

Lesson 1: Darling Dots Transcript © Syndee Rogers

As fun as it was in our last few lessons, it's time to take our patterns from basic to Fabulous! But fabulous doesn't have to mean complicated. we're going to build on the patterns we've already created to expand our paper making skills. First up, we're going to take our dots from basic to darling!

I'm filming this video in Photoshop Elements but the instructions are just the same in Adobe Photoshop unless where noted.

As you can see here I've already opened up my basic dot pattern swatch that we created in our Dots lesson, and I made a duplicate copy and then closed the original. I've also zoomed-in so that I can see better. To do that press Ctrl + or Cmd + on a Mac. Press the letter D to reset the Color Chips of the default of black and white.

Now I'm going to delete the offset layer, or in my Layers panel it's named Shape 1 copy. It's the layer that has a section of dots in each corner. So that were left with just the one dot in the middle of our swatch. Now let's duplicate layer by pressing Ctrl J or Cmd J on a Mac. And then in the Menu Bar, choose Filter > Other > Offset, and then click Rasterize. And this time you want to set just the Horizontal to 100 pixels and the Vertical to zero. The Undefined Areas should be set to Wrap Around, and click OK. Let's go ahead and delete the single dot layer in the Layers panel, we won't be needing this again. Now you can see that we only have two dots that are Horizontal to each other in the center of the document. Before you scratch your head, let's save this as a PSD. Go to File > Save As and name it Multi-Dot 1, then click Save. Now let's go ahead and define the pattern, so in the Menu Bar, choose Edit > Define Pattern. And in the dialog box, name the pattern Multi-Dot 1, and click OK. Now let's make a duplicate copy of the swatch, so go up to File > Duplicate (Photoshop: Image > Duplicate). Name it Multi-Dot 2 and then click OK. And then close the original.

Next we want to rotate our duplicate swatch. So go up into the Menu Bar, and choose Image > rotate 90° left. And in Photoshop, go to Image > Image Rotation > 90 degrees clockwise. And now let's go ahead and save this pattern swatch as a PSD. So go up to File > Save As, let's name it Multi-Dot 2, and then click Save. Now let's go ahead and define the pattern, so in the Menu Bar, go to Edit > Define Pattern, in the dialog box name the pattern Multi-Dot 2. And then click OK. And we can go ahead and close the swatch.

Now we're going to create our Multi-Dot Overlay, so we'll need a new 12 by 12 inch document at 300 pixels per inch with a white background. And then up in the Menu Bar, choose Layer > New Fill Layer > Pattern. Then click OK. And we want to open up the Pattern Picker and choose our Multi-Dots 1 Pattern, and then click OK.

Our dots are lookin a bit lonely, so let's make a copy of the Pattern Fill layer in our Layers panel by pressing Ctrl or Cmd J on a Mac. Now in the Layers panel, double-click on the Pattern thumbnail and in the Pattern dialog, click on the Pattern Picker and this time click on Multi Dot 2. Then click OK. So basically, we just deconstructed our original Dots pattern and created two layers so that we can have multi colored dots.

So now, let the fun begin! We're going to add a Color Fill layer above both layers, and I have a hack for that!

I'm going to open the Pattern overlay from our last lesson, the one where we added the Color Fill layer to one of our basic pattern overlays. We've already done the work, so let's get as much mileage out of it as we can! Now in the Layers panel, activate your Color Fill layer and click and drag over to your Multi Dot document. And Viola! This is something I don't just do for Color Fills, but other documents that I have applied a non-destructive layer style or adjustment layer. This can save you a lot of time. Next, let's clip the Color Fill layer to our pattern layer. To do that to go to Layer > Create Clipping Mask. Now let's duplicate the Color Fill layer in our Layers panel by pressing Ctrl J or Cmd J on a Mac. And then in the Layers panel, drag to duplicate above our second Dot layer and go ahead and clip it to the pattern by going back up to Layer in the Menu Bar, and choosing Create Clipping Mask. Now all we have to do to change the color is to double-click on the Color Fill thumbnail in the Layers panel, and choose another color! And then click OK. And just like that, multicolored dots!

Now we want to save this is a PSD so that we can use it again. So let's go up to File > Save As, let's name this Multi-Dot Overlay, and then click Save.

That's it for this lesson in the next lesson we're going to learn how to create plaid, see you there! This is been Syndee Rogers with Passion for Paper.