Perfectly Personal Word Art
Hexagon Template 02 – Photoshop Transcript
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When working with smaller pieces such as our custom word art templates, keeping things simple is almost always best practice. If you try to do too much on a small area, it overwhelms the eye instead of pleasing it. We want our custom word art templates to please the eye as much as possible. So we're sticking to simple design ideas that really help our overall projects shine.

So here we are in Photoshop. I've already created a new file that is 2.25 inches by 2.25 inches at 300 pixels per inch with a transparent background. Press the letter D to reset the color chips to the default of black over white. First we need to create the main hexagon. So click on the foreground color chip to open the color picker and choose a medium gray color. I'm using hex number nine five nine five nine five and then click okay. Get the custom shape tool and in the tool options, set the tool mode to shape, the fill to solid color, and the stroke to none. Click to open the path operations and choose new layer. And then click to open the geometry options and choose fixed size. Enter a width of two inches and a height of 1.73 inches. Click to open the shape picker and choose the hexagon shape. If you don't see the hexagon shape, click to open the fly out menu and choose large list. If you still don't see the hexagon shape, click to open the fly out menu and choose the shapes list. You'll have to click okay to amend the list shown and then make sure align edges is checked. Now on the document, click and drag until the hexagon is fully within the bounds of the document and then let go. Then press control A in windows or command A on a Mac to select all. Get the move tool and in the tool options, click on the align horizontal centers icon and the align vertical centers icon. Then press control D in windows or command D on a Mac to de-select. In the layers panel, double click on the name of this layer and change it to main hexagon and then press enter to commit the name change.

Now we're going to create the top half accent. So in the layers panel, click on the create a new layer icon. Click on the foreground color chip to open the color picker and choose a light gray color. I'm using hex number CCCCCC, and then click okay. Now get the rectangular marquee tool. And in the tool options, click on the new selection icon, set the feather to zero pixels, and set the style to fixed size. Enter a width of 2.25 inches and a height of 1.125 inches on the document. Click and drag to create the selection, making sure to drag it all the way to the top before letting go. Now press alt backspace in windows or option delete on a Mac to fill the selection with the foreground color. Then press control D in windows or command D on a Mac to de-select. In the layers panel, control click in windows or command click on a Mac on the thumbnail of the main hexagon layer to get a selection outline. And

then in the menu bar, choose select, inverse. And with the light gray rectangle layer still the active layer in the layers panel, press the backspace key in windows or the delete key on a Mac to remove the excess pixels. And then press control D in windows or command D on a Mac to de-select. So now in the layers panel, double click on the name of this layer and change it to top half accent and then press enter to commit the name change.

Now I need to add the text, so press the letter X to switch the foreground color chip to white and get the horizontal type tool. In the tool options, set the font to something basic like myriad pro. Set the size to 24 and set the alignment to center. On the document, click once and type the word text in all caps, press enter and then type the word here in all caps and then click the checkmark to commit. Now press control A in windows or command A on a Mac to select all. Then get the move tool and in the tool options, click on the align horizontal centers icon and the align vertical centers icon. Then press control D in windows or command D on a Mac to de-select. Now you can go to the menu bar and choose file save as, save this file as hexagon template zero two dot PSD in the folder called hexagon templates that you set up in the previous lesson. Now that we finished creating our second hexagon template, let's take a quick look at how I customized this.

So here's how I chose to customize my hexagon. A classic way to use this design is to switch the colors used in the top and bottom half. Using this mirror design idea adds great contrast to your hexagon word art. Here's how I used my customized hexagon in a tryptic photo cluster. I love how the three photos show three different faces of my nephew. I also love how the colors in the elements I used compliment the colors in the hexagon. Like many of my previous clusters, I used a scatter for an anchor for the whole cluster. And here is how I used my triptych cluster on a scrapbook page. I used a fun background and kept everything along the horizontal line by placing the journaling and the title in close proximity to the cluster. In the next session, we're going to start part one of the hexagon homework. I can't wait to see you there. This is Jenifer Juris with perfectly personal word art.