

Digital Scrapper Premier 2023, Volume 6

Lesson 3, Adjustable Arrow Accent (Photoshop Elements)

by Jen White

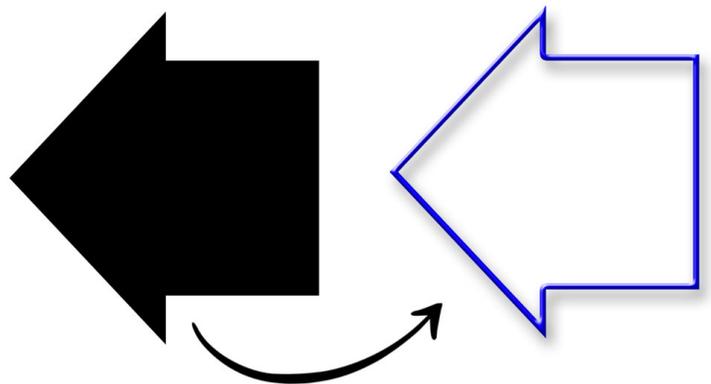
Capture the little-known secret weapon of the Line tool by creating an adjustable arrow accent that packs a bevel plastic punch.

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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 that you saved at the end of Lesson 2.
- the arrow-practice image from the Class-Files folder.
- the PlasticStrokedShapeAction (styles and action) from the Class-Files folder. (Loaded)



Quick Steps for Lesson 3, Adjustable Arrow Accent

Step-by-step instructions are below.

- Open the arrow-practice image from the Class-Files folder.
- Open the Shaped-Frame-Cluster document from the Class-Files folder.
- Activate the FRAMES group and close it.
- Create a new document and reset the Color Chips.
- Get the Line tool and reset it.
- Practice creating different-sized arrow shapes.
- On the arrow-practice document, practice creating additional arrow shapes.
- Move an arrow shape onto the Shaped-Frame-Cluster document.
- Resize the shape, if necessary.
- Activate the Plastic action and press Play.

Step-By-Step for Lesson 3, Adjustable Arrow Accent

Before You Get Started

- In the Styles panel (Window > Styles), open the flyout menu and choose Load Styles. Navigate to the DSP23-V6-PlasticStrokedShape.asl file in the PlasticStrokedShapeAction folder from the Class-Files folder. Click Load/Open.
- In the Actions panel (Window > Actions), open the flyout menu and choose Load Actions. Navigate to the PlasticStrokedShape.atn file in the PlasticStrokedShapeAction folder from the Class-Files folder. Click Load/Open.

Prepare Your Workspace

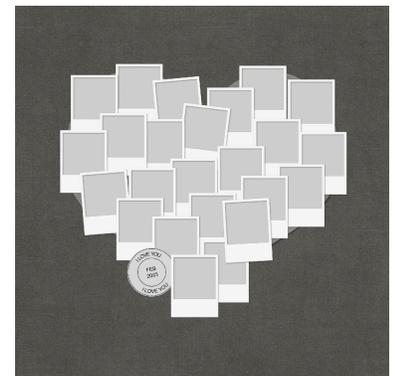
- Open the Shaped-Frame-Cluster document (File > Open) that was saved at the end of Lesson 2.
- In the Layers panel, click on the FRAMES group to activate it and close it.

Prepare a Practice Document

- Create a new 12 x 12 inch document (File > New > Blank File) at 300 ppi with a white background.
- Press the letter D to reset the Color Chips to the default of black over white.

Create an Arrow

- Get the Line tool.
- In the Tool Options, click on the dropdown/flyout menu and choose Reset Tool. The Color Chip should be black; if it's not, click on it and choose black. Open the Arrow Head settings and place a checkmark next to At The End. Click on the Create New Shape Layer icon.
- If there's a Style in the Tool Options, it needs to be set to None. If it's not set to None, open the Style Settings, then open the flyout menu, and choose Remove Style.



- In the Tool Options, set the Width to 500. Set the Arrow Head Width to 100, the Arrow Head Length to 100, and the Concavity to 0.
- On the document, click and drag out an arrow from left to right.

NOTE: If you'd like your arrow to be horizontally or vertically straight, hold down the Shift key while dragging.



Create a Second Arrow

- In the Tool Options, set the Width to 250, the Arrow Head Width to 200, and the Arrow Head Length to 200.
- On the document, click and drag out an arrow from left to right.



Create a Third Arrow

- In the Tool Options, set the Width to 250, the Arrow Head Width to 200, and the Arrow Head Length to 100.
- On the document, click and drag out an arrow from left to right.

