Mastery1-02-ps-Handdrawn-Border-Stroke-transcript

Lesson 2
Hand-drawn Border Stroke

for PSCC
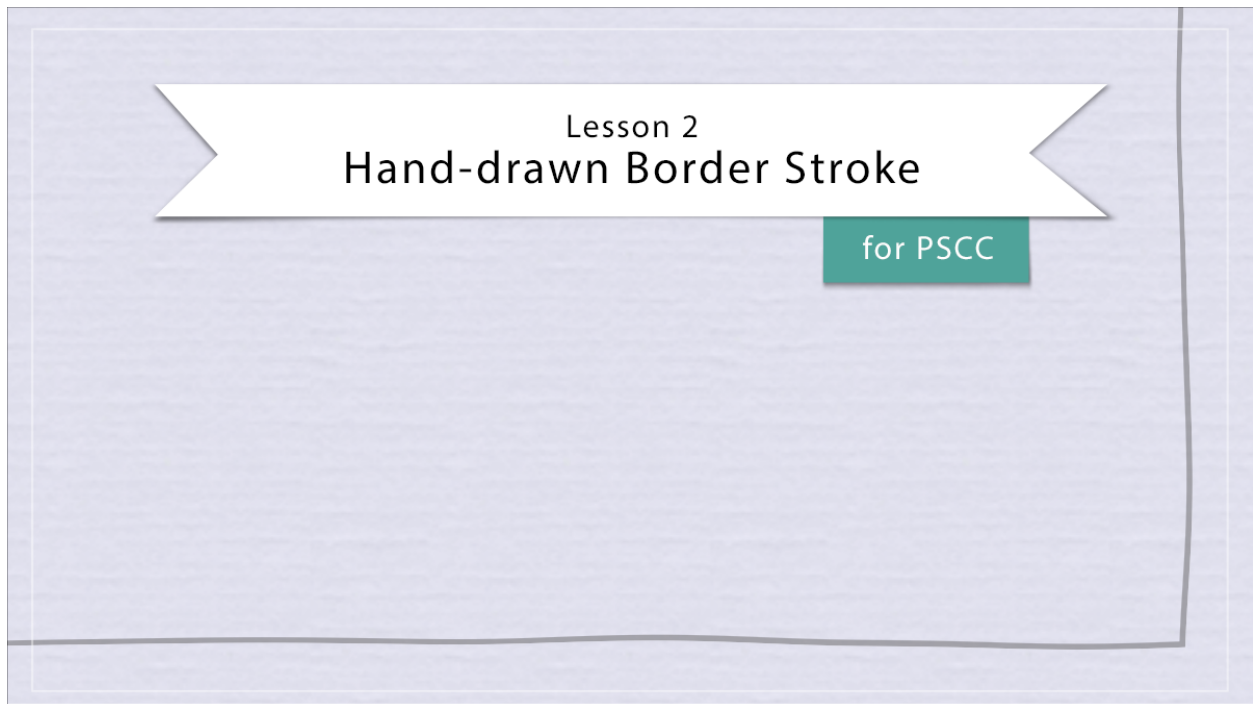
Digital Scrapbooking Mastery, No. 1
Lesson 2: Hand-drawn Border Stroke for PS
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Confine your eyes, define those borders and align your senses. Use this Shape tool method of stroke creation along with the Liquify Filter to add definition and a whimsical boundary to your background paper. Here in lesson two, we're starting with the scrapbook page that we've created and we already have one group active in the Layers panel. If you're used to creating a stroke outline with the Rectangular Marquee tool and the stroke options in the Menu Bar, here's a new method for you to try. This is my chosen method for creating stroke outlines on my scrapbook pages.

Begin by getting the Rectangle tool. It's located with the other Shape tools. Then in the Options Bar, we'll set the Path Operations to Shape. We'll set the Fill to None and then click on the Stroke icon and choose a color for the stroke.

