CS2-SR-01-ps-SnowGlobe-Trees-manual

Christmas Greetings 2
Snow Globe Holiday Trees (Adobe Photoshop)
by Syndee Rogers

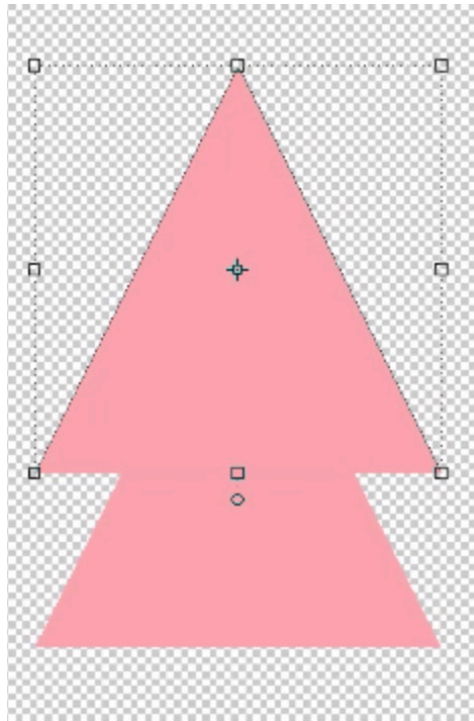Take the Shape and Brush tool in new directions with a fun set of holiday trees as we kick off our snow globe card.

Step One: Prepare the Workspace

• Create a new 7 x 7 inch document (File > New) at 300 ppi with a transparent background.
• Get the Move tool.
• In the Tool Options, check Auto Select Layer and Show Transform Controls.

Step Two: Create the Tree Base

• Click on the Foreground Color Chip, and in the Color Picker choose a color, I used Hex Code
#ffa6ad. Click OK.
• Get the Custom Shape tool. It's located with the other shape tools.
• In the Tool Options, open the Shape Picker and choose the Triangle shape. If you don't see it, open the Shape menu, and choose Shapes.
• **(Not in Video-New for PSCC2020)** In the Shape panel (Window > Shapes), open the flyout menu and choose Legacy Shapes and More. Then choose All Legacy Default Shapes > Shapes > Triangle.
• Set the Mode to Shape, the Fill to Solid Color, the Stroke to None, and the the Path Operations to New Layer. Open the Path Options and choose Fixed Size, set both the Width and Height to 2.6 inches.
• On the left side of your document, click and drag slightly to create the shape.
• Press Ctrl J or (Mac: Cmd J) to duplicate the triangle.
• Get the Move tool.

- On your document, hold down the Shift key and click and drag the triangle shape straight up so the triangle shapes create a two tiered tree.

- In the Layers panel, activate the top triangle shape.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Edit > Transform Path > Skew.
- On the document, click on the bottom left corner handle of the bounding box and drag straight up. This gives the tree shape a more whimsical look. Click the checkmark to commit.

- In the Layers panel, hold down the Shift key and click on both the triangle layers to activate the them.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Merge Shapes. This keeps the tree a Shape layer. Which allows you to quickly recolor it by double clicking on it's thumbnail in the Layers panel.
- Click on the Foreground Color Chip to open the Color Picker, and choose a brown for the tree trunk. I used Hex Code #9d8d6f. Then Click OK.
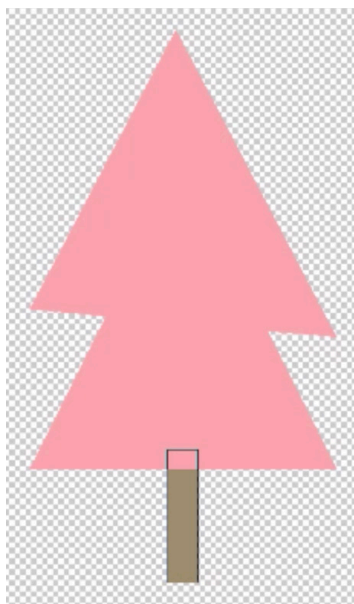
Step Three: Create the Tree Trunk

- In the Layers panel, click on the Create a New Layer icon.
- In the Layers panel, click and drag the new layer down below the tree layer.
- Get the Rectangle tool.
- Set the Mode to Shape, the Fill to Solid Color, the Stroke to None, and the the Path Operations to New Layer. Open the Path Options and choose Fixed Size, set the Width to .26 inches and the Height to 1.12 inches.
- On the document, at the bottom of the tree, click and drag to create the shape and move it into position under the tree.

Note: As long as you don't let go of your mouse or pen you can move the trunk into position. If you still need to position your shape:
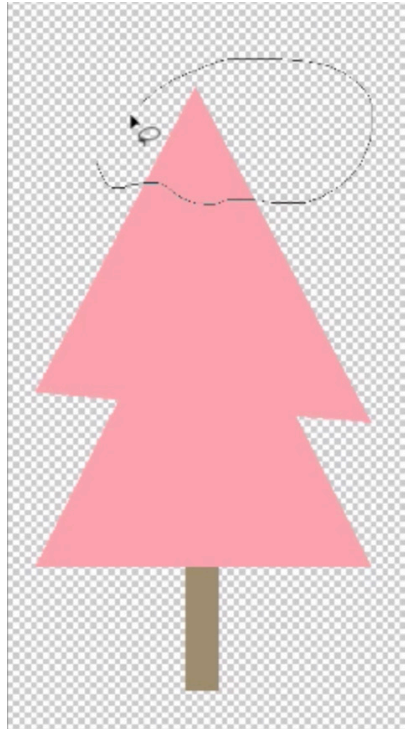
- Get the Move tool.
- On the document, click on the tree trunk and move so that it is centered and slightly under the bottom of your tree.

