

Mastery1-12-ps-Custom-Text-Box-transcript



Digital Scrapbooking Mastery, No. 1 Lesson 12: Custom Text Box for PS Transcript © 2019 Jen White

In the wide world of digital scrapbooking, type and journaling is not only a necessary addition of data, it can also be a huge part of the design of the scrapbook page. The tips and tricks and instruction I provide you here in lesson 12 will equip you to produce even the most complicated of text boxes.

In Adobe Photoshop, I'm beginning with the scrapbook page that we ended with in lesson 11. And in the Layers panel, the Basic Chrome Staple group is the active group. Before we create the text box, we may need to do a little bit of juggling around of the layers because the text box that we create is going to need to flow from the top all the way to the bottom. So we're going to need a little bit of space between the piece of paper, the frames, and the edge of the velum. This scrapbook page that you're looking at here doesn't have much room there. So I'm going to give it a little bit more room by activating all of the layers involved. First I'll activate the Pattern Paper Anchor group. Then I'm going to hold down the Ctrl key in Windows, or the Cmd key on a Mac, and click on both of my frame groups. Besides the paper and the frames. I'm also going to need to move these arrows because I've made them look like they're crossing over the edge of that paper. So if I move the paper, I need to move the arrows. Therefore in the Layers panel, I'm also going to click on the Grungy Arrow Stamp group. So at this point in my scrapbook page journey, I am only going to need to activate 4 groups. Then, get the Move tool and then press the Left Arrow key on your keyboard to

nudge those over, just so there's a little bit of space between the corner of where they peek out and the edge of the velum. You can always adjust later.

Now we're ready to create the text box. In the Layers panel, activate the top group all by itself and then get the Polygonal Lasso tool. It's located with the other selection tools. And in the Options Bar, click on the New Selection icon. Set the Feather to 0 px and check Anti-Alias. Then on the scrapbook page, I'm going to create a series of clicks to outline the area that I want to place my text box. I'll begin right here at the corner where the frame meets the paper ribbon. I'll click right there in that corner just a little bit inside, not directly on the seam. I just clicked once. Now when I come up here to the top, I'll stay inside of that stroke outline. Notice how I'm trying to keep the line of my selection even as it goes up. I'll click again up here in the corner, then I'll place another click straight over here on the right side. And I'm keeping this line slightly inside the edge of the velum. Click again. Now I'm going to click to go around the ticket. Place another click here. Now I'm going to go straight down to the bottom while trying to keep that line even with the right line of the velum. Place a click. I do want to stay inside the boundaries of that velum. Continue placing clicks to outline that area, and when you get back to the space where there's not very much room between the paper and the edge of the velum, don't let your lines cross over. You want to keep them a little bit far apart from each other. So just kind of skirt around the edge of that paper and then continue outlining the area. When you get back to the beginning of the clicks you'll see the little circle symbol beside your cursor. Click to close a selection. The success of this text box really depends on this area down here where it gets really skinny. So at this point if you don't have a selection where the little marching ants are marching all the way around the border of that velum, then you need to try again and make sure that the selection does not cross here at this intersection. At this point you may be thinking that is a lot of room for journaling, but not to worry I'll give you some hints on what to do if you don't really have this many words to fill up the space. Until then, next we'll need the Paths panel. In the Menu Bar choose Window > Paths. In the Paths panel, click on the Path From Selection icon.

Then, get the Type tool. In the Options Bar open the Font Picker and choose a journaling font. My favorite journaling font is DJB Annalise 2011. Then, set the Size to something appropriate. I'm going to use 9 pts. Also you want to set the Alignment to Left Alignment. And the reason is because of that paper ribbon. The paper ribbon is providing an anchor for the type. If the paper ribbon was on the right side of the velum. We would set the alignment to right. But since the ribbon is on the left, we're choosing Left Alignment. Also, for this scrapbook page you're going to need a dark color for your font. My Color Chip is black. If you need to change it, click on the Color Chip. That should open the Color Picker. Then you can choose a color, maybe like a dark gray, and then click OK. Then on your scrapbook page, hover your cursor inside of that path until you see the type inside a shape icon, then click once. I'm not going to worry right now about what the journaling says. I'm more concerned about how the journaling looks inside my text box. So to begin, I'm just going to fill the text box with Lorem Ipsum. The newest update of Photoshop CC 2019, when set at default, instantly fills your text boxes with some of that type. But, I want even more of that. So while it's highlighted, I'm going to press Ctrl C, Cmd C on a Mac, to copy the highlighted text to my clipboard. Then, using the cursor of the Type tool, I'm going to click near the end of that type. And then, I'm going to press Ctrl V several times and that's going to add a bunch of type to my text box. Most of that type I can't even see because it's outside the text box. Then click the checkmark to commit.

