



Perfectly Personal Word Art Circle Template 03 – Photoshop Elements

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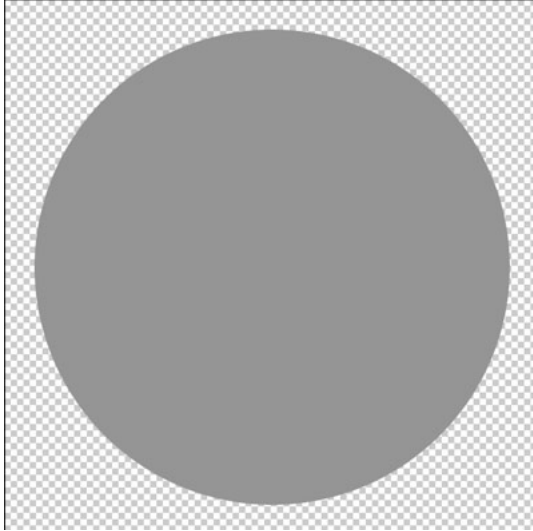
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Step One: Prepare the Workspace

- Create a new document (File > New > Blank File) that is 2.25 inches by 2.25 inches at 300ppi with a transparent background.
- Press the letter D to reset the Color Chips.

Step Two: Create the Main Circle

- Click on the Foreground Color Chip to open the Color Picker and choose a medium gray color. I'm using Hex #: 959595. Click OK.
- Get the Elliptical Marquee tool.
- In the Tool Options, click on the New Selection icon and set the Feather to 0px. Set the Aspect to Fixed Size and enter a Width and Height of 2.0 inches. Check Anti-Aliasing.
- On the document, click and drag to create the selection. Make sure the whole selection is on the document before you let go.
- Press Alt Backspace (Mac: Opt Delete) to fill the selection with the foreground color.
- Press Ctrl D (Mac: Cmd D) to deselect.
- Press Ctrl A (Mac: Cmd A) to Select All.
- Get the Move tool.
- 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.
- In the Layers panel, double click on the name of this layer and change it to Main Circle. Press Enter to commit the name change.



Step Two: Create the Dot Border

- Click on the Foreground Color Chip to open the Color Picker and choose a light gray color. I'm using Hex #: cccccc. Click OK.
- Get the Ellipse tool.
- In the Tool Options, set the Style to None and the Geometry Options to Fixed Size. Enter a Width and Height of 1.75 inches. Click on the Create a New Shape Layer icon.
- On the document, click and drag to create the shape.
- Press Ctrl A (Mac: Cmd A) to Select All.
- Get the Move tool.
- 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.
- 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 Bold, the Size to 10pts, the Alignment to Center, and the Tracking to 159.

NOTE: If you do not have a newer version of PSE that has the Tracking option in the Type tool, please see the downloads for this section of the class. I've included an action for you to use that will change the Tracking of your type layer to 159. See below for instructions on how to use the Action.

- On the document, place your cursor just above the top edge of the light gray circle. You'll see the Type on a Path cursor show up. Click once and instead of typing words, we need to use the keyboard shortcut for a bullet point. On a Mac, that shortcut is Alt + 8. On a PC, that shortcut is Alt + 0149. Windows users, when you type this shortcut, you need to use the numbers of the Number Keypad portion of your keyboard. This means that if you try to use the numbers at the top of your keyboard (instead of on the right), this shortcut might not work. Also, the bullet point will not show up until after you release the Alt key. So keep this in mind.

- At this point, windows users will want to select the one bullet point they typed and press Ctrl C to Copy it. Then press Ctrl V to Paste the bullet point as many times as necessary to close the circle.
- Mac users can either use the copy and paste method I just mentioned or you can press and hold the Alt key and the 8 key until you fill the circle. Click the checkmark to commit.

