



10 Timeless Titles

## Tie-Dye Title (Photoshop Elements)

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Give your title the tie-dyed look with the use of a gradient map and the brush tool.

In this lesson, we're going to make this title together. It doesn't look like much now in the grayscale version, but once we add some color to it, it looks like a fun tie-dyed title that can be customized for any page.



## Prepare the Workspace

- Create a new 12x12 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 the Title Layer

- Get the Horizontal Type tool.
- In the Tool Options, open the Font Picker and choose a stencil-style font. I'm using Boston Traffic, which is free at the FontSquirrel website.

### Note About Fonts

If you want to use a font that isn't a stencil style, that's totally fine. But this technique will work best with a font that is bold or extra bold so you can see more of the tie-dye effect.

- Set the Size to 100, the Leading to Auto, and the Tracking to 0. Click on the Center Align icon. Click on the Color Chip and choose black.
- On the document, click once in the center of the document to place the cursor.
- Type the words PAGE TITLE.
- Click the checkmark to commit.

NOTE: The exact placement of the title doesn't matter as long as the entire title is on the document.

## Create the Tie-Dye Layer

- In the Layers panel, click on the Create a New Layer icon.
- Get the Brush tool.
- In the Tool Options, open the Brush Picker, open the dropdown menu, and choose Default Brushes. Choose a Hard Round brush. Set the Size to 400, the Opacity to 100% and the Mode to Normal. Click on Brush Settings. Set the Fade to 0, the Hue Jitter to 0, the Scatter to 0, the Spacing to 25%, the Hardness to 100%, and the Roundness to 100%.

NOTE: To create the tie-dye effect, we're going to first paint on some overlapping large dots in various shades of gray and black and white.

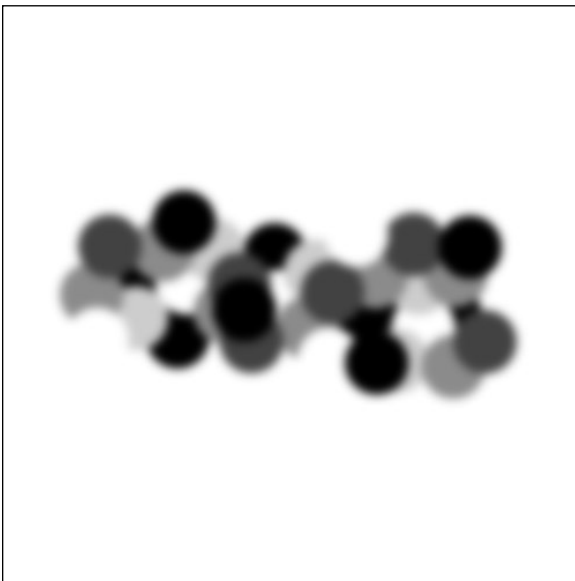
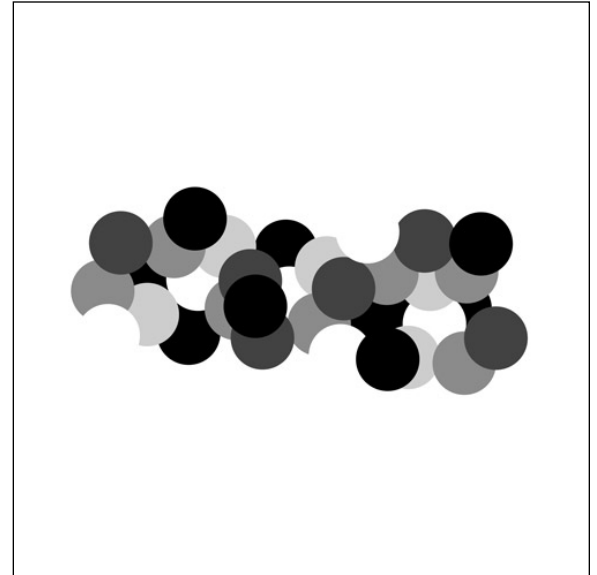
- On the document, click once to create a large black dot that overlaps anywhere above the type.



