



Digital Scrapper Premier 2021, Volume 5 Geomarker

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Geomarker (Adobe Photoshop)
by Julie Singco

Create a trendy geomarker with the help of two terrific tools.

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This is the element I'll be creating for this lesson. It's a geomarker shape that can be used to mark a location on a map.



Prepare the Workspace

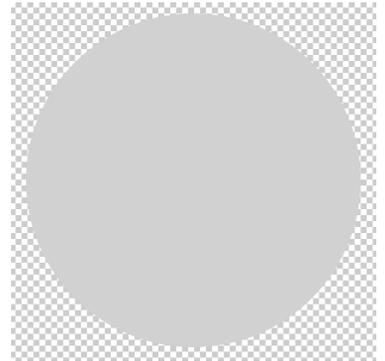
- Begin in Adobe Photoshop.
- Create a new 3.5 x 5-inch document (File > New) at 300 ppi with a transparent background.
- Press the letter D to reset the Color Chips to black over white.
- In the Menu Bar, choose View > Rulers.
- Press Ctrl 0 (Mac: Cmd 0) to fit the image to your screen.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Edit > Preferences > Cursors.

NOTE: Before making any changes to your Preferences, record your current settings. After you finish the tutorial, you can easily switch your Preferences back to your original settings.

- In the dialog box, set Painting Cursors to Normal Brush Tip. None of the other boxes should be checked for Painting Cursors. Set Other Cursors to Standard.
- In the Guides, Grid & Slices tab, set the display color for Path to Default with a thickness of 1 pixel.
- Click OK to close the Preferences dialog box.

Add Two Circle Shapes

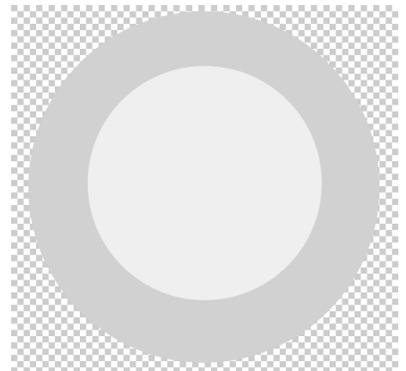
- Get the Ellipse Tool. It's nested with the shape tools.
- In the Tool Options, set the Mode to Shape. Click on the Fill Color Chip and then click on the Color Picker icon.
- In the Color Picker, choose a medium gray and click OK.
- In the Tool Options, set the Stroke to None and the Path Operations to New Layer. Open the Path Options and choose Fixed Size. Set the Width and Height to 3 inches.
- On the document, click and drag to place the shape near the top of the document.
- In the Layers panel, double click directly on the name of the Ellipse layer and rename it "Geomarker". Press Enter/Return to commit the change.
- In the Layers panel, click on the Create a New Layer icon.



Why create a new layer?

I need to add a second circle shape that is smaller and filled with a different color. If I change the shape settings while the Geomarker layer is active, the Geomarker layer will reflect those changes.

- The Ellipse Tool should still be active. Click on the Fill Color Chip and then click on the Color Picker icon.
- In the Color Picker, choose a light gray and click OK. The color is not really important, but it will help to choose a lighter shade of gray for this second circle.
- Open the Path Options and set the Width and Height to 2 inches.
- On the document, click and drag to place the shape in the middle of the medium gray circle.
- In the Layers panel, double click directly on the name of this new Ellipse layer and rename it "Circle". Press Enter/Return to commit the change.