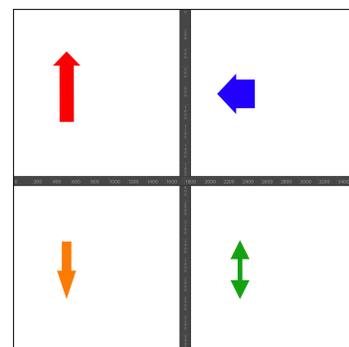


Use the Practice Image

- Open the arrow-practice image (File > Open) from the Class-Files folder.

How To Use the Practice Image

- Get the Line tool.
- To choose an arrow color, in the Tool Options, click on the color chip and then click on the Color Wheel icon to open the Color Picker. Choose a new color in the Color Picker or sample one from the document. Click OK to close the Color Picker.
- To set the thickness of the base of the arrow, in the Tool Options, set the Width based in pixels.
- To set the shape of the arrowhead, set the Arrow Head Width and Arrow Head Length based in percentage. To change the number of arrowheads, open the Arrow Head dropdown menu and choose a different option.
- Click and drag on the document.



- If incorrect, press Ctrl Z (Mac: Cmd Z) to undo, adjust the settings in the Tool Options, and then try again.
- If correct, move on to the next shape.

NOTE: If you need help with the settings for each arrow in the practice image, you'll find them at the end of this manual.

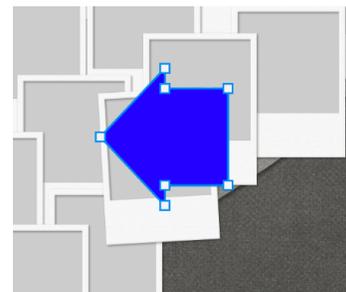
(Optional) Save the Practice Document

You could use the practice document to save different kinds of arrows that you make. Then you don't have to look up the settings later.

- Save the practice document (File > Save) as DSP23-V6-Arrow-Practice.psd in the Class-Files folder.

Add an Arrow to Your Scrapbook Page

- In the Layers panel, activate the arrow layer that you like best. I'll activate the blue one because I like that shape.
- Get the Move tool.
- From the document, click and drag the arrow onto your Shaped-Frame-Cluster document.



Adjust the Arrow

NOTE: Before running the Plastic action, you need to make the shape the size you want it to be on your final scrapbook page. To do that:

- Press Ctrl T (Mac: Cmd T) to get the Transform options.
- To resize the shape, on the document, click and drag from the corner handles of the bounding box.
- To move the shape, click and drag inside the bounding box.
- To rotate the shape, hover your cursor near a corner handle of the bounding box until you see a curved, double-headed arrow, and then click and drag to rotate.
- Click the checkmark to commit the change.

Pre-Action Checklist

- The styles that came with the action must also be loaded. The action must also be loaded.
- The shape or element you're running the action on needs to be just one layer and cannot be a group.



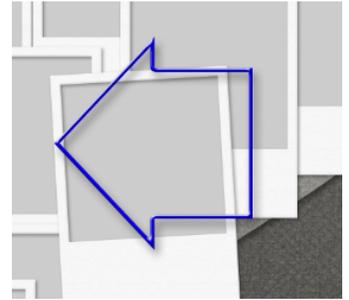
Play the Action

- In the Actions panel, in the DSP23-V6 Plastic Stroke Shape folder, click on the DS Plastic Stroked Shape action and click the Play icon.
- In the dialog box, press Continue to confirm the reminders. If you have not loaded the styles or resized the shape, press Stop, fix the errors, and press Play again.

NOTE: If you get an Error Message while playing the action, try reinstalling the styles.

How to Change the Color of the Plastic

- In the Layers panel, double click on the layer style of the Plastic group to open the style settings.
- Click on Stroke to activate the settings.
- Double click on the Color Chip to open the Color Picker.
- In the Color Picker, choose a new color (or sample one from your document) and click OK.



Page & Photos: Acadia by Jen White

Class: DSP23, Vol 6, Lesson 3, Adjustable Arrow Accent

Kit: Ocean Bliss by Aprilisa Designs

Font: Caroni

Settings for the red arrow:

Width: 150px

Arrow Head: At the End

Arrow Head Width: 200%

Arrow Head Length: 100%

Settings for the blue arrow:

Width: 300 px

Arrow Head: At the End

Arrow Head Width: 140%

Arrow Head Length: 65%

Settings for the orange arrow:

Width: 100 px

Arrow Head: At the End

Arrow Head Width: 200%

Arrow Head Length: 300%

Settings for the green arrow:

Width: 50 px

Arrow Head: At Both Ends

Arrow Head Width: 400%

Arrow Head Length: 400%