PAGE TITLE

PAGE TITLE

- On the document, continue to click around while overlapping the type layer.
- Press the letter X to switch the Foreground Color Chip to white.
- On the document, click multiple times to create a handful of white dots that overlap the type.
- Click on the Foreground Color Chip to open the Color Picker.
- In the Color Picker, choose a light gray color. Click OK.
- On the document, click multiple times to create a handful of light gray dots that overlap the same title area.
- Click on the Foreground Color Chip to open the Color Picker.
- In the Color Picker, choose a medium gray color. Click OK.
- On the document, click multiple times to create a handful of medium gray dots that overlap the same area.
- Click on the Foreground Color Chip to open the Color Picker.
- In the Color Picker, choose a dark gray color. Click OK.
- On the document, click multiple times to create a handful of dark gray dots that overlap the same area.
- At this point, you can use the same steps as above to add some more white or black dots back on top if you want.
- In the Layers panel, double click on the name of this layer and change it to Tie-Dye. Press Enter or Return to commit.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Filter > Blur > Gaussian Blur.
- In the dialog box, set the Radius to 30 px.
- Click OK to close the dialog box.



- Press Ctrl J (Mac: Cmd J) to duplicate the Tie-Dye layer.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Filter > Distort > Twirl.
- In the dialog box, set the Angle to 120°.
- Click OK to close the dialog box.
- In the Layers panel, hold down the Shift key and click on the other paint layer to make both Tie-Dye paint layers active.
- Press Ctrl E (Mac: Cmd E) to merge the two layers.



- In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Create Clipping Mask.



## Add a Gradient Map Adjustment Layer

- Press the Letter D to reset the Color Chips to the default of black over white.
- In the Layers panel, click on the Create a New Fill or Adjustment Layer icon and choose Gradient Map.
- In the dialog box, click on the Gradient Map drop down arrow and choose the Foreground to Background Gradient Map. If you can't see the names of the Gradient Maps, click on the fly-out menu and choose Large List.

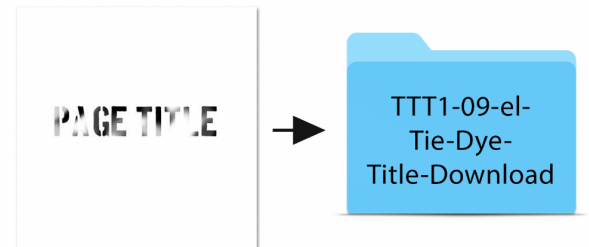
NOTE: When you click on the Foreground to Background Gradient Map, if the color chips switch from black over white to white over black, click on the Reset icon in the Gradient Map dialog box.

- Close the dialog box.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Create Clipping Mask.

NOTE: The title won't look any different right now because the color chips are black and white.

## Save the Title Template

- To preserve the layers for later use, save the document (File > Save As) as a PSD file with a unique name in the downloads folder for this lesson. I'm naming mine TTT1-09-Tie-Dye-Title.PSD.



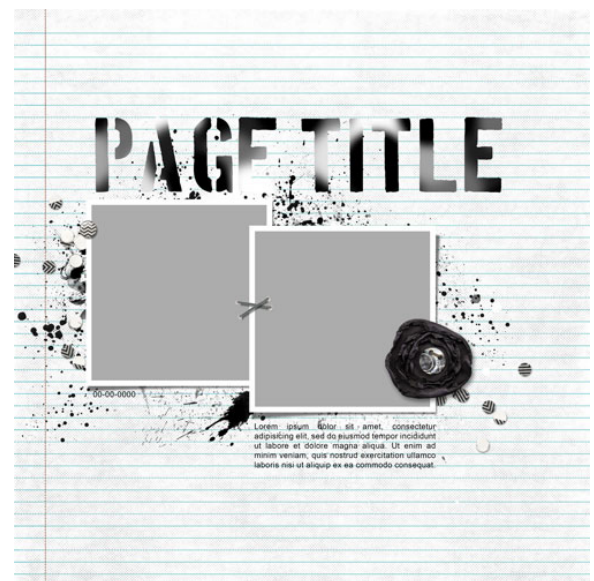
TTT1-09-Tie-Dye-Title.psd

## Move the Title Layers to a Project

- Open the TTT1-09-Layered-Quick-Page.PSD file that can be found in the downloads folder for this lesson.
- Once you have the file open, in the layers panel, click on the date placeholder layer to make it the active layer.