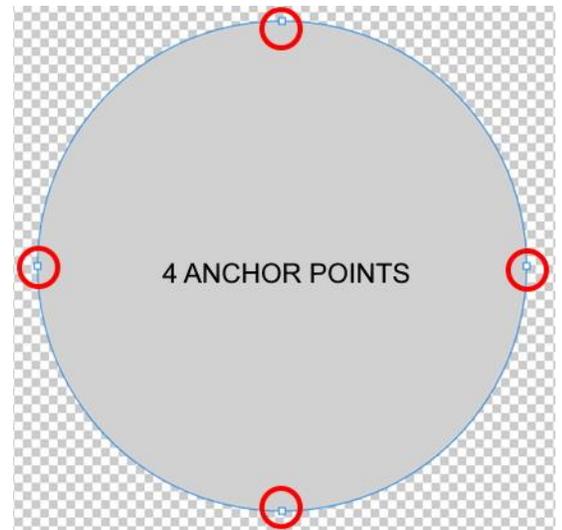
Align the Circle Shapes

- In the Layers panel, the Circle layer should be active.
- Holding down the Shift key, click on the Geomarker layer. Now both layers should be active.
- Get the Move Tool.
- In the Tool Options, click on the Align Horizontal Centers icon and the Align Vertical Centers icon.
- In the Layers panel, click on the Visibility icon of the Circle layer to hide it.

Create the Geomarker Shape

- In the Layers panel, click on the Geomarker layer to make it the active layer.
- Get the Add Anchor Point Tool. It's nested with the Pen Tool.

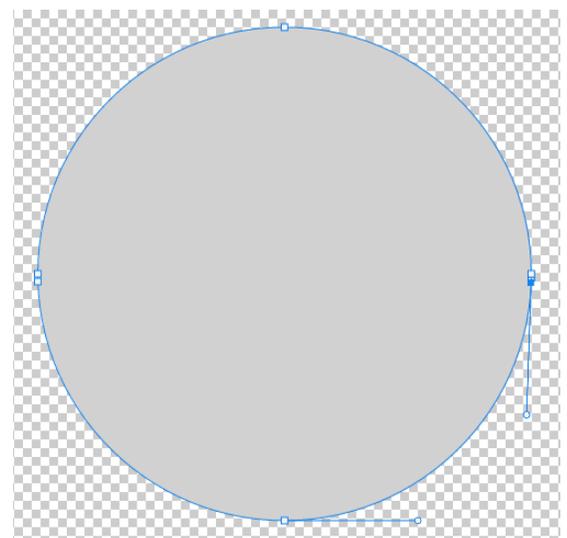
NOTE: The circle has anchor points located at the top and bottom of the circle, and on the left and right sides of the circle. If you don't see the 4 anchor points, click once inside the circle. We will add 2 more anchor points, allowing us to distort the bottom half of the circle and leave the top half unchanged.



- On the document, hover the cursor over the blue outline of the circle, just below the anchor point on the left side of the circle. When the cursor changes to a pen with a plus sign, click once to add an anchor point.

NOTE: If you don't see the anchor points or a blue outline, check that the Geomarker layer is active in the Layers panel and the Add Anchor Point Tool is selected, then click once inside the circle.

- On the document, hover the cursor over the blue outline of the circle, just below the anchor point on the right side of the circle. When the cursor changes to a pen with a plus sign, click once to add an anchor point.

