Photoshop Elements

📙 Digital Scrapper Premier 2023, Volume 6

Lesson 2, Date Seal

Digital Scrapper Premier 2023, Volume 6
Lesson 2, Date Seal (Photoshop Elements)
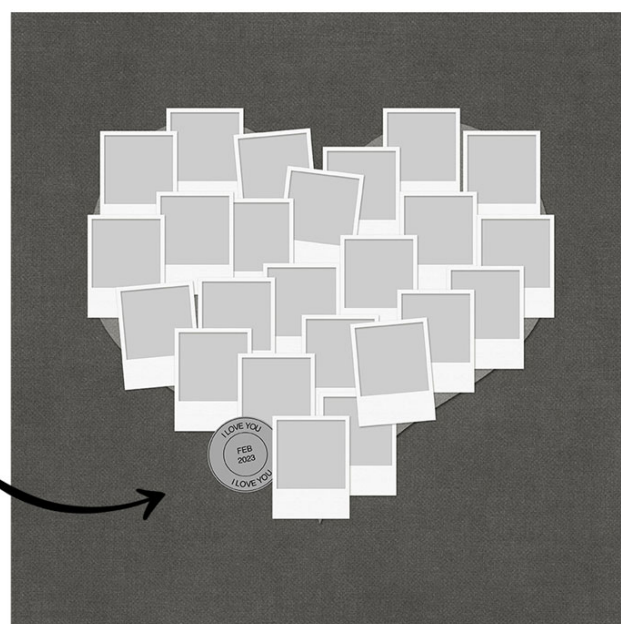by Jen White

Discover the trick to adding right-side-up text to the bottom of a text path. The date seal we create with this trick is super versatile.

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NOTE: Please complete the lessons in the order they are provided.

For this lesson you will need:
• the Shaped-Frame-Cluster document from the Class-Files folder.

Quick Steps for Lesson 2, Date Seal

Step-by-step instructions are below.

- Open the Shaped-Frame-Cluster document from the Class-Files folder.
- Group the frame and shape layer and rename the group FRAMES.
- Add a 2" light gray circle shape and add a drop shadow.
- Duplicate the shape layer, rename it OUTER RING, and resize it 97%.
- Replace the drop shadow with a 3 px black stroke.
- Duplicate the shape layer, rename it INNER RING, and resize it 60%.
- Type a phrase on the inner shape and resize the type layer 140%.
- Type a phrase on the outer shape layer, flip the type, and resize the type layer 75%.
- Set the Tracking of the type layer to -60.
- Activate all the date seal layers and save the date seal as a template. Close the template.
- Group the date seal layers and rename the group DATE SEAL.
- Resize the date seal to be 1-1/2 inches and position it at the edge of the frames.
- Move the DATE SEAL group directly below the top frame group.
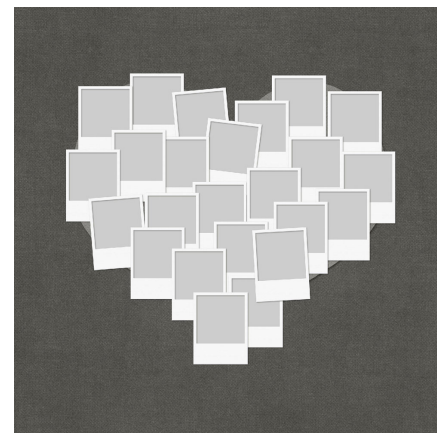- Save the document.

Step-By-Step for Lesson 2, Date Seal

Prepare Your Workspace
- Open the Shaped-Up-Frame document (File > Open) that was saved at the end of Lesson 1.
- Press the letter D to reset the Color Chips to the default of black over white.
- Get the Move tool.
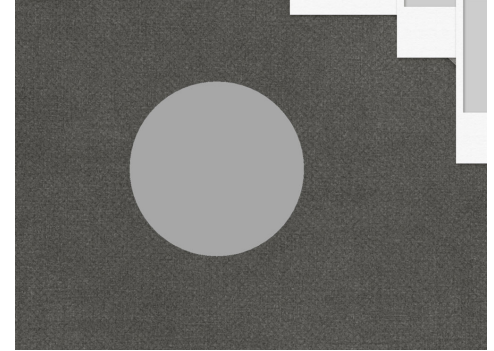- In the Tool Options, uncheck both Auto Select Layer and Show Bounding Box.

Group the Frame Layers
- In the Layers panel, click on the top frame group to activate it.
- Holding down the Shift key, click on the underlying shape layer. Now all layers except the background paper and Background layer should be active.
- Click on the Create a New Group icon.
- Double click directly on the name of the new group, rename it FRAMES, and press Enter/Return to commit the change.