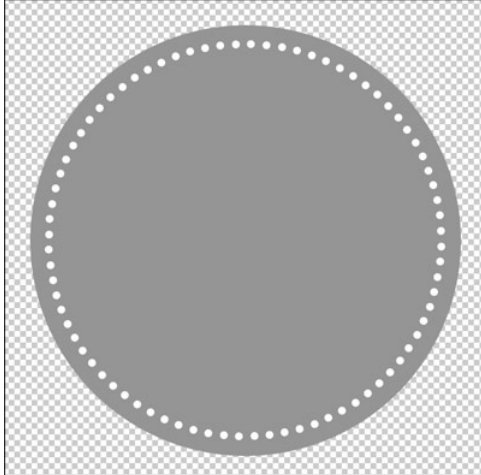
NOTE: For those using the Tracking +159 Action, please fill the type layer with bullet points without any spaces.

Older Versions of PSE: Using the Action

- Locate the downloads for this lesson and download and unzip the actions file for this lesson. In this Action Set are 3 Actions: Tracking +157, Tracking +158, Tracking +159. I have found that depending on the computer I'm using, I have to use any one of these settings to get the dots to be equally spaced all the way around. Try all 3 and see which one gets you the closest to equally spaced dots.
- In PSE, go the Menu Bar and choose Window > Actions to open the Actions panel.
- Click on the Actions Panel Menu Icon and choose Load Actions.
- Navigate to where you unzipped and saved the action set and click OK.
- With your dots type layer the active layer and the Type tool still active, run one of the actions by clicking the Play button in the Actions panel.
- If your dots don't close around the circle properly, try one of the other actions by going to the Menu Bar, and choosing Edit > Undo.
- Then play a different action to see what results you get.
- Once your dots are spaced, you can proceed with the lesson.

Both New and Old Versions:

- In the Layers panel, double click on the name of the type layer and rename it Dots. Press Enter to commit the name change.
- Also, in the Layers panel, Right click (Mac: Ctrl click) on the name of the Dots layer and choose Simplify Layer.
- In the Layers panel, drag the light gray circle to the trash.



Step Four: Add the Type

- With the Horizontal Type tool still active, in the Tool Options, set the Font to Myriad Pro Regular, the Size to 24pts, the Alignment to Center, and the Tracking to 0.
- On the document, click once and type TEXT, press Enter, then type HERE. Click the checkmark to commit.
- Press Ctrl A (Mac: Cmd A) to Select All.
- Get the Move tool.
- 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

- Save this template as Circle-Template-03.psd in the same folder as the other circle templates.

Now that we've finished creating our template together, let's look at how I customized this template.

So, here is how I chose to customize this third circle template. I used a dark blue color for the main circle and I chose a tan color for the dots and the type. I also used a bold script font that had some roughness added for visual interest.



For this circle, I knew just what I wanted to document. A while back, I was able to capture some sweet pictures of this owl from my front window. Owls are usually active at night so being able to see them during the day was a bit unusual. But I wanted to document this picture as it was the best of the bunch. So I picked a skinny frame that would really highlight the owl but also give me room to add some elements and my custom word art. I liked how this cluster came together. My word art really helps tell the story of my photo.



And here is how I used that cluster on a scrapbook page. If you haven't noticed yet, let me point out that I also used one of the paper strip templates from the homework in Section 1. The dot theme on both templates works great for using them on the same project.



So here are few tips on how I put this cluster together:

1. Tuck the Circle Word Art under a 3D object.

When you're creating a cluster, the layers and the order you layer things is so important. Tucking flat paper pieces under deep 3D objects really helps to add realism to your project.



2. Overlap the Frame

When you're placing your circle word art in a photo frame cluster, it's a good idea to overlap part of the frame. I made sure to do it on the side of the frame that was opposite of the main feature in the photo - the owl. This creates balance and visual interest all at the same time.



3. Offset the Frame with a Similar Colored Element

Because I made my paper circle a dark blue, I also wanted to use an element with that blue color on the other side of the frame. This ribbon was the perfect touch as it wasn't too large or overpowering.



Credits:

Paper Strip Template: Jenifer Juris

Page & Photo: Jenifer Juris

Kit: Nature's Playground by Kim B Designs

Fonts: Honest Script