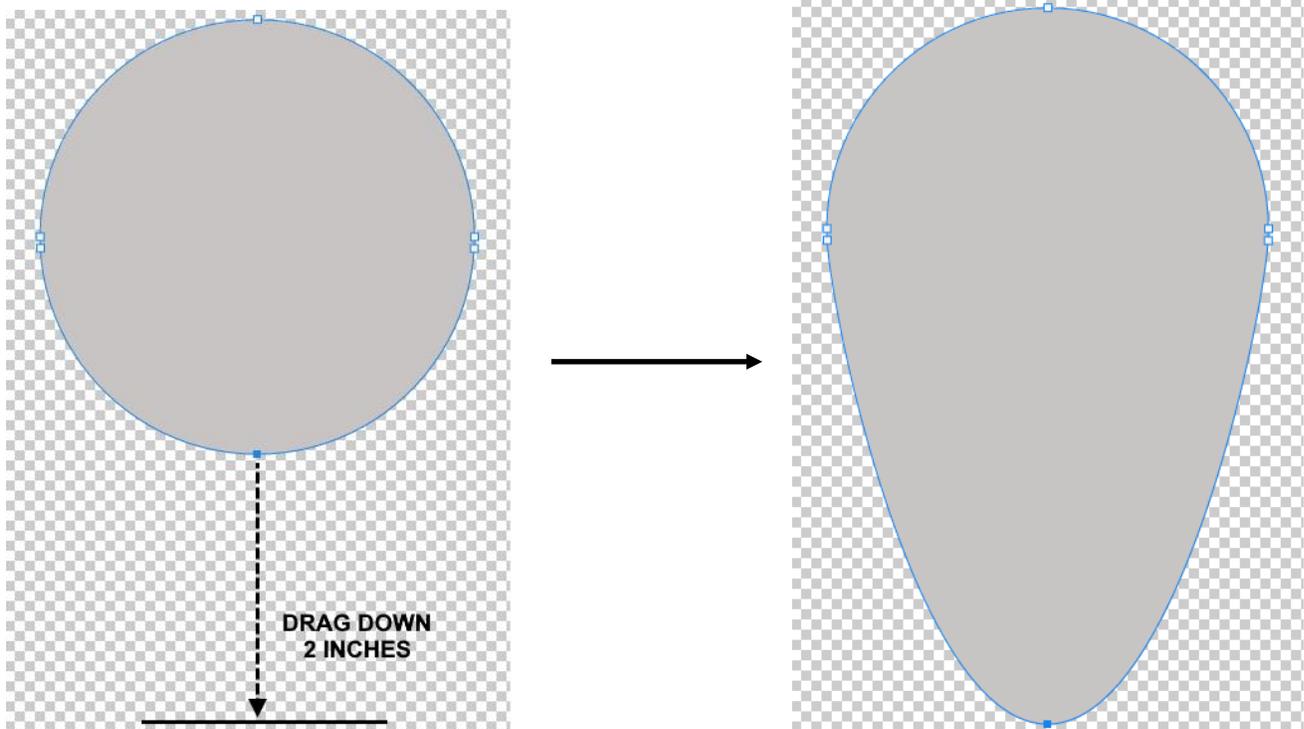


- Get the Curvature Pen Tool. It's nested with the Pen Tool.
- In the Tool Options, set the Tool Mode to Shape. Leave all other settings the same.

- On the document, hover the cursor over the anchor point at the bottom of the circle. When the anchor point turns blue and the cursor changes from the Curvature Pen to an arrow, hold down the Shift key and click and drag down about 2 inches.

NOTE: Holding down the Shift key while clicking and dragging ensures that the item maintains its horizontal or vertical position.

NOTE: If you don't see the anchor points, check that the Geomarker layer is active in the Layers panel and the Curvature Pen Tool is selected, then hold down the Ctrl key (Mac: Cmd) and click once inside the circle.



- Press Ctrl + (Mac: Cmd +) to zoom into the image to see the bottom anchor point better. To reposition the zoom, hold down the Space bar and click and drag on the document.

- On the document, hover the cursor over the anchor point at the bottom of the circle. When the cursor changes from the Curvature Pen to an arrow, double click on the bottom anchor point.
- Press Ctrl 0 (Mac: Cmd 0) to fit the image to your screen.

NOTE: The Curvature Pen Tool makes it easy to switch between drawing straight lines and curves. Double-clicking on the bottom anchor point switched it from a smooth curve to a corner.

