Christmas Greetings 2
Cable Sweater Pattern – Photoshop
by Jenifer Juris

Learn how to make a cable sweater pattern that is will be used to create the centerpiece of a wintery Christmas card.
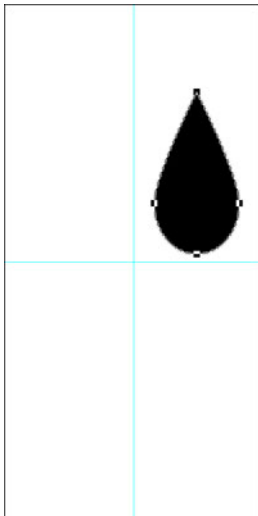
Step One: Prepare the Workspace

- Create a new document that is 100 pixels wide by 200 pixels high at 300ppi with a white background.
- Press the letter D to reset the Color Chips to the default of Black over White.
- In the Menu Bar, choose View > New Guide.
- In the dialog box, set the Orientation to Vertical and the Position to 50%. Click OK.
- In the Menu Bar, choose View > New Guide.
- In the dialog box, set the Orientation to Horizontal and the Position to 50%. Click OK.

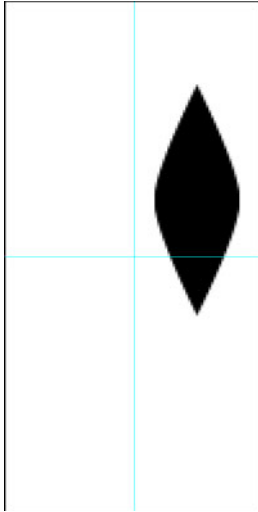## Step Two: Create the Cable Sweater Shape

- Get the Custom Shape tool.
- In the Tool Options, set the Tool Mode to Shape, the Fill to Solid color, and the Stroke to None. Click to open the Path Operations and choose New Layer. Click to open the Geometry Options and choose Fixed Size. Enter a width of 0.11 inches and a height of 0.21 inches.
- **PSCC 2019**: Click to open the Shape Picker and choose the Raindrop shape. If you don't see the Raindrop Shape, click to open the Shape Picker fly-out menu and choose the Large List. If you still don't see the Raindrop shape, click to open

the Shape Picker fly-out menu and choose the Nature Shape List. Click OK to Append.
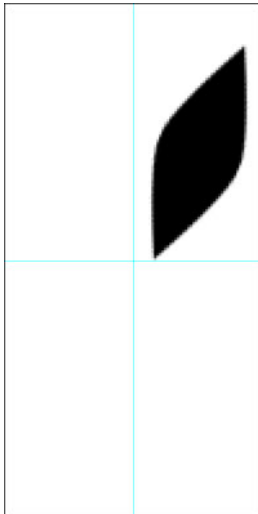
- **PSCC 2020**: If you have updated to the latest version of PSCC, then the custom shapes have been changed. There is now a Shapes panel (like a Layers panel, styles panel, etc) from which we can control the custom shapes. So to access the Legacy Shapes, do the following:
  - o In the Menu Bar, choose Window > Shapes to open the Shapes panel.
  - o Click on the Shapes panel Menu icon and choose Large List.
  - o Click on the Shapes panel Menu icon and choose Legacy Shapes and More.
  - o Now, in the Tool Options for the Custom Shape tool, click to open the Custom Shape Picker.
  - o Click to toggle open the Legacy Shapes and More folder.
  - o Click to toggle open the All Legacy Default Shapes folder.
  - o Click to toggle open the Nature Shapes folder.
  - o Choose the Raindrop shape.
- On the document, click and drag to create the shape.

- Press Ctrl J (Mac: Cmd J) to duplicate the shape.
- Press Ctrl T (Mac: Cmd T) to get the Transform options.
- In the Tool Options, set the Angle to 180˚. Click the checkmark to commit.
- Get the Move tool.
- On the document, while holding down the Shift key, click and drag the duplicated shape down until the widest part of both shapes matches up.
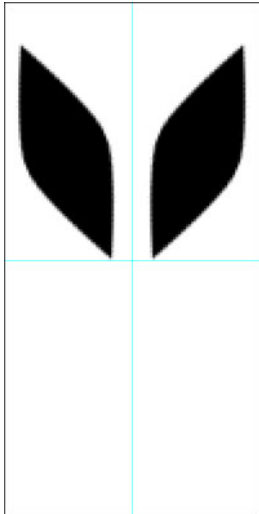
- In the Layers panel, hold down the Shift key and click on the other shape layer so that both shape layers are activated.
- Press Ctrl E (Mac: Cmd E) to merge the two shape layers together.
- In the Layers panel, Right click (Mac: Ctrl click) on the name of the merged shape layer and choose Rasterize Shape.
- Press Ctrl T (Mac: Cmd T) to get the Transform options.
- In the Tool Options, set the Angle to 23˚ and click the checkmark to commit.
- On the document, move the shape into place so that it's spaced equally between the vertical guide and the right document edge. Also, make sure it's bottom point is resting along the horizontal guide.
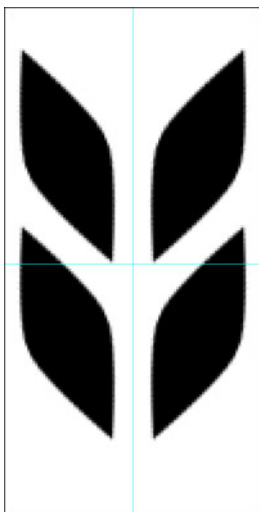
Step Three: Create the Cable Sweater Pattern

