



Perfectly Personal Word Art Paper Strip Template 02 – Photoshop Elements

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[TOU](#)

Step One: Prepare the Workspace

- Create a new document that is 0.6 inches high by 3.5 inches wide at 300ppi with a white background.

Step Two: Create the Main Rectangle

- Click on the Foreground Color Chip to open the Color Picker and choose a medium gray color. I'm using Hex #959595. Click OK.
- Now press Alt Backspace (Mac: Opt Delete) to fill the Background layer with the Foreground color.



Step Three: Create the Right Edge Accent

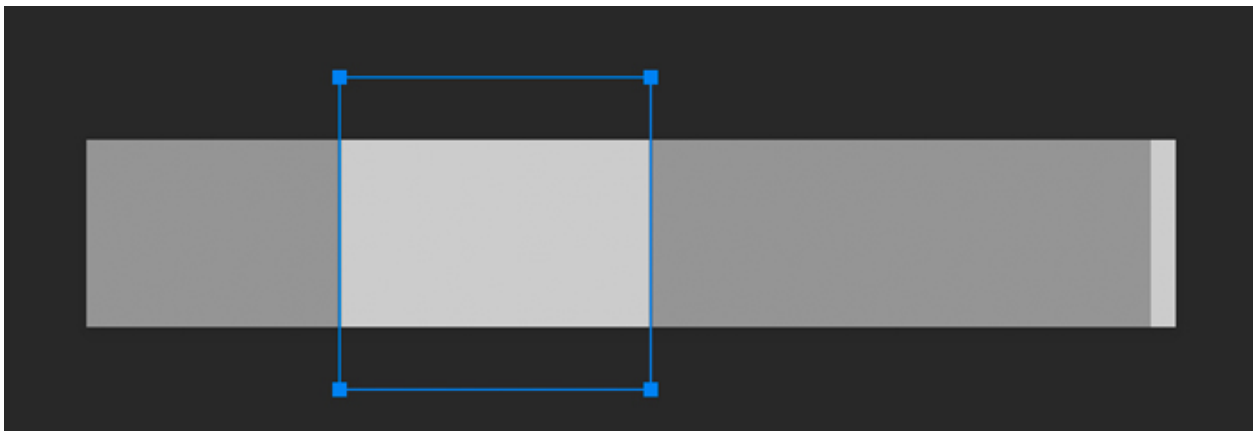
- In the Layers panel, click on the Create a New Layer icon.
- Get the Rectangular Marquee tool.
- In the Tool Options, click on the New Selection icon, set the Feather to 0px and the Aspect to Fixed Size. Enter a width of 0.08 inches and a height of 0.6 inches.
- On the document, click and drag the selection all the way over to the right document edge.

- Click on the Foreground Color Chip to open the Color Picker and choose a light gray color. I'm using Hex #: cccccc. Click OK.
- Press Alt Backspace (Mac: Opt Delete) to fill the selection with the Foreground Color.
- Press Ctrl D (Mac: Cmd D) to deselect.
- In the Layers panel, double click on the name of this small rectangle layer and change it to Right Rectangle Accent. Press Enter to commit the name change.