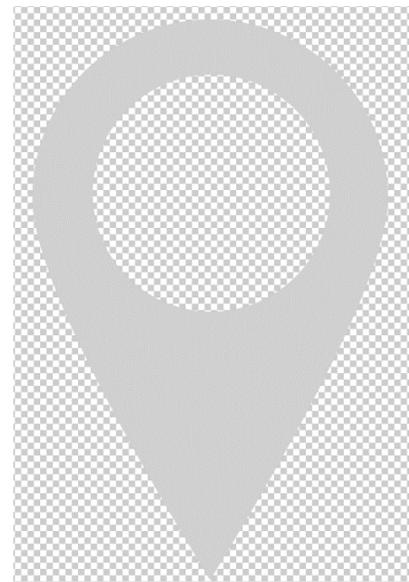
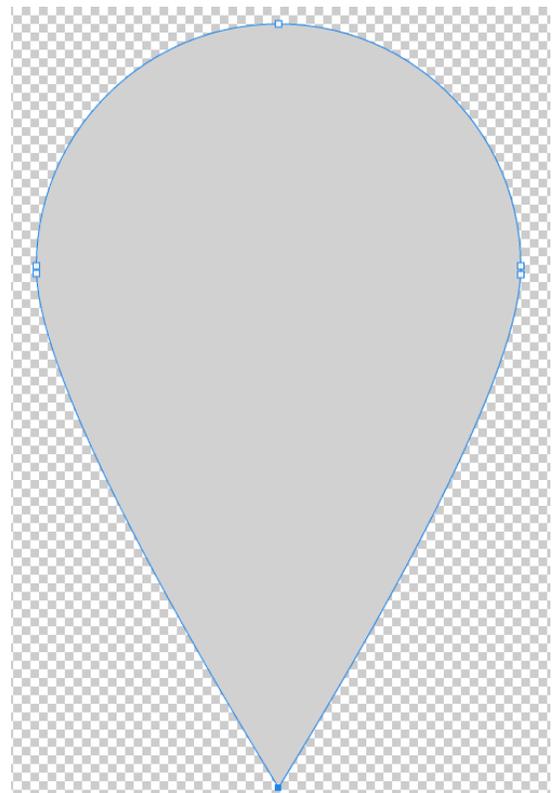
NOTE: If you don't see the anchor points, check that the Geomarker layer is active in the Layers panel and the Curvature Pen Tool is selected, then hold down the Ctrl key (Mac: Cmd) and click once inside the circle.

NOTE: If you double click and another anchor point is added, press Ctrl Z (Mac: Cmd Z) to undo the last step and then try again.

- In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Rasterize > Shape.

Create a Circle Cutout

- In the Layers panel, hold down the Ctrl key (Mac: Cmd key) and click on the thumbnail of the Circle layer to get a selection outline.
- In the Layers panel, the Geomarker layer should be the active layer.
- Press the Backspace key (Mac: Delete key) to remove the selected pixels from the Geomarker layer.
- Press Ctrl D (Mac: Cmd D) to deselect.



Save

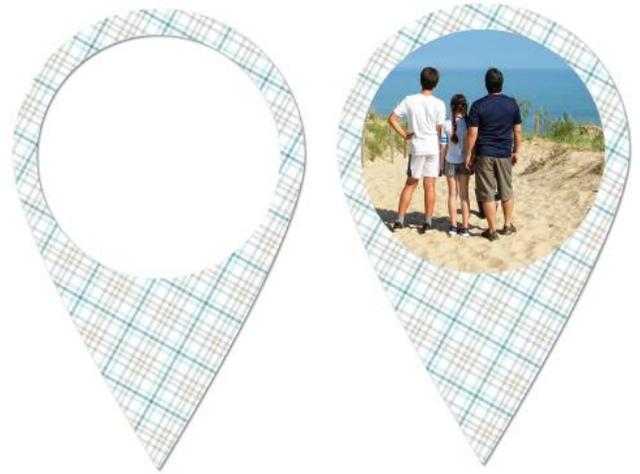
- To create a flattened image, save the document (File > Save As) as a PNG file with a unique name.
- To preserve the layers for later use, save the document (File > Save As) as a PSD file with a unique name.

