

Stripes: Gradient Tool and Wave Filter Fun (Photoshop Elements)



Tip of the Week by Barb Brookbank on June 12, 2012

I like stripes. When I go shopping for clothes, I am invariably drawn to the striped patterns. But as soon as I go to wear them I feel so conspicuous that they end up sitting in my closet. It's the same thing with scrapbook paper. I loove the striped paper, but when I go to use it, I feel that it's just too much, and it ends up sitting in my folder — never to see the light of day.

I've realized that I'm downright fussy about stripes. Not too bold, not too busy, not too big, and not too small. And yet... oh, how I love it when I see stripes used very subtly.

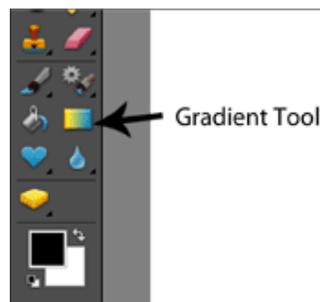
Today I'm going to show you how to create a striped template with the Gradient tool and the Wave filter. By using the same paper twice and adjusting the opacity of one, you can achieve a background that will add a special touch to your layout and not overwhelm it.

Step One: Prepare the Workspace

- Create a new document (File > New > Blank File) that is 12"x12" at 300ppi with a white background.
- Press the letter D to reset the Color Chips to the Default of black and white.

Step Two: Create and Save the Striped Template

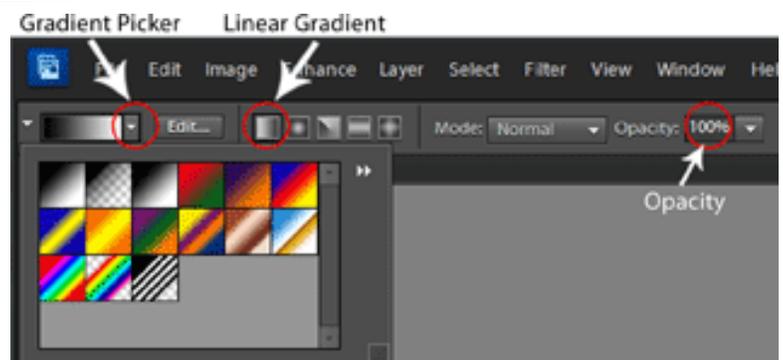
- Get the Gradient tool.



- In the Options Bar, open the Gradient Picker and choose Foreground to Background. It's the first box in the top left corner.

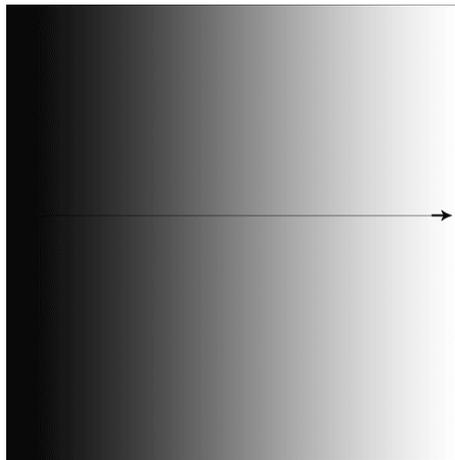
- If you do not see Foreground to Background, open the flyout menu, choose Reset Gradients and click OK.

- In the Options Bar, click on the Linear Gradient icon. Set the Mode to Normal, the Opacity to 100%, and make sure Reverse is

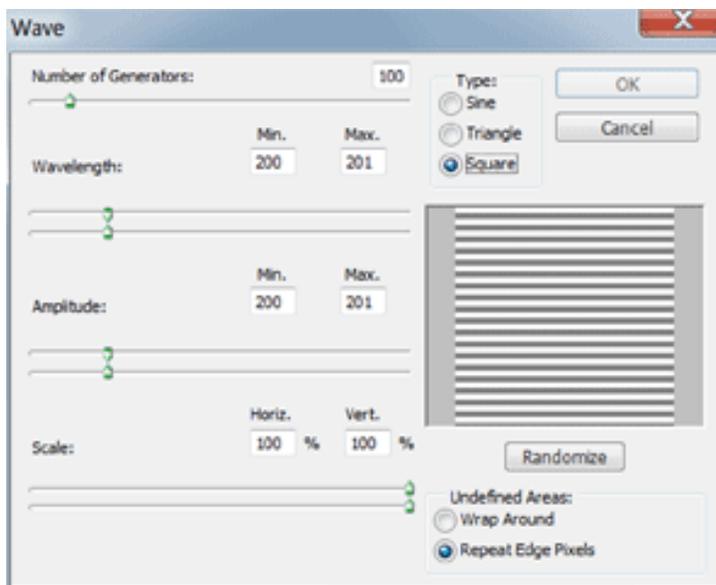


unchecked.

