



10 Timeless Titles, Vol. 1

## Matchy Gradient Title (Photoshop Elements)

by Julie Singco

Quickly create a color-coordinating title using the Type tool and a Gradient.

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## Prepare the Workspace

- Begin in Expert mode of Photoshop Elements.
- 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.

## Type a Word or Phrase

- Get the Horizontal Type tool.
- In the Tool Options, open the Font Picker and choose a font. This tutorial will work for any font style. I'll choose Arial.
- Set the Size to 125, the Leading to Auto, and the Tracking to 0. The Color Chip should be black. If it's not, click on it and choose black. Click on the Center Align icon and check Anti-aliasing.
- On the document, click once near the center of the empty space to place your cursor.
- Type a word or small phrase. Since this is my template, I'll use "Page Title."
- To reposition the word, hold down the Ctrl key (Mac: Cmd key) and click and drag inside the bounding box.
- Click the checkmark to commit the type.

# Page Title

## Add a Gradient Fill Adjustment Layer

- In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > New Fill Layer > Gradient.
- In the New Layer dialog box, check Use Previous Layer to Create Clipping Mask. Click OK to close the dialog box.
- In the Gradient Fill dialog box, set the Angle to 0 degrees. Click directly on the gradient (not the arrow) to open the Gradient Editor.

## Why click on the gradient instead of the arrow?

Clicking on the arrow opens the Gradient Picker. In the Gradient Picker, you choose from predefined gradients with colors that may or may not coordinate with your project. Those work fine for some projects. Clicking on the gradient opens the Gradient Editor, where you can customize the colors of the gradient to match your project.

- In the Gradient Editor, set the Preset to Default, and choose Foreground to Background. If you do not see Foreground to Background, open the flyout menu and choose Large List.
- Click on the left Color Stop. Color Stops are the little squares below the strip of color. When a Color Stop is selected, the tiny triangle near the square will turn black.
- Click on the Color Chip to open the Color Picker, and choose red. Since this is our template, the colors we choose are not important. Click OK to close the Color Picker.

- Click once below the strip of color, about halfway between the left and right Color Stops. Now there are three Color Stops. Click on the Color Chip, choose orange, and click OK.
- Click on the right Color Stop. Click on the Color Chip, choose blue, and click OK.

# Page Title

## Why isn't there more red and blue on the title?

The Gradient colors span the entire document. Picture the strip of color in the Gradient Editor as going from the left side of the document to the right side. Our title only covers the middle half of the document. The Color Stops can be moved to allow more red and blue to show up on our title.

- In the Gradient Editor, click and drag on the Left Color Stop, moving it to the right about half the distance to the middle Color Stop. The placement of the Color Stop doesn't have to be perfect; just move it far enough to see more red in the title. When moving the Color Stops, the gradient on the document reflects the change when the mouse is released.

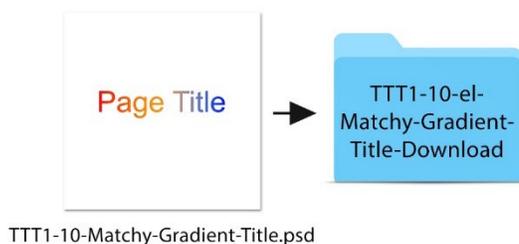
NOTE: If you accidentally add another Color Stop when clicking and dragging, press Ctrl Z (Mac: Cmd Z) to undo the last step and then try again.

- Click and drag on the Right Color Stop, moving it to the left about one-third of the total distance to the middle Color Stop. The placement of the Color Stop doesn't have to be perfect; just move it far enough to see more blue in the title.
- Click OK to close the Gradient Editor.
- In the Gradient Fill dialog box, set the Style to Linear, and the Scale to 100%. Uncheck Reverse, but check Dither & Align with layer. Click OK.

# Page Title

## Save and Use the Template

Save the document (File > Save As) as a layered PSD file inside the class files download folder. Name the document "TTT1-10-Matchy-Gradient-Title.psd". We'll be using this file in the next step.



## **Add the Title Layers to a Project**

- Open the TTT1-10-Layered-Quick-Page.psd file (File > Open) from the class files download folder.

NOTE: If you get a warning dialog box about text layers, place a checkmark next to Don't Show Again and then click Update.

- In the Layers panel of the Quick Page, click on the topmost background paper layer to activate it.
- Activate the TTT1-10- Matchy-Gradient-Title.psd document that you saved in the last step.
- In the Layers panel, click on the title layer to activate it.
- Holding down the Shift key, click on the Gradient Fill 1 layer. Now both layers should be active.
- Get the Move tool.
- In the Tool Options, Auto Select Layer needs to be unchecked.
- On the document, hold down the Shift key and click and drag the layers onto the layered quick page. The title layers should still be active.
- On the document, click and drag the layers to reposition.

