



10 Timeless Titles, Vol. 1

Reflective Title (Photoshop Elements)

by Julie Singco

Quickly create a reflective title with a layer mask and a gradient.

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Prepare the Workspace

- Begin in Expert Mode of Photoshop Elements.
- Create a new 12x12 inch document (File > New > Blank File) at 300 ppi with a white background.
- Press the letter D to reset the Color Chips to the default of black over white.

Type a Word or Phrase

- Get the Horizontal Type tool.
- In the Tool Options, open the Font Picker and choose a serif or sans-serif font. I'll choose Georgia.

Good Font Options

Lucida Sans
Courier New
MS Sans Serif
Georgia
Gadugi

Poor Font Options

Italicized
Slanted Script
Hand-drawn
ALL CAPS SCRIPT

NOTE: A poor font choice will lead to a reflection that looks a bit wonky.

NO → vacation

- In the Tool Options, set the Size to 125, the Leading to Auto, and the Tracking to 0. The Color Chip should be black. If it's not, click on it, and choose black. Click on the Center Align icon. Check Anti-aliasing.
- On the document, click once in the center of the empty space to place your cursor.
- Type a word or small phrase. Since this is my Reflective Title template, I'll use "PAGE TITLE."

NOTE: If the word you choose has letters that extend past the baseline (like a lowercase Y), I'd recommend typing the word in all caps.

NO → yum YUM ← YES

- To reposition the word, hold down the Ctrl key (Mac: Cmd key) and click and drag inside the bounding box.
- Click the checkmark to commit the type.

PAGE TITLE

Create a Duplicate and Flip

- In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Duplicate Layer.
- In the dialog box, click OK.
- In the Layers panel, double click directly on the name of the new layer, rename it REFLECTION, and press Enter or Return to commit the change.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Image > Rotate > Flip Layer Vertical.

BAGE TITLE

- Get the Move tool.
- Hold down the Shift key, then press the Down Arrow key until the top of the flipped title is lined up with the bottom of the original title on the document. Let go of the Shift key to nudge it into place. All letters should be connected.

TIP: When using the Arrow keys, your object will move faster if you hold down the Shift key, then press an arrow key.

PAGE TITLE
BAGE TITLE

Apply a Reflective Effect

- In the Layers panel, set the Opacity of the REFLECTION layer to 50%.

PAGE TITLE
PAGE TITLE

- Get the Gradient tool.
- In the Tool Options, open the Gradient Picker, and choose Foreground to Transparent. If you don't see the names of the gradients, open the flyout menu and choose Large List.
- In the Tool Options, set the Mode to Normal and the Opacity to 100%. Uncheck Reverse, but check Transparency and Dither. Click on the Linear Gradient icon.
- In the Layers panel, the REFLECTION layer should be active. Click on the Add Layer Mask icon.
- Black should be the Foreground Color Chip. If it's not, press the letter X.
- On the document, hold down the Shift key and click and drag from the bottom of the upside-down word to the top of the upside-down word.

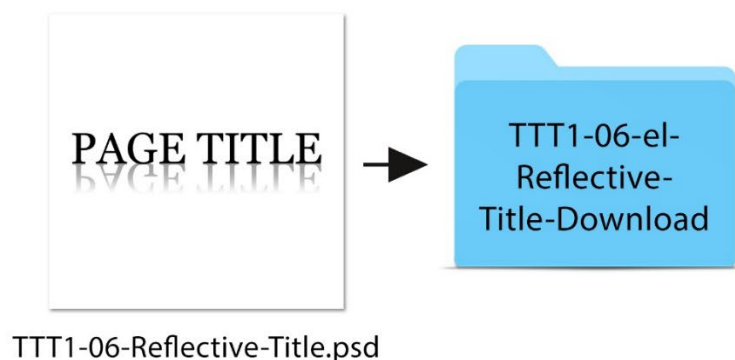


TIP: You'll get the best results if you do not include the parts of the letters that extend past the most common height. (See the image below.)



Save and Use the Template

- Save the document (File > Save As) as a layered PSD file inside the class files download folder. Name the document “TTT1-06-Reflective-Title.psd”. We'll be using this file in the next step.



Add the Title Layers to a Project

- Open the TTT1-06-Layered-Quick-Page.psd file (File > Open) from the class files download folder.

NOTE: If you get a warning dialog box about text layers, place a checkmark next to Don't Show Again and then click Update.

- In the Layers panel of the Quick Page, click on the topmost background paper layer to activate it.
- Activate the TTT1-06-Reflective-Title.psd document that you saved in the last step.
- In the Layers panel, click on the original title layer to activate it.
- Holding down the Shift key, click on the REFLECTION layer. Now both title layers should be active.
- Get the Move tool.
- In the Tool Options, Auto-Select Layer needs to be unchecked.
- On the document, hold down the Shift key and click and drag the layers onto the layered quick page. Both title layers should still be active.
- On the document, click and drag the layers to reposition them.

How To Change the Title

- In the Layers panel, double click on the thumbnail of the original type layer to highlight the title.
- Type a different word or phrase. I'll type "Celebrate."
- Click the checkmark to commit the type.
- In the Layers panel, double click on the thumbnail of the REFLECTION layer to highlight the type.
- Type the same word or phrase.
- Click the checkmark to commit the change.
- In the Layers panel, click on the original title layer to activate it.
- Holding down the Shift key, click on the REFLECTION layer. Now both title layers should be active.
- Get the Horizontal Type tool.
- In the Tool Options, choose a different font. I'll choose Champagne & Limousines. Adjust font size as needed. Click on the Color Chip. Choose a color in the Color Swatches or click on the Color Wheel to open the Color Picker.
- On the document, click to sample a color. Click OK. I'll leave my font color set to black.



(Optional) Adjust the Position of the Reflection Layer

- Depending on the font you choose, you may need to adjust the position of the REFLECTION layer up or down.
- Click on the REFLECTION layer to activate it all by itself.
- Get the Move tool.
- Press the Up or Down Arrow key until the top of the flipped title is lined up with the bottom of the original title on the document. All letters should be connected.

How To Replace the Journaling of the Layered Quick Page

- In the Layers panel, double click on the thumbnail of the journaling layer to highlight all the type.
- Type your journaling and click the checkmark to commit the change.
- To change the font, get the Horizontal Type tool. In the Tool Options, open the Font Picker and choose a different font.

Ideas for Finishing the Title

Change the color of the titles.



Clip a paper to each title layer.





Quick Page: TTT1 01 Reflective Title
 Photos & Page: Celebrate by Julie Singco
 Tutorial: Reflective Title by Julie Singco
 Fonts: Georgia, Girly Moods



Card: Hello You by Julie Singco
 Kit: Workday by Sahin Designs
 Font: League Spartan