Step Four: Create the Snow Cap

- In the Layers panel, activate the tree shape.
- Press Ctrl J or (Mac: Cmd J) to duplicate the tree.
- In the In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Rasterize > Shape.
- Get the Lasso tool.

- In the Tool Options, click on the New Selection icon, set the Feather to 0 px, and check Anti-alias.
- On the document, right on the top of the tree shape, click and draw out a selection around the top of the tree to mimic fallen snow.

- In the Menu Bar, choose Select > Inverse.
- Press the Backspace key (Mac: Delete key) so only the selected portion of the tree remains.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Select > Deselect.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Image > Adjustments > Hue/Saturation and move the Lightness Slider all the way to the right side until the tree top turns white. Click OK.

- In the Layers panel, click on the top tree layer to activate it.
- In the Layers panel, with your top layer activated, hold down the Shift key and click on the tree trunk layer. Now all the tree layers should be activated.
- In the Layers panel, click on the Link icon at the bottom left of the layers panel, to link the layers together. That ensures the tree layers all stay together when moved.

Step Five: Create a Christmas Tree

- In the Layers panel, activate the top layer.
- Click on the Foreground Color Chip to open the Color Picker and choose a color. I used Hex Code #b0d387. Click OK.
- Get the Custom Shape tool.
- In the Tool Options, open the Shape Picker and choose the Triangle shape.
- **(Not in Video-New for PSCC2020)** In the Shape panel (Window > Shapes), open the flyout menu and choose Legacy Shapes and More. Then choose All Legacy Default Shapes > Shapes > Triangle.
- Set the Mode to Shape, the Fill to Solid Color, the Stroke to None, and the the Path Operations to New Layer. Open the Path Options and choose Fixed Size, set the Width to 2.6 inches and Height to 3.8 inches and.
- On the document, on the right side of the pink tree, click and drag slightly to create the shape. And before letting go of your mouse or pen, move so that it's overlapping your pink tree a bit.

- Get the Move tool.
- In the Layers panel, activate the tree trunk.
- Press Ctrl or (Mac: Cmd J) to duplicate it.
- On the document, click and move the duplicate tree trunk under the new green tree and center it.

Step Six: Add Lights to the Tree

- In the Layers panel, activate the green tree shape.
- Click on the Create a New Layer icon. Make sure it's right above the green tree layer.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Create Clipping Mask to clip the blank layer to the green tree.
- Get the Brush tool.
- In the Tool Options, open the Brush Picker and choose a Hard Round brush from the General Brushes.
- Set the size to 32 px, the Mode to Normal, Opacity to 100%, and the Flow to 100%.
- Open the Brush Settings and Set the Spacing to 201%.
- Click on the Foreground Color Chip and in the Color Picker choose White.
- On the document, click and draw with your brush right on top of the tree to mimic a string of lights.

Step Seven: Save the Brush (Optional)

- In the Tool Options, open the Brush Picker, and then open the flyout menu and choose Save Brush. Give it a name, something like CG2 Snow Globe Lights and click Save.
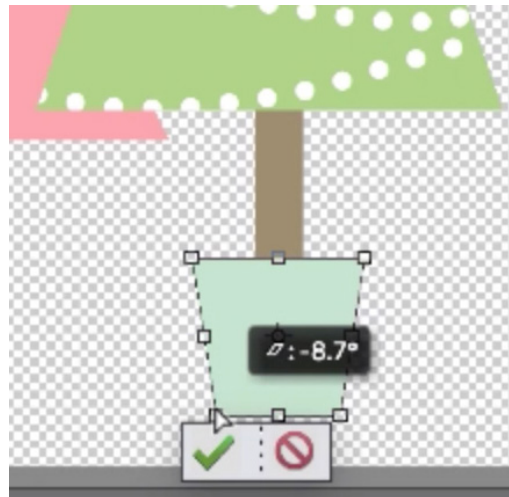
Step Eight: Create the Planter Base

- Click on the Foreground Color Chip to open the Color Picker and choose a color for the planter base. I used Hex Code #c6e4cf. Click OK.
- Get the Rounded Rectangle tool.
- Set the Mode to Shape, the Fill to Solid Color, the Stroke to None, and the the Path Operations to New Layer. Open the Path Options and choose Fixed Size, set the Width to .96 inches and Height to .88 inches. Set the Radius to 10 px.

- On the document, click and drag slightly at the bottom of the tree trunk to create the shape.
- Get the Move tool.
- On the document, click and move into position.

Step Nine: Modify the Planter Shape

- In the Menu Bar, choose Edit> Transform Path > Perspective.
- On the document, click and drag inward from the bottom left corner handle of the bounding box. Click the checkmark to commit.

- Click on the Foreground Color Chip to open the Color Picker and choose a slightly lighter color for the planter top. I used Hex Code #c9ecd6. Click OK.
- Get the Rounded Rectangle tool.
- In the Tool Options, leave all the settings the same except set the Width to 1.08 inches and the Height to .19 inches.
- On your document, click and drag slightly at the top of the planter to create the shape.
- Get the Move tool.

- On the document, click on the planter top and move into position so that it's centered on top of the planter base.

Step Ten: Save the Document

- Save your document (File > Save) as a psd. I would suggest including the class name and holiday trees at the end so that it's easy to find for the next lesson.