



Lesson 2: Basic Dots Pattern Transcript © Syndee Rogers

In this lesson will be creating a dot Pattern overlay that's a fantastic basic pattern that's so versatile when it comes to making papers since our pattern will be seamless we can easily adjust the scale or size of the dots.

I'm filming this video in Photoshop Elements that the instructions are exactly the same for Adobe Photoshop unless were noted.

I'm here in expert mode in Photoshop Elements. And let's begin by creating a new document by going up to the Menu Bar and choosing File > New > Blank File. And we want to set both the width and the height to 200 pixels. You want it to be 300 pixels per inch with a transparent background, and then click OK. To make it easier to position our shape, we'll want to go to View > Snap to Guides. Now, it's a bit small, so let's go ahead and press Ctrl + or Cmd + on a Mac to Zoom in a bit. You want to go ahead and get the move tool. And make sure Auto Select Layer and Show Bounding Box are checked. And in Photoshop, it would be Auto Select Layer and Show Transform Controls. And go ahead and press the letter D to reset the Color Chips to the default of black and white.

And now let's set up some guides to help us create our dot Pattern. Guides are fabulous tool and they are something I use in most of my design projects, and even when creating layouts and cards. So, in the Menu Bar, go up to View > New Guide and set the Vertical Orientation to 50% and click OK. Then go back up to View > New Guide and set the Horizontal Orientation to 50%. And click OK.

OK. Let's get the Ellipse tool, and in the Tool Options, choose Create New Shape layer, set the Geometry Options to fixed Size. And then we want to set both our Width and Height .25 inches, and then make sure to check From Center. Now we can create our Shape by clicking on the center of our document right on top of the cross hairs of our guides, drag slightly to create the shape and it should just snap right into place. But if not, get the Move tool, and on

the document, click and align the shape with the guides. Now go ahead and press Ctrl J or Cmd J on a Mac to duplicate the layer.

And in the Menu Bar, choose Filter > Other > Offset, and it's going to ask you if you want to Rasterize or Convert to a Smart Object. You want to go ahead and choose Rasterize. Now in Offset dialog box, we want to make sure to set the horizontal to 100 pixels right and the Vertical to 100 pixels down, and the Undefined Areas to Wrap Around. And click OK. And that is called a Pattern swatch. Let's go ahead and save the Pattern swatch as a PSD file before we actually define our pattern. So up in the Menu Bar, choose File > Save As and navigate to a folder where you want to save it and give it a name. I'm going to mine Basic Dot Pattern and then click Save. And next, we're going to go ahead and define this is an actual Pattern file so it will be a native Photoshop or Photoshop Elements pattern file. So in the Menu Bar, go up to Edit > Define Pattern and then we can go ahead and give it a name, you could keep it basic dot Pattern or you could call it Dots 1, and click OK. OK, so we can go ahead and close our Basic Dot Pattern swatch.

And next we want to create a 12 x 12 inch document. So let's go up to File > New Blank File and set both the height and width to 12 inches, and a resolution of 300 pixels per inch and a white background, and click OK.

One of the best features that Patterns offer, is the ability to adjust the Scale or size of the pattern, in this case we're adjusting the size of the dots. Since it's a seamless pattern we can make them smaller or larger. So for this we need to create a new fill layer. Let's go up to Layer > New Fill Layer > Pattern. And in the Pattern dialog box, just go ahead and click OK. And the dot pattern should just automatically show up because we just defined it. But, in case it doesn't, go ahead and click on the Pattern Picker and scroll down to find your pattern. Then choose your pattern and then you can just click out of there. Here we can move the slider to enlarge or reduce the size of the dots. We can make them really small or we can make them really big and bold. Click on Snap to Origin to make the origin of the pattern the same as the origin of the document, and then select Link with Layer so that the pattern moves with the fill layer if you move the layer. You can also move around the pattern on the document with your mouse to change the position. But, you can only do that when the Pattern fill dialog box is open. I'm going to go ahead and set my scale back to 100% And click on Snap to Origin, and then click OK. And now we have a pattern fill overlay. And in the Layers panel, if you click on the Visibility icon of the background layer, you can see now we have a transparent background. That's what's great about defining your patterns with the transparent background, is then you can layer your patterns over anything.

So let's go ahead and save our newly created overlay as a PSD and then we can use it over and over again. This will apply to all the basic patterns and designs we create in the class. In the Menu Bar, let's choose File > Save As, navigate to the folder where you want to save it. I'm going to name this Dots 1 overlay, and then click Save. We can go ahead and close our Dot Overlay document.

Now, here's a lickety split tip: Once you have some basic patterns created, you can use the Paint Bucket tool to add a Pattern to your document. Let's go ahead and go up to File > New Blank File, and create another 12 by 12 inch document with a white background. And let's create a new layer by clicking on the Create a New Layer icon in the Layers panel. Grab your Paint Bucket tool and in the Tool Options, click on the Pattern Fill. Then open the Pattern Picker, and scroll down to your dot pattern and right on your document, on the blank layer click with your mouse and Viola! You just filled that layer with your pattern. And if we turn off

the Visibility icon of the background layer, you can see it's a transparent background. Now, the difference here is that we cannot edit the size of the dots, since it's just a Paint Bucket fill. But this is a great tool to quickly add your patterns to your documents or your projects. That's it for this video. Join me in the next lesson where we'll create stripes.

This is been Syndee Rogers with Passion for Paper.