



Perfectly Personal Word Art Paper Strip 05 – PSE Transcript

© 2019 Jenifer Juris

Sometimes the smallest accent can be just the thing you need to take your paper strip from the same old to something new. In this video we'll be using a simple stroke outline to add the perfect accent to our paper strip.

So I've already created a new document that is three inches wide by 0.6 inches high at 300 pixels per inch with a white background. Press the letter D to reset the color chips. Then 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. Now press alt backspace in windows or option delete on a Mac to fill the background layer with the foreground color. Then click on the foreground color chip to open the color picker and choose a light gray color. This time I'm using hex number CCCCCC, and then click okay.

Now in the layers panel, click on the create a new layer icon. Then get the rectangular marquee tool. In the tool options, click on the new selection icon, set the feather to zero pixels and set the aspect to fixed size. Enter a width of 870 pixels and a height of 150 pixels on the document. Click and drag to create the selection. Don't worry about perfectly centering it for right now. We'll take care of that in a minute. Just make sure that the entire selection shows on the document. Then in the menu bar, choose edit, stroke outline selection. In the dialog box, set the width to five pixels, set the location to inside, the blending mode to normal, the opacity to 100% and uncheck preserve transparency, and then click okay.

Now press control D in windows or command D on a Mac to de-select. 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 vertical centers icon and the aligned horizontal centers icon. Then press control D in windows or command D on a Mac to de-select.

Now get the rectangular marquee tool and in the tool options, leave all the settings the same except change the width to 2.5 inches and the height to 0.6 inches. On the document, click and drag to create the selection and try to center it on the document. Then press backspace in windows or delete on a Mac to remove that portion of the stroke outline. 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 bracket accents and then press enter to commit the name change.

Now we need to add the type, so press the letter X to switch the foreground color to white. And then get the horizontal type tool. In the tool options, set the font to something basic like myriad pro. Set the size to 24 points and the alignment to center. On the document, click once and type the words text here in all caps and then click the checkmark to commit. Now get the move tool and press control A in windows or command A on a Mac to select all. And then in the tool options, click on the align vertical centers icon and the align horizontal centers icon and then press control D in windows or command D on a Mac to de-select. Now you can save this template as paper strip template zero five dot PSD in the same folder as the previous templates.

Now it's time for some more tips and inspiration on using your custom paper strips. In the last two lessons I've showed you that you can create a simple cluster using your custom paper strips, but the options don't stop there. This time around I've created a cluster using my custom paper strip and an alpha from a kit.

Here are some tips on how to create your own alpha paper strip cluster. Number one, use an anchor. Similar to the other clusters, providing an anchor behind your cluster is a great way to add visual interest without overpowering your focal point. In this case, I used a star scatter, but you can also use paint, scribbles, or a mask of some kind. Number two, keep it simple. When you use an alpha, there are already a lot of pieces to this cluster. You don't need a lot of stuff here to make great visual impact, so keep the extra elements to a minimum. And number three, use custom shadows. When you have a simple cluster like this, take the time to use a custom shadow on your paper strip. It adds that special touch that really makes your designs look top notch. And to help inspire you, here's how I used my alpha paper strip cluster on a digital scrapbook page. It was the perfect way to draw the eye to the photo without distracting from the design. Next, we have one more paper strip template to create together. I'll see you there. This is Jenifer Juris with perfectly personal word art.