Christmas Greetings 2
Cable Knit Sweater Pattern Transcript – Photoshop Elements
by Jenifer Juris

Learn how to make a cable sweater pattern that will be used to create the centerpiece of a wintery Christmas card. This video is the first of four videos on how to make this cable knit sweater card. In this first lesson, we're going to make the cable knit sweater pattern together step by step. This pattern is slightly more complex, so do your best to follow the steps exactly as you see them here. If it helps, print the manual and have it handy for checking things off as you complete them.

The first thing we need to do is prepare the workspace. So create a new document that is 100 pixels wide by 200 pixels high at 300 pixels per inch with a white background. Then press the letter D to reset the color chips to the default of black over white. In the menu bar, choose view, new guide and in the dialog box set the orientation to vertical and the position to 50% and then click okay. Now in the menu bar, choose view, new guide and in the dialog box set the orientation to horizontal and the position to 50% and then click okay. Now press control plus in windows or command plus on a Mac to zoom in your document just a bit. As a note due to the size of our document and that it's pretty small, while we work in here, our shapes will look pixelated because of being zoomed in. This is normal and totally okay.

The next step is to create the cable sweater shape, so get the custom shape tool. And in the tool options, click to open the shape picker and choose the rain drop shape. If you don't see the raindrop shape, click to open the shape picker fly out menu and choose large list. If you still don't see the raindrop shape, click on the shapes dropdown box and choose the nature shape list. Then set the style to none and the geometry options to fixed size. Enter a width of 0.11 inches and a height of 0.21 inches. And then click on the create a new shape layer icon. On the document, click and drag to create the shape. And then in the tool options, click on the simplify icon.

Now press control J in windows or command J on a Mac to duplicate this shape and then press control T in windows or command T on a Mac to get the transform options. In the tool options, set the angle to 180 degrees and then click the checkmark to commit. Now get the move tool and on the document while holding down the shift key, click and drag the duplicated shape down until the widest part of both matches up. Now if you're having trouble knowing if your two shapes are perfectly aligned, here's a trick. Press control plus in windows or command plus on a Mac to zoom in a couple of times and then

use the arrow keys to nudge the duplicated shape up and down until you see the pixels exactly match up. So I'll go down and then when I see that they match up right there, then I know that they're in good position.

Now press control minus or command minus on a Mac to zoom out until you're back to the regular document size. Now in the layers panel, hold down the shift key and click on the other shape layer so that both shape layers are activated. Then press control E in windows or command E on a Mac to merge the two shape layers together. Now press control T in windows or command T on a Mac to get the transform options and in the tool options, set the angle to 23 degrees and then click the checkmark to commit. On the document, move the shape into place so that it's spaced equally between the vertical guide and the right document edge. Also make sure its point or its bottom point is resting along the horizontal guide. And again, if you need to use the arrow keys to nudge this into place, you can do that now.

Now we need to create the full pattern, so press control J in windows or command J on a Mac to duplicate this shape. Then in the Menu bar, choose image, rotate, and flip layer horizontal. Then on the document while holding down the shift key, click and drag the flipped shape over to the left until it's evenly spaced between the left document edge and the vertical guide. And again, if you need to use the arrow keys to nudge things into place, do that now. Now in the layers panel, hold down the shift key and click on the other shape layer so that both shape layers are active. Then press control E in windows or command E on a Mac to merge the two shape layers together.

Now press control J in windows or command J on a Mac to duplicate the shape layer. On the document while holding down the shift key, click and drag the duplicated shape down until the space between the rows is about the same as the space in the middle column between the left and right sides of the shape, so about there. And then once again, press control J in windows or command J on a Mac to duplicate the shape layer. And on the document while holding down the shift key click and drag the duplicated shape down until the spacing is about the same as between the first two.

And one more time press control J in windows or command J on a Mac to duplicate the shape. And on the document while holding down the shift key click and drag the shape up until the space is about the same again.

Now at this point we're almost there, but we want our pattern to be seamless. So we need to adjust the positioning of the shapes on this document. Where the top shape falls off the edge of the document, the bottom shape should pick it up. And so to do that, the first thing we need to do is make sure our four layers are evenly distributed. So in the layers panel, hold down the shift key and click on the bottom shape layer so that all four shape layers are active. Then in the tool options, click on the distribute vertical centers or the distribute center icon. Now with the four shape layers still active, press control E in windows or command E on a Mac to merge the four shape layers together. And then press control A in windows or command a on a Mac to select all. And in the tool options, click on the align vertical centers icon and the align horizontal centers icon and then press control D in windows or command D on a Mac to de-select. Now in the layers panel, drag the white background layer to the trash. And in the menu bar, choose edit, define pattern. In the dialog box, name the pattern cable sweater pattern and then click okay.

Now at this point, feel free to save this file as cable sweater pattern dot PSD so that you have it just in case you misplace your pattern file and need to make it again. So that's how you create the cable

sweater pattern. In the next videos, we're going to use that pattern to dress up a glove and hat for our card. This is Jenifer Juris with Christmas Greetings 2.