Next I'm going to need the Character Panel. In the Menu Bar choose Window > Character.

For whatever reason, inside the Character panel the Leading of my type is set way too high. For now, I'm going to open the dropdown and choose Auto. That's starting to look a lot better. I also notice that the Tracking of my type is set a little bit high. Typically you want to keep that at 0, or around 20, unless you have a reason to bump it up. And then there's one more thing I want to check before I start playing with my type. And to do that, I'll need the Paragraph panel. In the Menu Bar, choose Window > Paragraph. In the Paragraph panel they have this little hidden feature called Hyphenate, which does exactly how it sounds. It's going to hyphenate your paragraphs. Hyphenation on a scrapbook page is just a little tacky. So I always try to make sure and turn that off. It turns on by itself. So I always try to remember to turn that off.

Now I'm going to go back to my Character panel. And then, I'm going to get the Move tool. And, I'm going to zoom into this area of the scrapbook page by holding down the letter Z and clicking a couple times. When I let go of the letter Z, I should be back on the Move tool. You could also use the Spacebar to hold down and then reposition the page. Now notice that the type that I filled in my box is overlapping some of my elements. It shouldn't be doing that because I clearly told it not to when I created the path. But this is a very common problem. And the way to fix it is to get the Move tool and then use your Arrow keys. And when you have a fancy text box like this you'll often need to bump the text box up several clicks and then all is well with the world again. In fact you can see down here at the bottom underneath of my frames that I could probably even put up a little bit more. And that makes it look a little bit more even. And this is a good time to point out that because we created the text box to flow. The type is actually stopping down here where there's not enough room for an unhyphenated word to fit. And then, it's continuing down below the frames which is exactly what I was wanting.

This is the point in the process where you might want to spend some time journaling about the scrapbook page that you've created. Occasionally I do my journaling on my scrapbook page. But oftentimes, I'll do it off the page into a text document, something that I can go back to easily and edit and rewrite at different settings during the day. I personally like to put a lot of thought into my journaling. If you don't really have a lot to say about your scrapbook page. Another thing that you could do is to paste in some poetry. Or, you could just type in "I love you" over and over and over again a bazillion times until it fills in the text box. The point of this lesson is that the journaling on the scrapbook page is not just being used for data, it's being used as a design element. Journaling on a scrapbook page will always make the page look more personal. I've already went ahead and done that. So to replace this text, in the Layers panel double click on the thumbnail of the type layer and that will highlight all the text that you have in there, even the type that's hidden. Assuming that you've already copied your journaling from another document, paste that journaling in here. You could also just highlight and then begin typing. Once you've pasted your journaling in click the checkmark to commit. I'll press Ctrl 0, Cmd 0 on a Mac, to zoom out. And now that I've pasted my journaling in, I can see that my text box needs adjusted again. So with the Move Tool, I'm gonna press those Arrow keys to adjust it back down. Not only that, but I want to save room for a title at the bottom of my velum, right around here. So I have a little bit too much journaling on my page. Instead of taking some of my journaling out, I'll go into the Character panel and adjust the Leading of the paragraph. Right now it's at 14. I'll move it down to 13 and 12, 11. I'll keep making it smaller until it kind of scooches up there and gives me a little bit more room. Now here's a couple tips and tricks in case you don't have enough journaling to fill the spot. First of all highlight the text again by double clicking on the thumbnail the type player. And then on

your keyboard, press the Left arrow key. This will place the cursor at the very beginning of your paragraph. Then press Enter or Return to make the paragraph start a couple lines down. You could also increase the Tracking of the type, but in order to do that either the type has to be highlighted or it has to be committed. So I'll commit this type. And then in the Character panel, click on the Tracking icon and scrub to the left or the right to adjust the tracking. The tracking is the space between letters. Increasing the Leading really high will also fill in room. Another thing you can do is to squeeze the text box just a little bit. To do that, again double click on the thumbnail of the Type layer so that everything is highlighted, then holding down the Shift key, click and drag inward on the left bounding box handle. And that will make the text box a little bit skinnier. So when you're satisfied with the results you'll want to click the checkmark to commit. I'll play with mine later to get it just right. And then just to be matchy, matchy. Click and drag that Type layer to the Group Layer's icon. To place it inside of a group. When you create a title you can also put the title within this group. Then of course, I would want to rename the group. Finally don't forget to save your scrapbook page. So that's how to create a custom text box in Adobe Photoshop. This is Jen White with Digital Scrapbooking Mastery.