



by Jenifer Juris

Secrets of Terrific Type

Lesson 02-13: Scale—Photoshop Elements

Have you ever wished you could change your height or your weight with a thought? I know I have! But unlike exercise and eating right, changing the scale of type IS easy.

So just what is scale?

First of all, the scale of type is related to size. When you type a word (and for this example, I'm using the word scale), this is how it looks at 100% scale. This is how the font designer created the type to look at this size.

SCALE

But sometimes, changing the scale of a word may be necessary. The horizontal or vertical scale of type has to do with stretching or shrinking the type in either the vertical or horizontal direction.

SCALE (100%)

SCALE (150% Vertical)

SCALE (150% Horizontal)

Let's take a look at how to do that in PSE!

Step One: Prepare the Workspace

Create a new document that is 12 inches by 12 inches at 300ppi with a white background.

Press the letter D to reset the Color Chips.

Step Two: Add Type

Get the Horizontal Type tool.

Click to open the Tool Options Menu and choose Reset Tool.

In the Tool Options, set the Font to Expressway, the Size to 72 pts, and use Center Alignment.

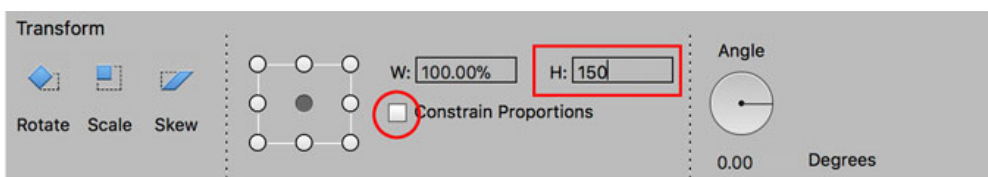
On the document, click once and type the word SCALE. Click the checkmark to commit.

SCALE

Step Three: Adjust Scale

So, in order to change the Vertical Scale of this word, we will have to use the Transform tool. Press Ctrl T (Mac: Cmd T) to get the Transform options.

In the Tool Options, uncheck Constrain Proportions and change the Height to 150%. Click the checkmark to commit.

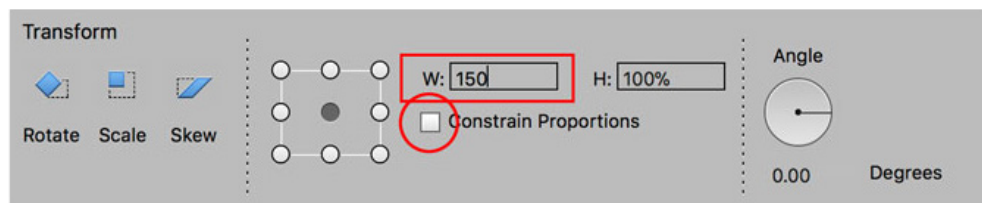


Press Ctrl Z (Mac: Cmd Z) to undo.

In order to change the Horizontal Scale of this word, we will use a similar process.

Press Ctrl T (Mac: Cmd T) to get the Transform options.

In the Tool Options, uncheck Constrain Proportions and change the Width to 150%. Click the checkmark to commit.



Now press Ctrl Z (Mac: Cmd Z) to undo.

You can also change the scale smaller by using a number less than 100.

Press Ctrl T (Mac: Cmd T) to get the Transform options.

In the Tool Options, uncheck Constrain Proportions and change the Height to 75%.

SCALE

As you just saw, changing the scale of type is very easy thanks to the Transform tool in PSE. But just because it's easy, doesn't mean it's something you should use on a regular basis.

Here are some do's and don'ts when it comes to Scale.

#1 - Never change the scale of a script, handwritten, or decorative font. These fonts are more detailed and ornate and changing the scale would make for an obvious distortion so don't do it!

#2 - When needing to fill a horizontal space, it's a good idea to try changing the tracking first. Changing the tracking is a better way to fill a horizontal space than by changing the scale BUT if you must, only increase the horizontal scale by 125%. Anything more than that will make the letters look distorted.

#3 - Do use scale when needing to fill a vertical space. Depending on the font, you can usually go up to 150-200% before the letters have an overly distorted look. But, again, this is only to be used in certain situations. This is not something I would use on a regular basis.

For our homework, head on over to the next video where we are going to create a fun post card using vertical scale to our advantage!