Finishing Tips

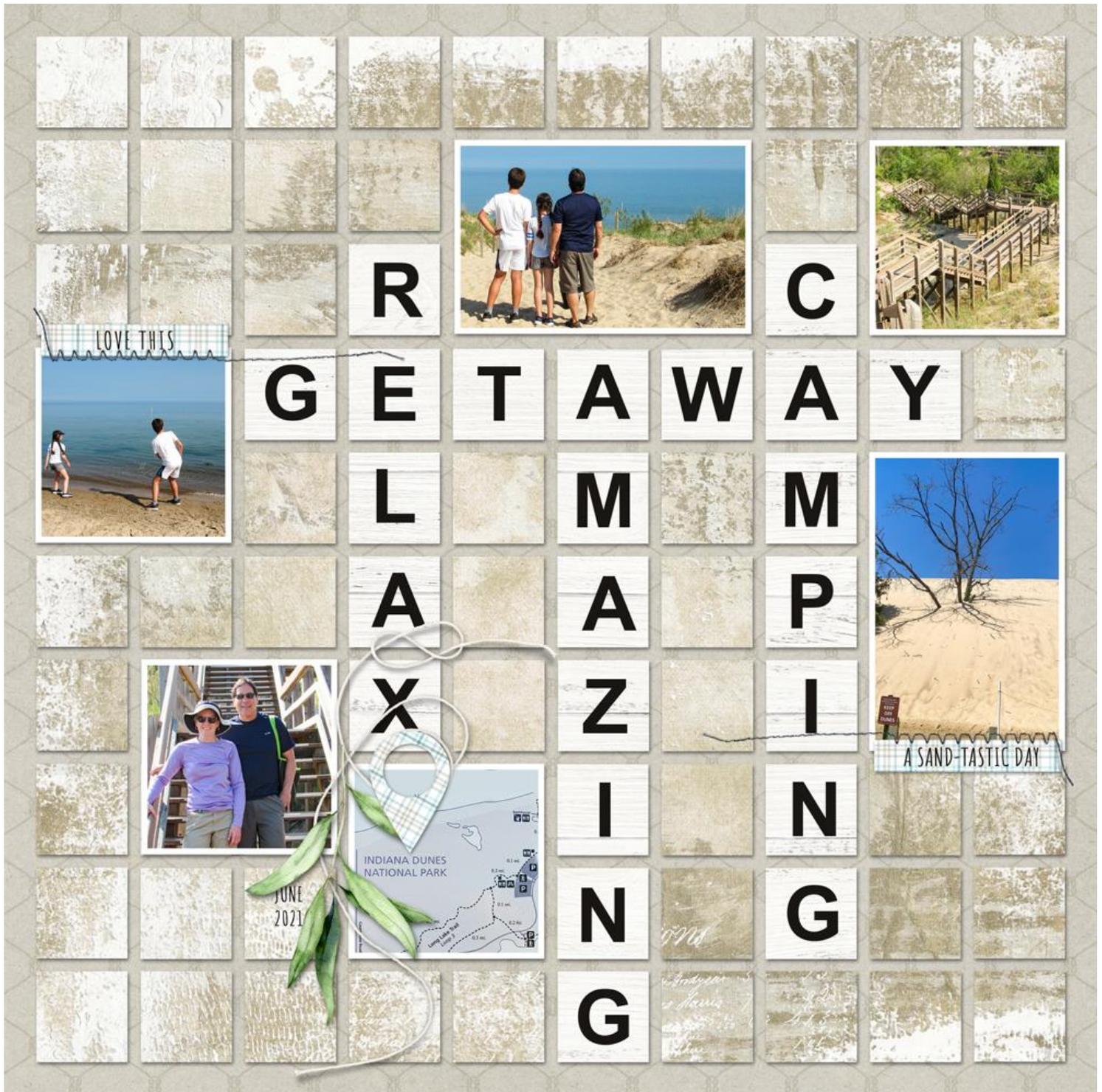
- Add a drop shadow to the Geomarker layer. Use the Geomarker layer as a paper clipping mask or fill the layer with a different color.
- Reveal the Circle layer, then add a heart or smiley face to create these adorable elements. Clip coordinating papers to the Geomarker and Circle layers, then tuck it into a cluster on your scrapbook page or card.



- Vary the size of the Circle cutout for the Geomarker layer.
- The Circle layer can also be used as a photo clipping mask.



I used a geomarker on my Getaway page. I love how it draws attention to the map of where we were.



Page & Photos: Julie Singco
Tutorial: Digital Scrapper Premier 2021, Volume 5: Geomarker
Kit: Shore Thing by Kim B Designs
Fonts: Arial, Amatic SC