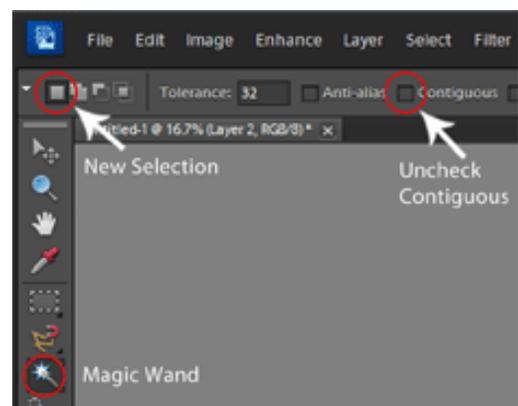
- Position your cursor at the left edge of the document. While holding down the Shift key, click and drag across the document to the right edge.



- In the Menu Bar, choose Filter > Distort > Wave.
- Choose the following settings:
 - Number of Generators: 100
 - Wavelength: Min: 200, Max: 201
 - Amplitude: Min: 200, Max: 201
 - Scale: Horiz: 100, Vert: 100
 - Type: Square
- Click OK.



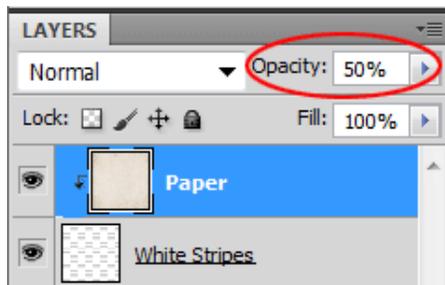
- Get the Magic Wand tool.
- In the Options Bar, click on the New Selection icon and make sure that Contiguous is unchecked.
 - On the document, click on a white stripe. You should see marching ants around all the white stripes.
 - Press Ctrl J (Mac: Cmd J) to Duplicate the white stripes to a new layer.



- In the Layers panel, double click on the name of the new layer and change it to White Stripes. Click anywhere outside the box to accept the name change.
- In the Layers panel, click on the Background layer to activate it.
- On the document, click on a black stripe. You should see marching ants around all the black stripes.
- Press Ctrl J (Mac: Cmd J) to Duplicate the black stripes to a new layer.
- In the Layers panel, double click on the name of that layer and change it to Black Stripes. Click anywhere outside the box to accept the name change.
- In the Layers panel, click on the Background layer and drag it to the Trash.
- Save the template (File > Save As) as a PSD file using a descriptive name such as Striped Paper Template.psd.

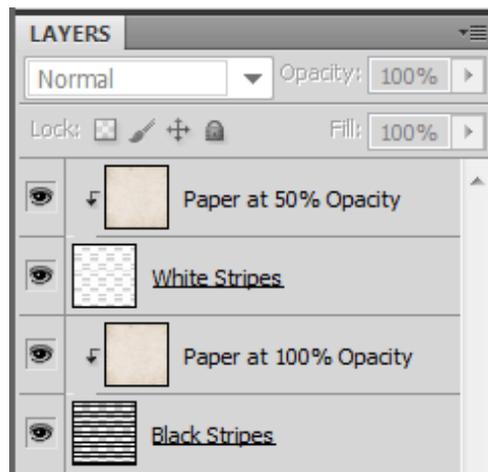
Step Three: Add the Papers and Clip them to the Striped Template

- In the Layers panel, click on the White Stripes layer to activate it.
- Open a background paper (File > Open) with no obvious patterns.
- Click on the paper and while holding down the Shift key, drag it onto the document.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Create Clipping Mask. Earlier versions of Photoshop Elements will say Group With Previous.
- In the Layers panel, lower the Opacity of the paper to 50%.



- In the Layers panel, click on the Black Stripe layer to activate it.
- Go back and click on the paper that you have open, and while holding down the Shift key, drag it onto the document.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Create Clipping Mask. Earlier versions of Photoshop Elements will say Group With Previous.
- Leave the Opacity of the paper at 100%.
- Make sure to save the document with a new name so as not to overwrite the Striped Template.

Here's what your Layers panel should look like:



And here's my finished layout!

Credits: Digi Scrap Tutorial: Stripes:
Gradient Tool and Wave Filter Fun
(Photoshop Elements) by Barb Brook-
bank

Layout: "Today is the Greatest Day" by
Barb Brookbank

Kit: Dad's Day by Digilicious Designs
available to [Premier](#) Members June
2012

Font: LDJ What Up

Software: Photoshop Elements 10