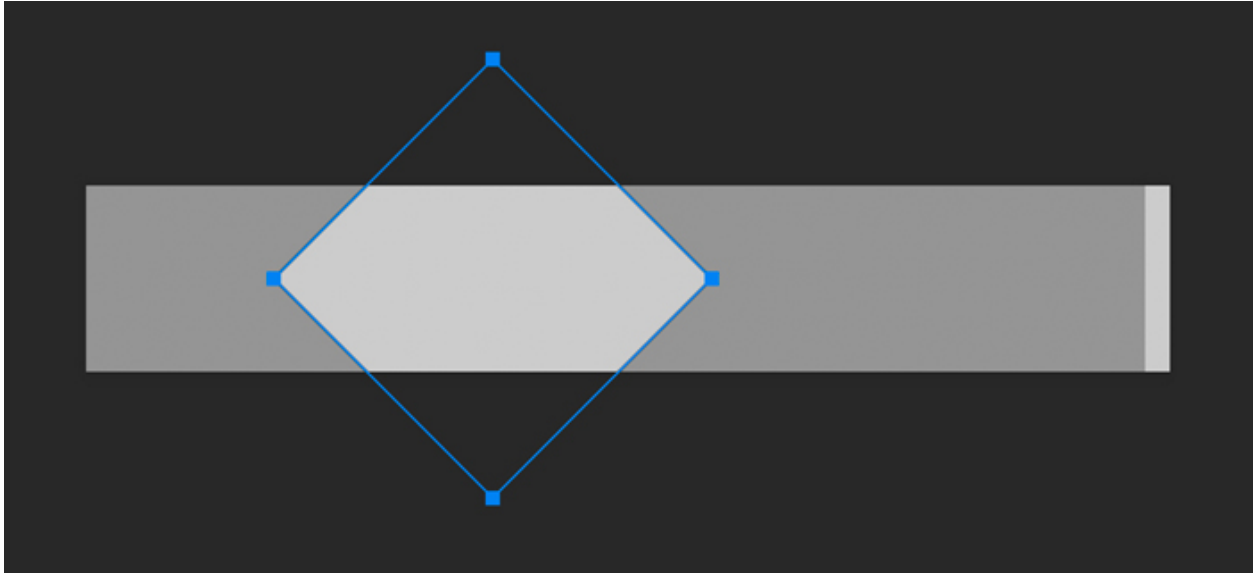


Step Four: Create the Left Edge Accents

- Get the Rectangle Shape tool.
- In the Tool Options, set the Style to None and the Geometry Options to Fixed Size. Enter 300 px for the Width and the Height. Click on the Create a New Shape Layer icon.
- On the document, click and drag to create the square. You will see that the square is bigger than our document, that's what we want.



- Now press Ctrl T (Mac: Cmd T) to get the Transform options.
- In the Tool Options, set the Angle to 45°. Click the checkmark to commit.
- When you do this, you might get a pop up warning saying this will turn your live shape into a regular path. Click Yes.



- Get the Move tool.
- In the Layers panel, Ctrl click (Mac: Cmd click) on the Main Rectangle Thumbnail to get a selection outline.
- In the Tool Options, click on the Align Vertical Centers icon.
- Press Ctrl D (Mac: Cmd D) to deselect.
- 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 left corners. Like this.
- In the Layers panel, double click on the name of this layer and change it Left Accent 1. Press Enter to commit the name change.



- Press Ctrl J (Mac: Cmd J) to duplicate the shape.
- Click on the Foreground Color Chip to open the Color Picker and choose a very light gray color. I'm using Hex #: ebebeb. Click OK.
- Press Shift Alt Backspace (Mac: Shift Opt Delete) to fill this shape with the Foreground color.
- 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 left corners.
- In the Layers panel, double click on the name of this duplicated layer and change it to Left Accent 2. Press Enter to commit the name change.



Step Five: Add the Type

- Get the Horizontal Type tool.
- 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 in the Bold style. Set the Size to 24 pts and choose Center Alignment.
- On the document, click once and type the words PLACE TEXT HERE in all caps. Click the checkmark to commit.
- Now, we need to center the type between the Right Accent and the Left Accent 1 layers as well as along the vertical. To do that, 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 to create a selection that goes from the point of the Left Accent 1 corner to the left edge of the Right accent as well as from the top edge to the bottom edge.
- Get the Move tool.
- In the Tool Options, click on the Align Vertical Centers icon and the Align Horizontal Centers icon.
- Press Ctrl D (Mac: Cmd D) to deselect.



Step Six: Prepare the Template

- In the Layers panel, Right click (Mac: Ctrl click) on the Left Accent 1 layer and choose Simplify Layer.
- Repeat that step for the Left Accent 2 layer.

- Now press Ctrl A (Mac: Cmd A) to select all.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Image > Crop. This gets rid of the excess pixels outside of the document boundaries we no longer need.
- Press Ctrl D (Mac: Cmd D) deselect.

Step Seven: Save As

Now it's time to save this template. So in the Menu Bar, choose File > Save As and save this template in the same folder you set up at the end of the previous video. Use the name Paper-Strip-Template-02.psd.

Tips:

Just like in the last lesson, 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 this simple paper strip to create a one of a kind greeting card.

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 patterned paper.



So, here's another set of tips to keep in mind when using your custom paper strips:

#1. 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 the 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 $\frac{2}{3}$ $\frac{1}{3}$ 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 connector of sorts. I placed it so that it would connect to two sections together.

What if I had placed the paper strip front and center (below)? 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 patterned paper), we have two competing focal points. This is a distraction to the eye. Distractions are never good for the overall design of our projects.



Tip #2. Size Matters - After customizing your paper strip template, (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 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 ok 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.

Credits:

Paper Strip Template: Jenifer Juris

Card Credits:

Card: Jenifer Juris

Kit: New Years Celebration by Just Jaimee

Fonts: Bebas Neue, Veteran Typewriter