Create a Circle Base
- Get the Ellipse tool.
- In the Tool Options, click on the Color Chip and choose a light gray. Open the Geometry Options and choose Unconstrained.
- On the document, hold down the Shift key and click and drag in the lower-left quadrant of the document to create a circle that's approximately 2 inches in diameter.
- Press the letter Z to get the Zoom tool.
- On the document, click several times in the middle of the circle to zoom into it. To zoom back out, hold down the Alt key (Mac: Opt key) and click in the middle of the circle.
- In the Layers panel, double click directly on the name of the shape layer, rename layer CLIPPING MASK, and press Enter/Return to commit the change.
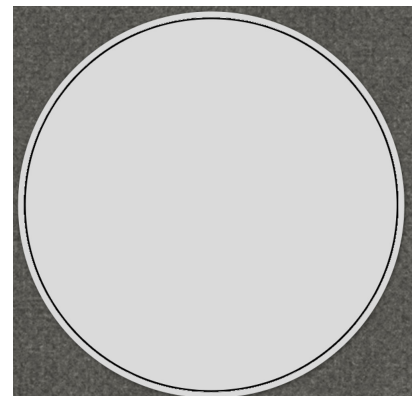
Add a Drop Shadow
- In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Layer Style > Style Settings.
- In the dialog box, set the Lighting Angle to 120. Click on Drop Shadow to activate it and reveal the settings. Set the Size to 8, the Distance to 2, and the Opacity to 45. Click OK.
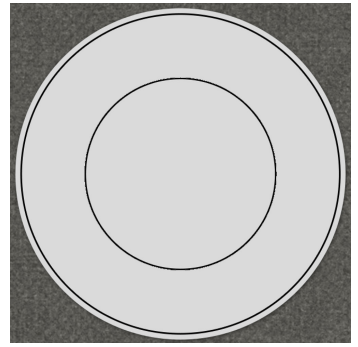
Add an Outer Ring
- Press Ctrl J (Mac: Cmd J) to duplicate the shape layer.
- In the Layers panel, double click directly on the name of the new shape layer, rename it OUTER RING, and press Enter/Return to commit the change.
- Press Ctrl T (Mac: Cmd T) to get the Transform options.
- In the Tool Options, set both the Width and Height to 97%. Click the checkmark to commit the change.
- Get the Ellipse tool.
- In the Tool Options, open the Style settings. Click on the dropdown menu and choose Visibility. Choose Hide. If you don't see the names of the styles, click on the flyout menu and choose List View.
- In the Layers panel, double click directly on the layer style of the OUTER RING layer to open the style settings.
- In the dialog box, uncheck Drop Shadow to deactivate it. Click on Stroke to activate it and reveal the settings. Set the Size to 3, the Position to Inside, and the Opacity to 100. If the Color Chip is not black, click on it, choose black, and click OK. Click OK to close the Style Settings dialog box.

Create an Inner Ring
- Press Ctrl J (Mac: Cmd J) to duplicate the shape layer.
- In the Layers panel, double click directly on the name of the new shape layer, rename it INNER RING, and press Enter/Return to commit the change.
- Press Ctrl T (Mac: Cmd T) to get the Transform options.
- In the Tool Options, set both the Width and Height to 60%. Click the checkmark to commit the change.

Add the Upper Words
- Get the Horizontal Type tool.
- In the Tool Options, open the Font Picker and choose Helvetica Regular. (PC Users choose Arial Regular.) Set the Size to 15, the Leading to Auto, and the Tracking to -40. If the Color Chip is not black, click on it and choose black. Click on the Center Align icon.
- In the Layers panel, the INNER RING layer should be active.
- On the document, hover your cursor at the top of the inner ring until you see the type-on-a-path icon.
- Click to place the cursor, type I LOVE YOU, and click the checkmark to commit the change.
NOTE: This is just placeholder text. We will change this later.

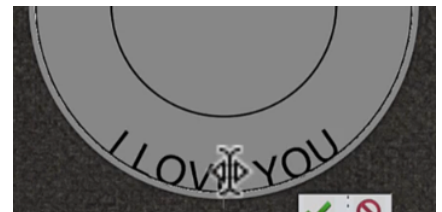## Resize the Path of the Upper Words
- Press Ctrl T (Mac: Cmd T) to get the Transform Options.
- In the Tool Options, set both the Width and Height to 115. Click the checkmark to commit the change.
NOTE: Normally, if you transform type, the size of the type will change, but that's not the case when transforming type on a path.

Add the Lower Words
- In the Layers panel, click on the OUTER RING layer to activate it.
- Get the Horizontal Type tool.
- In the Tool Options, set the Tracking to 80.
- On the document, hover your cursor at the bottom of the outer ring until you see the type-on-a-path icon.
- Click to place the cursor and type I LOVE YOU. Do not commit the type.
- Holding down the Ctrl key (Mac: Cmd key), click and drag up on the diamond that's located on the path. Let go when the words are flipped vertically.
- Click the checkmark to commit the change.

