



Clipped Composite Layer Title

by Julie Singco

Don't settle for a plain chipboard title. Make it unique by clipping a composite layer to it. Your friends will want to reach out and touch it.

For this tutorial you will need:

- The template from the download
- Photoshop Elements or Adobe Photoshop

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Step One: Prepare the Workspace

- Open the card-Clipped-Composite-DS.psd file (File > Open).



Step Two: Customize the Title

- In the Layers panel, double click on the thumbnail of the type layer to highlight the type.
- Type your title word. I'm using HAPPY.
- Click the checkmark to commit the type.



Step Three: Apply the Chipboard Layer Style

- In the Layers panel, confirm the Type layer is the active layer.

Photoshop Elements:

- In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Layer Style > Style Settings.
- In the dialog box, set the Lighting Angle to 120°.
- Click on Drop Shadow to open the settings.
- Set the Size to 18, the Distance to 2, and the Opacity to 50.
- Click on Bevel to open the settings.
- Set the Size to 10, and the Direction to Up.
- Click OK to close the Style Settings dialog box.

Adobe Photoshop:

- In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Layer Style > Drop Shadow.
- In the dialog box, set the Blend Mode to Multiply, the Opacity to 50%, the Angle to 120°, the Distance to 2, the Spread to 3, and the Size to 18.

- In the left-side menu, click on Bevel & Emboss to activate it and open the settings.
- Click on Reset to Default.
- Set the Style to Inner Bevel, the Technique to Smooth, the Depth to 360%, the Direction to Up, the Size to 10 and the Soften to 4.
- Click OK to close the Layer Style dialog box.



Step Four: Clip a Composite Layer to the Title

NOTE: The merged layer shortcut will not work with locked layers, such as a locked background layer. If you have a locked layer in your document, in the Layers panel click on a locked layer to activate it. Then, in the Menu Bar choose Layer > New > Layer From Background.

- In the Layers panel, click on the paper6 layer to make it the active layer.
- Holding down the Shift key, click on the Background Paper layer. Now all the layers that make up the background of the document should be active.

- Press Ctrl Alt E (Mac: Cmd Opt E) to create a merged copy. If needed, consult the workaround below.
- In the Layers panel, click and drag the merged copy layer above the Title layer.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Create Clipping Mask.

Merged Layer Shortcut Workaround

In Photoshop, if you have altered the default shortcuts, it's possible the merge layer shortcut used in this tutorial will not work for you. If that's the case for you, here's a workaround:

- In the Layers panel, all the layers that make up the background of your image should be active.
- Press Ctrl J (Mac: Cmd J) to duplicate the active layers.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Layers > Merge Layers.
- Continue with the tutorial as described.



Step Five: Add More Title and Save

- In the Layers panel, click on the Visibility icon of the Subtitle layer to reveal it.
- In the Layers panel, click on the Visibility icon of the Cluster layer to reveal it.
- To preserve the layers for later use, save the document (File > Save As) as a PSD file with a unique name.
- To create a flattened image, save the document (File > Save As) as a high quality JPEG file with a unique name. Then, close the working document without saving.



Credits:

Card: Happy Birthday by Julie Singco

Mask Lilac Watercolor Splash by Dawn Hudson

Kit: A Love Story by Krystal Hartley (retired)

Fonts: Impact, Marisha



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