## **How To Change the Title**

- In the Layers panel, double click on the thumbnail of the title layer to highlight the type.
- Type a different word or phrase. I'll type "BUS STOP."
- Click the checkmark to commit the type.
- Get the Horizontal Type tool.
- In the Tool Options, choose a different font. I'll choose FFF Tusj. Adjust the font size as needed.
- On the document, hold down the Ctrl key (Mac: Cmd key) and click and drag inside the bounding box to reposition.
- In the Layers panel, double click on the thumbnail of the Gradient Fill 1 layer.
- In the dialog box, click directly on the gradient (not the arrow) to open the Gradient Editor.
- In the Gradient Editor, click on a Color Stop. Click on the Color Chip to open the Color Picker. Choose a different color in the Color Picker, or sample a color on the document. Click OK to close the Color Picker.
- Repeat the above step for each Color Stop.

TIP: Depending on the length of the title and its placement on the document, the Color Stops might need to be moved. Picture the strip of color in the Gradient Editor as going from the left side of the document to the right side.

- Click OK to close the Gradient Editor.
- In the Layer Style dialog box, change the Angle to achieve different looks. Try setting the Angle to 90 or 45 degrees.

TIP: If you change the Angle, the Color Stops will need to be moved. Click directly on the gradient (not the arrow) to open the Gradient Editor. Move the Color Stops until the desired effect is achieved.

- Click OK to close the dialog box.

### How To Replace the Journaling of the Layered Quick Page

- In the Layers panel, double click on the thumbnail of the journaling layer to highlight all the type.
- Type in your journaling and click the checkmark to commit the change.
- To change the font, get the Horizontal Type tool. In the Tool Options, open the Font Picker and choose a different font.

### Ideas for Finishing the Title

Change the colors of the Gradient Overlay to coordinate with colors in a photo or element on the page.



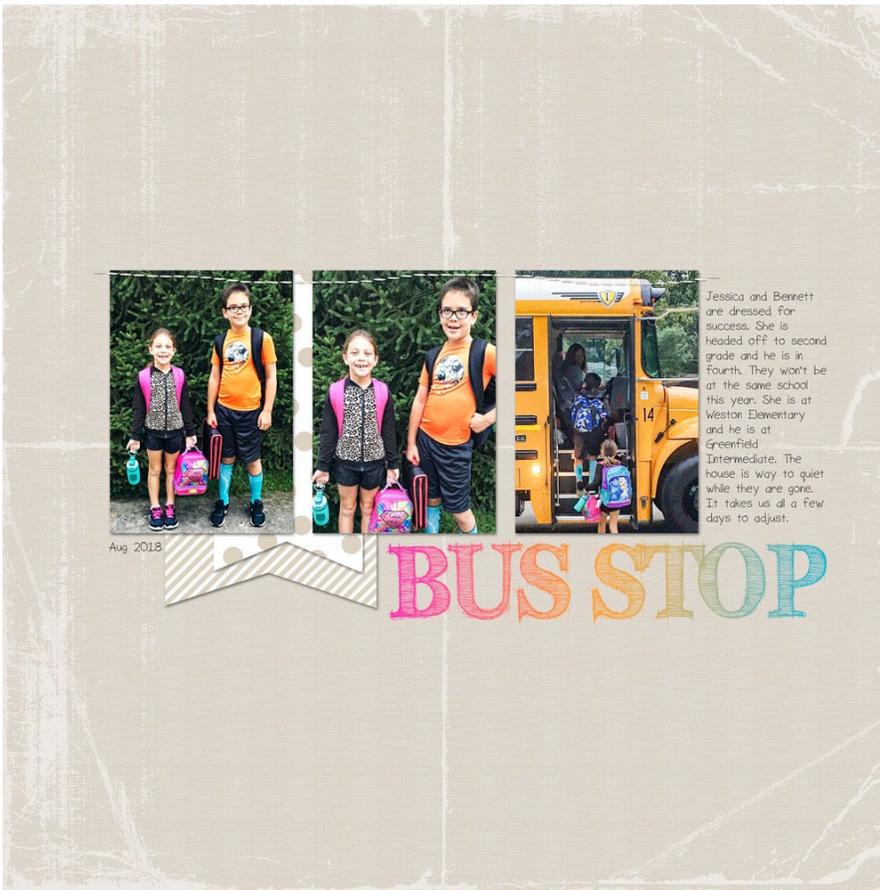
Change the Angle of the Gradient Overlay. Try setting the Angle to 0, 45, or 90 degrees. Depending on the length of the title and its placement on the document, the Color Stops might need to be moved.



0 degrees      45 degrees      90 degrees

If the font is chunky enough, you can add a drop shadow to the type layer.





Page & Photos: Bus Stop by Julie Singco  
 Quick Page: 10 Timeless Titles, Vol. 1  
 by Digital Scrapper  
 Fonts: FFF Tusj, Sorbet LTD



Card: Julie Singco  
 Kit: Menagerie by One Little Bird  
 Font: Impact