I'm just going to choose black. Next, we have the size of the stroke, but we can adjust that in just a second. Then scoot down to the Path Operations and make sure that you have New Layer checked and finally click on additional settings and choose Unconstrained. Next on your scrapbook page, click and drag out a shape. To create a perfect square, press and hold the Shift key. I'm going to create my shape so that it has about a half an inch border all the way around. Press Ctrl A, Cmd A on a Mac, to select the entire document. Then press the letter V to get the Move tool. Then in the Options Bar, click on the Align Centers icon for horizontal and Align Centers icon for the vertical.

Now you can press Ctrl D, Cmd D on a Mac, to deselect. You should have noticed that when you created the shape, the Properties panel popped up.

I'm going to go ahead and dock that with the Layers and Swatches panel. This Properties panel is pretty slick when you're creating stroke outlines. For one thing, you can adjust the stroke after the fact. So if I decide I would like a larger stroke, I can open the dropdown menu next to the Size and raise it for something bigger or lower it for something much smaller. I think I'll keep it right about there. Once you decide that you liked the stroke that you've created, and its position and its size, go back to the Layers panel and now we're going to use the Liquify Filter to give this stroke the look of being hand-drawn.

We're going to do this non destructively and this is how that works.Because I'm starting with a Shape Layer, which is a vector image, when I go into the Menu bar and choose Filter > Liquify, Photoshop is going to ask me if I want to rasterize the layer or Convert it into a smart object. If I rasterize it, that's going to make it a destructive edit, But if I convert it into a smart object, I can do this without being destructive. So I'm going to click Convert to Smart Object, And then, the Liquify dialog box comes up just as normal.

In the bottom left corner of this box, I'm going to click on the - icon so that I can see the entire stroke in the preview window. Then I'm going to click on the Bloat tool. If your dialog box preview doesn't look like mine, you may want to check your settings in the View Options. I have show image checked. You might want to experiment with the size of your brush, but I'm going to keep mine at around 462 with a Density of 50 and a Rate of 80. And then you can put as much time into this as you want to. But know that you can also just click and drag real quick over things and it just simply distorts it a little bit so that it doesn't look so straight and boring.

If you want to make individual edits with the Bloat tool, click on the outside of the stroke to push it inward or click on the inside of the stroke to push it outward. If you can manage to click directly on the stroke, it will expand the size. You can also use some other tools in the Liquify dialog box, such as the Pucker tool. With this tool, if you click, it's going to draw the pixels closer together as if they're being squeezed. By the way, inside this Liquify dialog box, if you want to step backwards from something that you just did, pressing Ctrl Z in Windows, or Cmd Z on a Mac, will continue to step backwards as many times as you push it. And if you've simply just done way too much playing and you hate what you've created and you'd like to just start over, hold down the Alt key in Windows, or the Opt key on Mac, and the Cancel button turns into a Reset button. Click OK when you're finished.

Go ahead and click OK to close the Liquify dialog box and accept the changes.

You'll see now that that rectangle layer that we created earlier now has indication that it's a smart object. This little icon in the corner of the thumbnail has changed. Not only that, there's also an icon at the end of the layer and that indicates that we applied a filter to this smart object which makes it a smart filter. You don't really need to understand all the details behind that, but what you do need to know is that if you click on the thumbnail of this smart object layer, the smart object will open in a new tab within photoshop and it now becomes a PSB file. That's not really important. What's important is that I can now edit the stroke outline that I created earlier to be skinnier or fatter. Let me show you what I mean. Go into the Properties panel and now I can change the Size of my stroke outline again. So let's say instead of 10.14 px, I now want my stroke to be just 5 px wide.

 I can't really see in the preview window what actually happened, but press Ctrl S, Cmd S on a Mac, and save this smart file. Now go back to the original file, which is your scrapbook page, and look how my stroke just changed.

I'm going to click on the Layers panel again. The layer doesn't look like it's changed at all, but here it was before I made that edit and here it is now. I'm going to go ahead and close that smart file since I already saved it, but here's the cool thing. You can do that as many times as you want in order to edit your stroke outline through the creation process.
The last thing I'm going to do to my stroke outline is to lower the opacity. I want it to look a little softer on my scrapbook page, and then remember that I said we were going to stay organized, so let's rename this layer. So that's how you create a hand drawn border stroke using a nondestructive method in Photoshop. This is Jen White with Digital Scrapbooking Mastery.