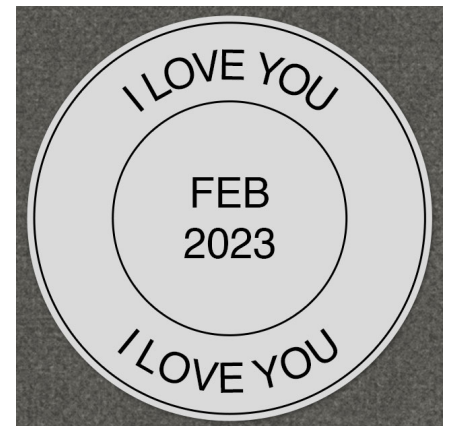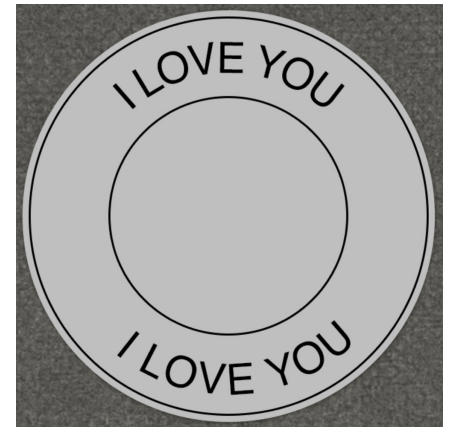**Resize the Path and Tracking of the Lower Words**
- Press Ctrl T (Mac: Cmd T) to get the Transform Options.
- In the Tool Options, set both the Width and Height to 90. Click the checkmark to commit the change.

Add the Center Words
- In the Layers panel, click on the INNER RING layer to activate it.
- Get the Horizontal Type tool.
- In the Tool Options, set the Tracking to 0.
- On the document, hold down the Shift key and click once in the center of the circle to place the cursor.
NOTE: Holding down the Shift key will deactivate the type-inside-a-shape function.
- Type a date and click the checkmark to commit the change.
- In the Layers panel, hold down the Ctrl key (Mac: Cmd key) and click on the thumbnail of the INNER RING layer to place a selection around the inner ring. The date layer should still be active.
- Get the Move tool.
- In the Tool Options, click on the Align Horizontal Centers (Center) icon and the Align Vertical Centers (Middle) icon.
- Press Ctrl D (Mac: Cmd D) to deselect.

Save the Date Seal Template
- In the Layers panel, click on the top I LOVE YOU type layer to activate it.
- Holding down the Shift key, click on the CLIPPING MASK layer. Now six layers should be active.
- Click on the flyout menu and choose Duplicate Layers.
- In the dialog box, set the Destination Document to New. Enter the Name DSP23-V6-Date-Seal-Template. Click OK.
- In the Layers panel, hold down the Ctrl key (Mac: Cmd key) and click on the thumbnail of the CLIPPING MASK layer to get a selection outline around the seal.
- In Menu Bar, choose Select > Modify > Expand.
- In the dialog box, set the Expand By to 2 and click OK.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Image > Crop.
- Press Ctrl D (Mac: Cmd D) to deselect.
- In the Layers panel, click on the top layer to activate it all by itself.
- Save the new file (File > Save) as a layered PSD file in the Class-Files folder.
NOTE: We'll be using this template in the variations for this lesson.
- Close the template document (File > Close).
- The Shaped-Frame-Cluster document should now be active.
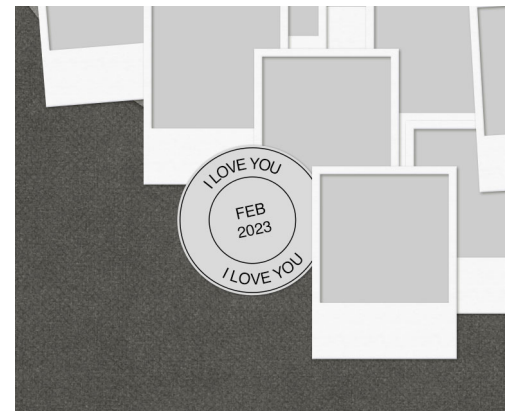
Group the Date Seal Layers
• In the Layers panel, the six layers should still be active.
• Click on the Create a New Group icon.
• Double click directly on the name of the new group, rename it DATE SEAL, and press Enter/Return to commit the change.

Nest the Seal in the Frames
• Press Ctrl 0 (Mac: Cmd 0) to zoom back out.
• Get the Move tool.
• On the document, click and drag the date seal to overlap the bottom-left edge of the shape. See the screenshot.
• Press Ctrl T (Mac: Cmd T) to get the Transform options.
• On the document, click and drag inward on a corner handle of the bounding box until the shape is approximately 1.5 inches. To reposition the shape, click and drag inside the bounding box. Hover your cursor near a corner handle of the bounding box until you see the curved, double-headed arrow, then click and drag to rotate the shape. I'll rotate -12. Click the checkmark to commit the change.

NOTE: Transforming a group with text in it will change the size of the type.
• In the Layer panel, click on the arrow of the FRAMES group to expand it.
• Click and drag the DATE SEAL group directly below the top frame group.

• Save the document (File > Save).