



Lesson 2: Mad 4 Plaid Manual © Syndee Rogers

This video was filmed in Photoshop Elements but the instructions are just the same in Adobe Photoshop unless where noted.

****PLEASE NOTE:** In this lesson we create the basic components for our Plaid overlay design. It may not look very 'plaid' at this stage. In subsequent lessons we will be refining our plaid to really make it 'shine' and look like plaid as we know it.

Prepare the Workspace

- In the Menu Bar, choose View > Snap to > Guides.
- Get Move tool.
- In the Tool Options, check Auto Select Layer and Show Bounding Box. (**Photoshop:** Check Auto-Select Layer and Show Transform Controls).
- Press the letter D to reset the Color Chips to the default of black over white.

Create the Pattern Swatch

- Open the original stripe pattern swatch. (File > Open) Make a duplicate copy (File > Duplicate). (**Photoshop:** Image > Duplicate)
- Close the original.
- Zoom in by pressing Ctrl + (Mac: Cmd +)
- In the Layers panel, activate the top layer and merge the two stripe layers by pressing Ctrl E or (Mac: Cmd E).
- Click on the Create a New Layer icon in the layers panel.
- In the Menu bar, choose New Guide. Set the Vertical Orientation to 75% and then click OK.

- Get the Rectangular Marquee Tool. And In the Tool Options, make sure Feather is zero pixels and set the Aspect to Fixed Size.
(**Photoshop:** set the Style to Fixed Size. Enter 5 pixels for the Width and 100 pixels for the height.)
- On your Document, right in the middle on the crosshairs of your guidelines, click and hold with your mouse and then press the Alt (Mac: Opt) to snap our selection to the center. Or close enough to the center of our new guideline.
- Press Alt Backspace (Mac: Option Delete) to fill the selection with Black.
- Press Ctrl D or (Mac: Cmd D) to deselect.
- Hide the thick stripe layer by clicking on the Visibility icon next to it's layer in the Layers panel.
- Make a duplicate copy of the thin stripe layer by pressing Ctrl J or (Mac: Cmd J).
- In the Menu bar, choose Filter > Other > Offset. In the pop up window, choose Rasterize. Set both the Horizontal and the Vertical to 50 pixels. Set the Undefined Areas to Wrap Around and Click OK.

Define the Pattern

- In the Menu bar, choose Edit > Define Pattern. In the dialog box, name the pattern Plaid Stripe Thin. Click OK.
- Click on the Visibility icon of the Thin Stripe layers to hide it. Click on the Visibility icon of the Thick Stripe layer to turn it back on.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Edit > Define Pattern. And name the pattern Plaid Stripe Thick. Click OK.

Save the Pattern Swatch

- In the Menu Bar, choose File > Save As and Navigate to a folder where you want to save it and give it a name, save it as a psd. Click save.
- Close your Swatch.

Normally, at this stage in the game we would create a new 12x12 inch document and add a Pattern Fill layer. But, remember my Color Hack from the last lesson? This time we have a Pattern hack.

PATTERN HACK:

- Open the Multi-dot template from the last lesson.
- In the Menu Bar, choose File > Duplicate. (**Photoshop:** choose Image > Duplicate.) Name it Plaid Overlay and Click OK.
- Close your original Multi-dot template

Swap the Patterns

- Click on the Visibility icon of both Color Fill layers to hide them.
- In the Layers panel, double-click on the bottom Dots Pattern thumbnail. In the dialog box open the Pattern Picker and choose the Plaid Thin Stripe pattern. Change the scale to 200% and click OK.
- Double-click on the 2nd Dots Pattern thumbnail. In the dialog box, open the Pattern Picker and choose the Plaid Thick Stripe pattern. Change the scale to 200% and click OK.

Rename the Layers

Since there are going to be several layers to this overlay, name the pattern layers to stay organized.

- In the Layers panel, double-click on the name of Thin Stripe pattern layer and rename it Plaid Thin Stripe, do the same for the Thick Striped pattern layer and name it Plaid Thick Stripe.
- Activate the Plaid Thick Stripe layer and press Ctl J (Mac: Cmd J). And rename it Plaid Thick Horizontal. Do the same for the Thin Stripe layer, and rename it Plaid Thin Horizontal.

Simplify the Layers

- Making sure you are on the Plaid Thin Horizontal Layer, in the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Simplify Layer. (**Photoshop:** in the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Layer Mask > Delete to get rid of the layer mask. Then go back to Layer > Rasterize > Layer)
- Activate the Plaid Thick Horizontal layer.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Simplify Layer. (**Photoshop:** in the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Layer Mask > Delete to get rid of the layer mask. Then go back to Layer > Rasterize > Layer.)

Rotate the Layers

- In the Menu Bar, choose Image > Rotate > Rotate Layer 90 degrees Right, to rotate the Plaid Horizontal Thick layer. (**Photoshop:** in the Menu Bar, choose Edit > Transform > Rotate 90 degrees Clockwise)
- Activate the Plaid Thin Horizontal layer.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Image > Rotate > Rotate Layer 90 degrees Right, to rotate the Plaid Thin Horizontal layer. (**Photoshop:** in the Menu Bar, choose Edit > Transform > Rotate 90 degrees Clockwise)

Duplicate the Color Fill Layer

- In the Layers panel, activate the top Color Fill layer.
- Click on the Visibility icon of the top Color Fill layer in the layers panel to turn it back on.
- Press Ctrl J (Mac: Cmd J) to duplicate the layer.
- In the Layers panel, drag the duplicate layer down above the Plaid Thick layer. In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Create Clipping Mask to clip the Color Fill layer to our Pattern layer.
- Activate the Color Fill layer above the Plaid Thin Horizontal Pattern layer.
- Press Ctrl J (Mac: Cmd J) to duplicate the layer
- Drag the duplicate layer down above the Plaid Thin layer.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Create Clipping Mask.

Save your Document

- Save your document (File > Save find location.



As) as a layered PSD in an easy to