



Lesson 2: Mad 4 Plaid Transcript © Syndee Rogers

In this lesson we are going to start out with our stripe pattern and take it up a notch and make plaid! Now, I could do a whole class or at least a mini class on plaid because there are so many variations. But in this lesson we are going to do a basic plaid and the best part is that we get to use an existing pattern swatch! I hope you are noticing a bit of a trend here, we create basic, what I like to think of as 'staples' of design and we use those to build upon. It's always a good day when you can use something you have already created to create something new and fabulous!

I'm filming this video in Photoshop Elements but the instructions are just the same in Adobe Photoshop unless where noted.

As you can see here I have opened up our my original stripe pattern swatch and made a duplicate copy. And then I closed the original. I then reset my Color Chips to the default of black and white by pressing the letter D. And I Zoomed in so I can see what I'm doing.

Now in the Layers panel, Let's go ahead activate the top layer and merge the two stripe layers by pressing Ctrl E or Cmd E on a Mac.

Let's go ahead and click on the Create a New Layer icon in the layers panel. We're going to add a thinner stripe, so let's set up a guide to help us. Go up to View in the Menu bar and choose New Guide. And we'll want to set the Vertical Orientation to 75% and then click OK. Next, get the Rectangular Marquee Tool. And In the Tool Options, make sure Feather is zero pixels and set the Aspect to Fixed Size. In Photoshop, set the Style to Fixed Size, enter 5 pixels for the Width and 100 pixels for the Height. Now, on your Document, right in the middle on the crosshairs of your new guidelines, click and hold with your mouse and then press the Alt key or the Option key on a Mac to snap our selection to the center. Or close enough to the center of our new guideline. To fill our selection with Black press Alt Backspace or Option Delete on a Mac. Then Press Ctrl D or Cmd D on a

Mac to deselect. Hide the Thick Stripe layer by clicking on the Visibility icon next to it's layer in the Layers panel.

Let's go ahead and make a duplicate of the thin stripe layer by pressing Ctrl J or Cmd J on a Mac. In the Menu bar, lets choose Filter > Other > Offset. And let's set the Horizontal to 50 pixels right and Vertical to 50 pixels down and the Vertical to 50 pixels, the Undefined Areas to Wrap Around and then click OK. So, now let's go ahead and define the Pattern. In the Menu bar, choose Edit > Define Pattern. And name the pattern, Plaid Stripe Thin. And then click OK. In the Layers panel, turn off the Visibility icon of the Thin Stripe layers, and turn on the Thick Stripe layer. Now go to Edit > Define Pattern. And let's name this Plaid Thick Stripes, and then click OK. Now in the Layers panel, we can go ahead and turn the Thin Stripes back on. We'll want to save this Pattern Swatch as a PSD. So go up to File > Save As, and name it Plaid Stripe and then click OK.

So I know what you're thinking, this does not look like plaid and technically it is a striped pattern with thick and thin lines. But, it's so much more it's a building block to our Plaid pattern. But what's great is that you can also use it as is for a fabulous striped paper!

So normally, at this stage in the game we would create a new 12x12 inch document and add a Pattern Fill layer. But, remember my Color Hack from the last lesson? I'am all about getting as much mileage out of my creations as possible. That and trying to be super efficient whenever I can! So this time I have a pattern hack.

We can go ahead and close our Plaid swatch. We'll want to Open up our Multi-dot template from the last lesson. And then Make a duplicate copy, by going to File > Duplicate. (PS chose Image > Duplicate) Name it Plaid Overlay, and then Click OK. Close your original Multi-dot template. We'll want to Hide both Color Fill layers by clicking on the Visibility icon next to those layers in the Layers panel. Next, we want to click on the the bottom Dots Pattern thumbnail and in the dialog box Change the scale to 200%, click on the Pattern Picker and choose your Plaid Thin Stripe pattern, and then click OK. Now, we want to click on the the second Dots Pattern thumbnail in the Layers panel and in the dialog box, change the scale to 200%, click on the Pattern Picker and choose your Plaid Thick Stripe pattern. And then click OK. Now our thin and thick Stripes are on separate layers which will make it much easier to create a multi-colored plaid design later on.

Since we are going to have several layers to this overlay, let's go ahead and name the layers to stay organized. Double-click on the name Thin Stripe Pattern layer and rename it: Plaid thin stripe, and then let's do the same for the Thick Striped layer, and we'll name this one Plaid Thick Stripe. You can also name the Color Fill layers if you wish, but those are pretty recognizable for what they are. So it's not necessary.

Next, duplicate the Thick Stripe layer by pressing Control or Command J on a Mac. And rename the layer Plaid Thick Horizontal. Do the same for the Thin Stripe layer, and rename it Plaid Thin Horizontal . We are now going to Simplify our two horizontal layers. So with the Plaid Thin Horizontal layer still activated go to Layer > Simplify Layer. In Photoshop go to Layer > Layer Mask > Delete to get rid of the layer mask. Then go back to Layer > choose Rasterize > Layer. Now activate the Plaid thick Stipe Horizontal layer and choose Layer > Simplify Layer. In Photoshop go to Layer > Layer Mask > Delete to get rid of the layer mask. Then go back to Layer > choose Rasterize > Layer.

Now we need to rotate the Horizontal Thin stripe layer by going to Image > Rotate > Rotate Layer 90 degrees Right. In Photoshop go to Edit > Transform > Rotate 90 degrees Clockwise. Let's go ahead and do the same for the Horizontal thin stripe layer. Activate that layer in the Layers panel. Go to Image > Rotate > Rotate Layer 90 degrees Right. In Photoshop go to Edit > Transform > Rotate 90

degrees Clockwise.

Let's turn back on the visibility of the Top Color Fill layer in the Layers panel and press Ctrl J or Cmd J on a Mac to duplicate the layer. Then drag the duplicate layer down above the Plaid Thick layer. Let's go ahead and clip the Color Fill layer to the pattern layer by going to Layer > Create Clipping Mask. Now we'll want to do the same thing for our Plaid Thin layer. So, activate the Color Fill layer above the Plaid Thin Horizontal Pattern layer, and press Ctrl J or Cmd J on a Mac to duplicate the layer. Click on the Visibility icons of the Color Fill layers to turn them back on. Drag the duplicate layer down above the Plaid Thin layer. Then Go to Layer > Create Clipping Mask.

Let's Save by pressing Ctrl S or Cmd S on a Mac.

We're going revisit this fun plaid pattern after the next lesson! So stay tuned! This has been Syndee Rogers with Passion for Paper.