NOTE: The date placeholder layer is a type layer with 00-00-0000 as the current type.

- Go back to the tie-dye title document.
- In the Layers panel, click on the topmost layer to make it active.
- Hold down the Shift key and click on the Page Title layer to make all layers but the Background layer active.
- Right click (Mac: Ctrl click) on the name of any of the selected layers and choose Duplicate Layers.
- In the dialog box, set the Destination to the Layered Quick Page and click OK.
- Go back to the Layered Quick Page document.
- Get the Move tool.
- On the document, click and drag to move the title layers above the photo clipping masks.





## Customize the Title Layers for a Project

Now it's time to customize the title. But before I customize my title, I need to add the bulk of my design elements to this page so that I'll have some colors other than black and white to pick from for customization. Here's my layered quick page now that I've added the photos, some elements, and some extra type.

- Before we update the title layer, let me show you how to update the Gradient Map colors. The first thing we need to do is get the color chips set to two coordinating colors. To do that, click on the Foreground Color Chip to open the Color Picker.
- On the document, sample a dark or more saturated color from your project. I'm going to sample this orange color from the corner paint element.
- Click OK to close the Color Picker.
- Click on the Background Color Chip to open the Color Picker.
- On the document, sample a lighter or less saturated color from your project. I'm going to sample this pink color on my niece's face mask.
- Click OK to close the Color Picker.
- In the Layers panel, double click on the thumbnail of the Gradient Map layer to open the Gradient Map settings.
- Click on the Gradient Map dropdown arrow and choose the Foreground to Background Gradient Map.
- Close the Gradient Map dialog box.
- In the Layers panel, double click on the thumbnail of the Page Title type layer to activate and select the type.
- If you want to change the font, in the Tool Options, open the Font Picker and choose a different bold font.
- Type in a word or phrase. I want to use two words for my title, but I also want them to be placed individually, so I'm going to do one word at a time. The first word I'll type is Paint.
- Click the checkmark to commit.
- In the Layers panel, hold down the Shift key and click on the Gradient Map layer that is clipped to the Tie-Dye layer to select all three of the title layers.
- On the document, click and drag the title into place.
- If needed, click and drag from a corner handle to make the word smaller.
- Click the checkmark to commit.
- If needed, use the Arrow keys to nudge the title layer into place.
- With all three title layers still selected, Press Ctrl G (Mac: Cmd G) to group the title layers.



- Press Ctrl J (Mac: Cmd J) to duplicate the title group.
- With the Move tool still active, on the document, click and drag the duplicated title layer so that it sits above the right photo.
- In the Layers panel, toggle open the duplicated title group.
- Double click on the thumbnail of the type layer to activate and select the type.
- Type a new word or phrase. I'm typing Party.
- Click the checkmark to commit.
- Use the Arrow Keys to nudge the title layer into place.



## Update the Gradient Map for the Paint Layer (Optional)

If you want to make the background paint splatter of this Layered Quick Page match your project, I've included the same Foreground to Background Gradient Map layer that's clipped to the paint layer. Double click on the thumbnail of this gradient map layer and do the same thing as we did for the title.





Here's my page now that it's finished. I love how the Tie-Dye title really adds some color and visual interest to this layout. Before, the Layered QP was all monotone. Now, it has vibrancy, life, and color, which is perfect for documenting a birthday party.



Credits:

Page: Jenifer Juris

Photos: Jodi Finley

Kits: Sungglesaurus by Laura Louie, All About a Boy by Shawna Clingerman, Eggs in my Bonnet by Amber Shaw, Per Diem by One Little Bird, Spring has Sprung by Mommyish, Love Mom by Karla Dudley, Make a Wish by Kim B, APP My Camera by Anna Aspnes

Fonts: Boston Traffic, Blackout 2am



Here's the card I made using a variation of this tutorial. I used a different font, and I sampled different colors from my card face to create the blue tie-dyed look. I love the artsy feel this card has and the tie-dye title helps reinforce that artsy look.



Card Credits:  
Card: Jenifer Juris  
Kit: Metally elsewhere by Little Butterfly Wings  
Fonts: Euphoria Sans, Blackout Midnight