Perfectly Personal Word Art
Paper Strip Template 05 – Photoshop
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TOU

Step One: Prepare the Workspace

- I've already created a new document that is 3 inches wide by 0.6 inches high at 300ppi with a white background.
- Press the letter D to reset the Color Chips.

Step Two: Create the Main Rectangle

- Now, click on the Foreground Color Chip to open the Color Picker and choose a medium gray color. I'm using Hex #:959595. Click OK.
- Press Alt Backspace (Mac: Opt Delete) to fill the Background layer with the Foreground color.

Step Three: Create the Bracket Accents

- Click on the Foreground Color Chip to open the Color Picker and choose a light gray color. I'm using Hex #: cccccc. Click OK.
- In the Layers panel, click on the Create a New Layer icon.
- Press Ctrl A (Mac: Cmd A) to Select All.

- In the Menu Bar, choose Select > Modify > Contract.
- In the dialog box, set the Contract by to 15 px and click to check the option to Apply Effect at Canvas Bounds. Click OK.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Edit > Stroke.
- In the dialog box, set the Width to 5 px, set the Location to Inside, set the Blending Mode to Normal and the Opacity to 100%. Uncheck Preserve Transparency. Click OK.
- Press Ctrl D (Mac: Cmd D) to deselect.

- Get the Rectangular Marquee Tool.
- In the Tool Options, click on the New Selection icon. Set the Feather to 0px and the Style to Fixed Size. Set the Width to 2.5 inches and the Height to 0.6 inches.
- On the document, click and drag the selection until it's centered on the document.

- Press Backspace (Mac: Delete) to remove the stroke outline from the selected portion.
- Press Ctrl D (Mac: Cmd D) to deselect.
- In the Layers panel, double click on the name of this layer and change it to Bracket Accents. Press Enter to commit the name change.

Step Four: Add the Type

- Press the letter X to switch the Foreground Color to White.
- Get the Horizontal Type tool.
- In the Tool Options, set the Font to Myriad Pro, the Size to 24pts, and the Alignment to Center.
- On the document, click once and type TEXT HERE in all caps. Click the checkmark to commit.
- Get the Move tool.
- Press Ctrl A (Mac: Cmd A) to Select All.
- In the Tool Options, click on the Align Vertical Centers icon and the Align Horizontal Centers icon.
- Press Ctrl D (Mac: Cmd D) to deselect.

Step Five: Save As

Now you can save this template as Paper-Strip-Template-05.psd in the same folder as the previous templates.

Tips:

In the last two lessons, I've showed you that you can create a simple cluster using your custom paper strips. But the options don't stop here. This time around, I've created a cluster using my custom paper strip and an alpha from a kit.

Here are some tips on how to create your own alpha plus custom paper strip cluster.

1. Use an Anchor.

Similar to the other clusters, providing an anchor behind your cluster is a great way to add visual interest without overpowering your focal point. In this case, I used a star scatter but you can also use paint, scribbles, or a mask of some kind.

2. Keep it Simple.

When you use an alpha, there are already a lot of pieces to this cluster. You don't need a lot of stuff here to make a great visual impact. So, keep the extra elements to a minimum.

3. Use Custom Shadows.

When you have simple clusters like this, take the time to use a custom shadow on your paper strip. It adds that special touch that really makes your designs look top notch.

And to help inspire you, here's how I used my alpha paper strip cluster on a digital scrapbook page. It was the perfect way to draw the eye to the photo without distracting from the design.

Credits:
Paper Strip Template: Jenifer Juris

Page & Photo: Jenifer Juris
Paper Strip Template: Jenifer Juris
Kit: Liberty For All by Mommyish
Fonts: Boston Traffic, Veteran Typewriter