

Two-Tone Type - Using the Gradient Tool (Photoshop Elements)

Tip of the Week by Barb Brookbank on May 22, 2012

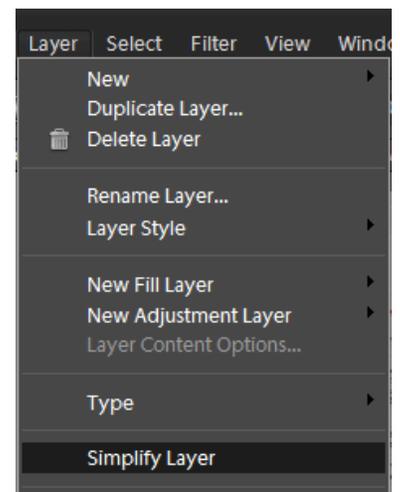
At times I like to do something a bit fancy with my journaling, but still keep it subtle.

I want my journaling to be clear and simple, but I also want some “pizzazz!” Merriam-Webster defines pizzazz as: the quality of being exciting or attractive: as glamor or vitality.

I don't know that this is glamorous, but I love it when things match my page. Matching the colors of my journaling to the colors in my layout does the trick for me! In this tutorial I'm going to show you how to do that with the Gradient tool.

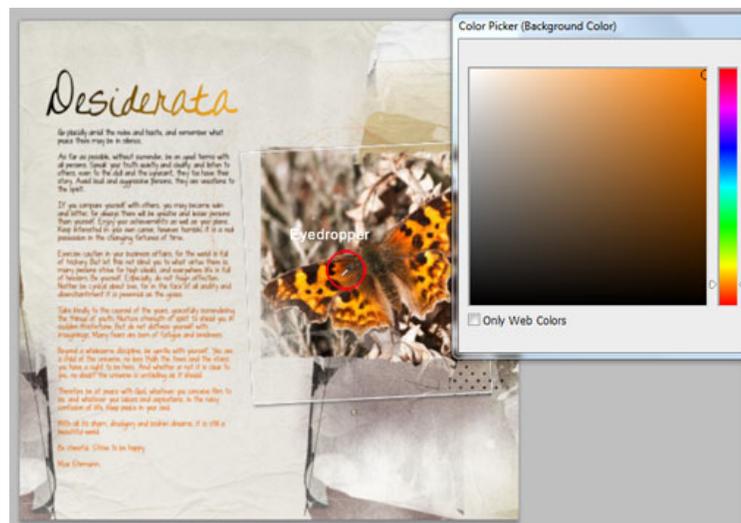
Step One: Prepare and Simplify the Type

- Create the journaling that you want to use on your layout.
- Press Ctrl J (Mac: Cmd J) to Duplicate it.
- In the Layers panel, click on the Visibility icon of the original type layer to hide it. This is to save your original type in case you want to change it later.
- In the Layers panel, click on the duplicate type layer to activate it.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Simplify > Layer. Once you simplify type, it is no longer editable.



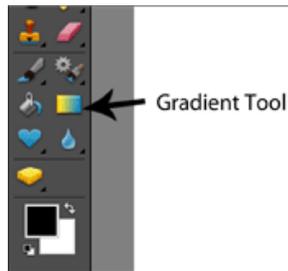
Step Two: Choose Two Colors

- Click on the Foreground Color Chip to open the Color Picker.
- When you move your cursor over the document, it will turn into the Eyedropper tool. Click on the color you want and click OK.
- Click on the Background Color Chip and repeat the above steps.
- I'm using black and orange.

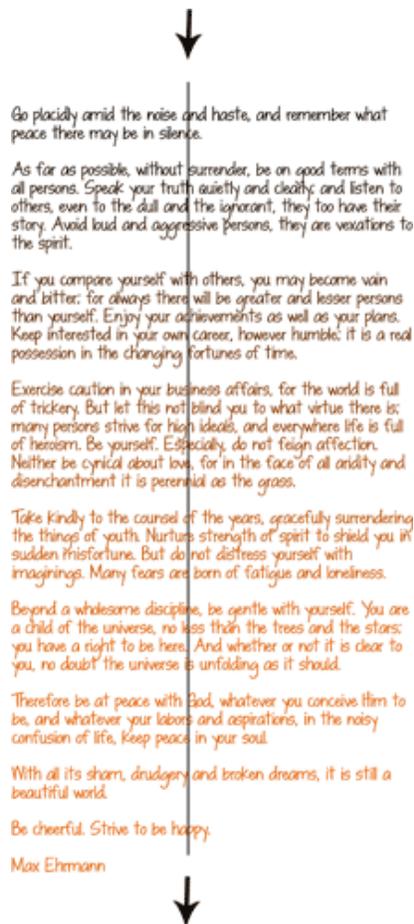
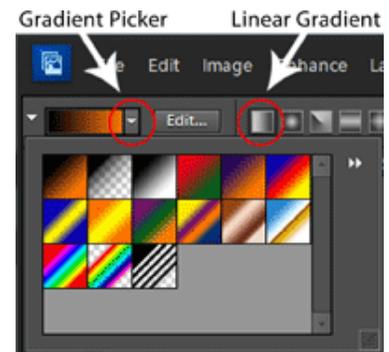


Step Three: Apply the Gradient

- In the Layers panel, Ctrl click (Mac: Cmd click) on the thumbnail of the simplified type layer to select the words.
- Get the Gradient tool.



- In the Options Bar, click on the down facing arrow to open the Gradient Picker. Choose Foreground to Background. It's the first icon in the top left corner of the Picker. If you do not see Foreground to Background, open the flyout menu, choose Reset Gradients and click OK.
- In the Options Bar, click on the Linear Gradient icon.
- On your scrapbook page, position your cursor at the top of the selected text and click and drag a line to the bottom.
- Press Ctrl D (Mac: Cmd D) to Deselect.



Credits:

Digi Scrap Tutorial: Two-Tone Type, Using the Gradient Tool by Barb Brookbank

Layout: "Desiderata" by Barb Brookbank

Kit: ArtPlay Palette Family by Anna Aspnes, previously available to [Premier](#) Members March 2012

Font: Myriad Pro, Written on His Hands

Poem: Desiderata by Max Ehrmann

Software: Photoshop Elements 10