- Press Ctrl J (Mac: Cmd J) to duplicate the shape.
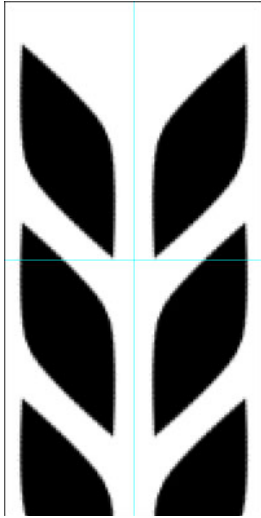- In the Menu Bar, choose Edit > Transform > Flip Horizontal.

- On the document, while holding down the Shift key, click and drag the flipped shape over to the left until it's evenly spaced between the left document edge and the vertical guide.
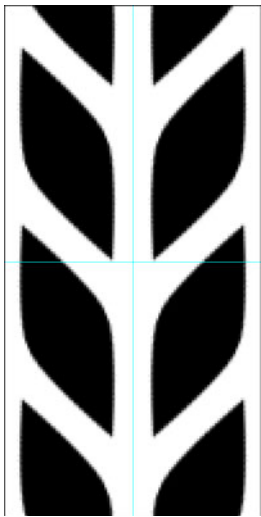

- In the Layers panel, hold down the Shift key and click on the other shape layer so that both shape layers are active.
- Press Ctrl E (Mac: Cmd E) to merge the two shape layers together.
- Now Press Ctrl J (Mac: Cmd J) to duplicate the shape layer.
- On the document, while holding down the Shift key, click and drag the duplicated shape down until the space between the rows is about the same as the space in the middle column between the left and right side of the shapes.

- Press Ctrl J (Mac: Cmd J) to duplicate the shape layer again.
- On the document while holding down the Shift key, click and drag the duplicated shape down until the spacing is about the same as between the first two.
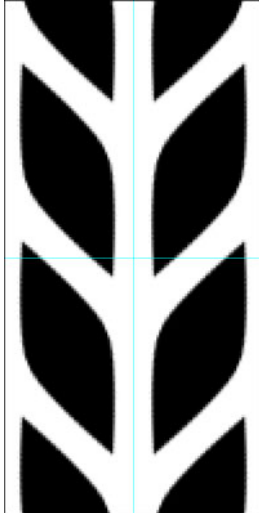
- Press Ctrl J (Mac: Cmd J) to duplicate the shape layer one more time.
- On the document, while holding down the Shift key, click and drag the shape up until the space is about the same again.

At this point, we're almost there. But, we want our pattern to be seamless so we need to adjust the positioning of the shapes on this document. Where the top shape falls off the edge of the document, the bottom shape should pick up at the edge of the bottom of the document. To do that, the first thing we need to do is make sure our four layers are evenly distributed.

- So in the Layers panel, hold down the Shift key and click on the bottom shape layer so that all four shape layers are active.
- In the Tool Options, click on the Distribute Vertical Centers icon.
- Now with the four shape layers still active in the layers panel, Press Ctrl E (Mac: Cmd E) to Merge the four shape layers together.

- Next, we need to make sure our merged layer is centered on the document that so that our pattern looks seamless.
- Press Ctrl A (Mac: Cmd A) to Select All.
- In the Tool Options, click on the Align Horizontal Centers icon and the Align Vertical Centers icon.
- Press Ctrl D (Mac: Cmd D) to deselect.

- In the Layers panel, drag the white Background layer to the Trash.
- Now, in the Menu Bar, choose Edit > Define Pattern.
- In the dialog box, name the pattern, Cable Sweater Pattern and click OK.

Step Four: Save As

- At this point, feel free to save this file as Cable-Sweater-Pattern.PSD so that you have it just in case you misplace your pattern file and need to define the pattern again.

Credits:
Cable Sweater Pattern: Jenifer Juris
Kit: Christmas Lights by Julie Billingsley
Fonts: Special Elite, Nickainley, Varche Caps