

MA2-L02-1-ps-Doodly-Flower-transcript



Digital Scrapbooking Mastery, No. 2

Lesson 2, Part 1: Tall Doodly Flower for Adobe Photoshop

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There's a special place in my heart for all things doodly and I love that I can use Photoshop to create realistic doodling lines that come to life. In this video, you will become the master doodler drawing a sweet little bloom into existence. And the best part is, there's no green thumb required!

Beginning here in Adobe Photoshop, open the document that you ended with in Lesson 1 of this class. Then in the Layers panel, click on the top group to activate it, and then click on the Visibility icon of that group to hide it. Next, you want to make sure the rulers are on. If they're not, go in the Menu Bar and choose View and place a checkmark next to Rulers. And now that the rulers are on, we're going to click and drag a guide out from the horizontal ruler down to about the 3" mark.

Now let's create the main flower stem. Press the letter D to reset the Color Chips to the default of black over white, and then in the Layers panel, click on the Create a New Layer icon. Double click on the name of this new layer to rename it and name it Main Stem. Next, get the Brush tool, and in the Tool Options open the Brush Picker. Then open the Legacy Brushes, then open the Dry Media Brushes, and then scroll down until you see the Charcoal Flat brush. Choose that brush and then set the Size to 9 px. Back in the Tool Options, we'll

make sure that the Mode is set to Normal, the Opacity is 100%, the Flow is 100%, and the Smoothing is 100%. Now we're ready to brush on the document. Press Ctrl - , Cmd - on a Mac, to zoom out and then holding down the Shift key, click in the center of that guideline and drag straight to the bottom of the document. At this point you may be thinking that this is a pretty big flower stem, probably too big for your taste, but in Mastery 1 we talked about the importance of element size. If you are creating an element to save for later, and it's made up of pixels like any brush stroke would be, then you should make it too big. You can always make it smaller later, but making it larger will cause the pixels to distort and quality. Vector objects, like things made of shapes and type, do not have that problem, only pixel objects.

Next we'll add a bend to the flower stem. In the Menu Bar choose Filter > Distort > Shear. In the dialog box, click and drag a curve point from the upper middle grid point slightly the left, like so, and then click OK.

The next step is to create a smaller flower stem, but before we do that, go into the Menu Bar and click on View and make sure that nap is checked. Then click on View again, then Snap To and make sure that Guides are checked. Then in the Layers panel, click on the Create a New Layer icon and then we'll rename this layer Small Stem.

Next, let's add another guide by clicking and dragging from the horizontal ruler, and this time we'll only go down to the 1" mark. Using the Brush Tool with the same settings as before, hold down the Shift key and then click and drag a line from the top guide to the bottom guide.

The next step is to add a bend to the smaller flower stem. First we'll get the Rectangular Marquee Tool to do that. In the Tool Options, click on the New Selection icon, set the Feather to 0 px, and the Style to Normal. Then on the document, click and drag a selection outline that surrounds the small stem and has a little bit of room on each side. You'll want the top of the selection outline to be at the top guide and the bottom of the selection outline to be at the bottom guide. In the Menu Bar Choose Filter > Distort > Shear. The Shear Filter is set up to distort the entire document unless you have a small portion isolated by a selection outline, which is what we have here. Now also, the Shear Filter has sticky settings, so you're going to find the same exact settings that you had for the large flower stem. To reset the settings, hold down the Ctrl key in Windows, or the Cmd key on a Mac, and then click on the Default button. That will remove all the extra points. Then click and drag a curve point from the vertical line slightly to the left or the right and then click OK. Then you can deselect by pressing Ctrl D, or Cmd D on a Mac. Using the last two steps, create six more smaller stems, so that will be seven small stems and all. Remember to create each smaller stem on its own layer. And in the Shear Filter, for additional bends you can click and add additional points to the line and then distort them in all different ways to make the stem look different. You'll want to bend each stem slightly differently and only a teeny tiny bit.

Okay, once your small stems are all slightly distorted, it's time to align them together. In the Layers panel, click on the top small stem to make it active, and then holding down the Shift key click on the bottom small stem. Next, get the Move Tool. In the Tool Options, click on the Align Horizontal Centers icon and the Align Bottom Edges icon. Then in the Layers panel, click on the top Small Stem layer to activate it all by itself. Press Ctrl T, Cmd T on a Mac, to

get the Transform Options. And then in the Tool Options, click to check the Toggle Reference Point box. Then set the Reference Point to the bottom middle point and then change the Rotate to 90°. And then finally, click the checkmark to commit. In the Layers panel, click on the next lower small stem layer to activate it, then press Ctrl T, Cmd T on a Mac, to get the Transform Options, And in the Tool Options, again set the Reference Point to the bottom middle point. This time change the angle to 45° and then click the checkmark to commit. Again in the Layers panel, click on the next bottom small stem layer, and again get the Transform Options and set the Reference Point to the bottom middle, but this time we'll set the rotate to 5° and then click the checkmark. Activate the next small stem layer down. Again, get the Transform Options and set the Reference Point and this time we're going to change the angle to -25 and then click the checkmark to commit. Three more times. Activate the next small stem layer down, get the Transform Options and set the reference point. We'll set this angle to -40° degrees and commit. Two more times. Activate the next small stem layer down. Get the Transform Options. Set the reference point. This angle we'll set to -70°. Click the checkmark to commit. And for the final time, click the bottom small stem layer to activate it. Get the Transform Options and set the reference point one last time. This angle will be a -90° and click the checkmark to commit.

Looking at the grouping of small stem layers, you may see one or two that looks like it needs to be manually adjusted. To do that, activate the stem that you think needs adjusted in the Layers panel, and then with the Move Tool, use your keyboard Arrow keys to just nudge it into place.

Now let's attach the smaller stems to the main stem. In the Layers panel, click on the top small stem layer to activate it all by itself. Then holding down the Shift key, click on the bottom small stem layer. Now all the small stem layers should be active. Now with the Move Tool and Auto Select Layer unchecked in the Layers panel, on the document click and drag the small stem grouping so that it's centered at the top of the main stem. Then use your keyboard Arrow keys to fine tune the placement.

Finally, let's group all these stems together. In the Layers panel, hold down the Shift key and click on the Main Stem layer. Now all the small stems and the main stem are activated. Then click on the Create a New Group icon. Double click on the name of the new group and name it Flower Stem. Then in the Menu Bar, choose View > Clear Guides.

In Part Two of this video, I'll show you how to add flower petals to your flower stems. This has been Jen White with Digital Scrapbooking Mastery.