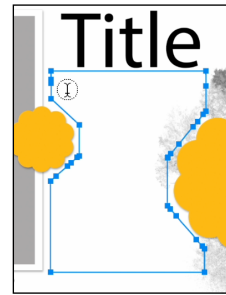
- Get the Horizontal Type tool.
- In the Tool Options, open the Font Picker and choose a journaling style font. I'm using Myriad Pro Regular. Set the Size to 12 and press Enter or Return. Click on the Left Align icon. In the Character panel (Window > Character), set the Leading to Auto and the Tracking to 0.

## Choosing a Font:

- Use an easy-to-read print style or handwritten font.
- Use a font size of 12-14 pts for journaling.
- Avoid hard-to-read and script-style fonts.
- Avoid using all capital letters.



- On the document, hover the cursor inside the custom text box until you see the I-beam with the dotted circle around it.
- Click once to place the cursor inside the custom text box and type your journaling.
- Click the checkmark to commit the type.



### Step Five: Finish and Save the Document

- Finish the page as desired.
- Save the document (File > Save As) as a layered PSD file with a unique name.

Here is my finished page! It was so nice to have my journaling fit between the photo and the elements on my page.



Page & Photo: He Has Potential by Gina Harper  
 Tutorial: Custom Text Box by Gina Harper  
 Kit: Choices by Vicki Robinson Designs  
 Fonts: Caroni, Celestina