



## Perfectly Personal Word Art Paper Strip 02 – PSE Transcript

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Now that we've completed our first paper strip template, it's time to make a second one. We're going to have some fun with shapes this time. So here we are in Photoshop elements. I've already created a new document that is 0.6 inches high by 3.5 inches wide at 300 pixels per inch. With a white background, click on the foreground color chip to open the color picker and choose a medium gray color. I'm using hex number nine five nine five nine five and then click okay. Now press alt backspace in windows or option delete on a Mac to fill the background layer with the foreground color.

Now in the layers panel, click on the create a new layer icon. Then get the rectangular marquee tool. In the tool options, click on the new selection icon, set the feather to zero and set the aspect to fixed size. Enter a width of 0.08 inches and a height of 0.6 inches. On the document, click and drag the selection all the way over to the right document edge. Then click on the foreground color chip to open the color picker and choose a light gray color. I'm using hex number CCCCCC and then click okay.

Now press alt backspace in windows or option delete on a Mac to fill the selection with the foreground color. And then press control D and windows or command D on a Mac to de-select, In the layers panel, double click on the name of this small rectangle layer and change it to right rectangle accent and then press enter to commit the name change.

Now get the rectangle shape tool. And in the tool options, set the style to none and set the geometry options to fixed size. Enter 300 pixels for the width and the height. Then click on the create a new shape layer icon. On the document, click and drag to create the square. You'll see now that the square is bigger than our document and that's exactly what we want. Now press control T in windows or command T on a Mac to get the transform options. And then in the tool options is that the angle to 45 degrees and then click the checkmark to commit. This is going to bring up a pop up window that says this operation will turn a live shape into a regular path. Click yes to continue.

Now get the move tool and press control a in windows or command a on a Mac to select all and then in the tool options, click on the align vertical centers icon.

This will ensure that our diamond shape is centered along the vertical of the document. Now press control D in windows or command D on a Mac to de-select. And on the document while holding down

the shift key, click and drag the diamond shape over to the left until it almost connects with the top and bottom corners, about like that.

In the layers panel, double click on the name of this layer and change it to left accent one and then press enter to commit the name change.

Now press control J in windows or command J on a Mac to duplicate this shape. Then click on the foreground color chip to open the color picker and choose a very light gray color. I'm using hex number E, B, E, B, E, B, and then click okay. Now press shift alt backspace in windows or shift option, delete on a Mac to fill the shape with the foreground color.

And then with the move tool still active, on the document while holding down the shift key, click and drag the duplicated shape to the left until the edges meet the top and bottom corners like that. Then in the layers panel, double click on the name of this layer and change it to left accent two and then press enter to commit the name change.

Now, get the horizontal type tool and then press the letter D to reset the color chips to the default of black over white. In the tool options, set the font to something basic. I'm using myriad pro, set the size to 24 points and set the alignment to center. On the document, click once and type the words place text here in all caps, and then click the checkmark to commit.

So now we need to center the type between the right and left accents as well as along the vertical. So to do that, let's get the rectangular marquee tool. In the tool options, change the aspect to normal, but leave all the other settings the same. On the document, click and drag a selection that goes from the point of the left accents over to the right accent and make sure it also goes from the top to the bottom. Then get the move tool and in the tool options, click on the align vertical centers icon and click on the align horizontal centers icon and then press control D in windows or command D on a Mac to de-select.

Now all that's left are a few finishing touches. So in the layers panel, right click in windows or control click on a Mac on the left one accent layer and choose simplify layer. And then repeat that step for the left accent two layer. Now press control A in windows or command A on a Mac to select all. And in the menu bar, choose image crop. This gets rid of the excess pixels outside of the document boundaries that we no longer need. Then press control D in windows or command D on a Mac to de-select. And now you can save your template. So in the menu bar, choose file save as and save this template as the same folder that you set up at the end of the previous video. Use the name paper strip template, 02 dot PSD. Just like in the last video, now that we've completed our second paper strip template, it's time to take a look at another way these paper strips can be used.

Remember, last time I showed you that you could create a photo frame cluster with a paper strip. But this time I'm going to show you how you can use the simple paper strip to create a one of a kind greeting card. So here's the card I created using the paper strip template we just made. It's simple and yet has just the right amount of visual interest with the bright pattern paper. So here's another set of tips to keep in mind when using your custom paper strips. Number one, placement is important. Where you place your paper strip on your project will either enhance the design or detract from it. Let's talk about that. Looking at this same card, let's go over a few things about paper strip placement. In this case, I placed my paper strip with purpose. I chose to design the background of my card with a rough two thirds, one third split.

I have a plain paper for the larger portion and a patterned paper for the smaller one. In this case I used my paper strip as a bridge or a connector of sorts. I placed it so that it would connect the two sections together. Now what if I had placed the paper strip, front and center? I understand the urge to do so. It's the main sentiment of the card design. But sticking paper strips in the middle of a project all by themselves is distracting instead of enhancing our design. Now instead of having one focal point which was at the split from the solid to the pattern paper, we have two competing focal points. This is a distraction to the eye instead of being pleasing. Distractions are never good for the overall design of our projects. Number two, size matters. After customizing your paper strip, which is something I'll cover in an upcoming video, you can then transfer it to a current project.

Whenever you transfer these custom paper strips to a new project, remember this, never resize your paper. Strip larger. Again, I understand the urge to do so, but just like with other elements in the kits that we use, making items larger is a bad idea. The reason is that your paper strip will then be out of proportion. When this happens, it's another distraction for the eye and whenever your eyes are distracted, the overall design is less pleasing than it could be. It's always okay to make your paper strips smaller. That's something I had to do for my greeting card so that my paper strip would look proportional to the rest of the project. Okay. We finished creating our second paper strip template. In the next video, we'll be making a third template, so I'll see you there. This is Jenifer Juris with perfectly personal word art.