

Hexagon Hype - Create Your Own Trendy Element Cluster

Tip of the Week by Barb Brookbank on September 11, 2012



Often designers will create an element that is just so simple, but for some reason it takes off and becomes a hot new trend. The hexagon shape is one of them.

I was admiring some of the layouts using this shape and decided that there was not a single reason in this world that I could not create my own. As far as I know, no one has a corner on the market of hexagons! I could produce thousands! (*But I won't.*) (*And why would I?*)

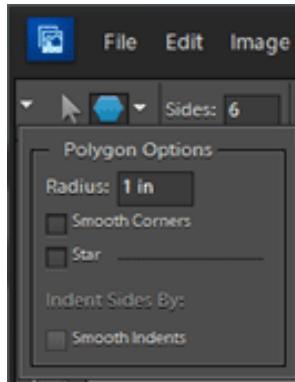
For today's tutorial, I will take four simple hexagons and show you how to create a cluster that would be terrific to use on your next layout.

Step One: Prepare the Workspace

- Create a new document (File > New > Blank File) that is 12in by 12in at 300ppi with a white background. (Photoshop: File > New)
 - Make sure the Grid is showing (View > Grid). (Photoshop: View > Show > Grid) We are only using the Grid to make sure the point of the hexagon is straight up, so it doesn't matter how the Grid is set up in Preferences, whether it is inches, cm, or number of subdivisions.)
 - Press the letter D to reset the Color Chips to the Default of black and white.

Step Two: Create the Hexagon

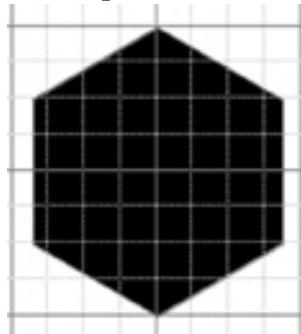
- Get the Polygon tool.
- In the Options Bar, open the Geometry Options and enter 1 inch for the Radius. Uncheck all other options.
 - Click on the Create a New Shape Layer icon. (Photoshop: Also click the Shape Layers icon. It's the first icon in the set of three icons to the far left in the Options Bar).
 - Enter 6 for the Sides.



- On the document, click directly on any Horizontal line and drag the cursor straight down to create the Hexagon shape. It should look like the following image. If the point is not straight up just delete it and try

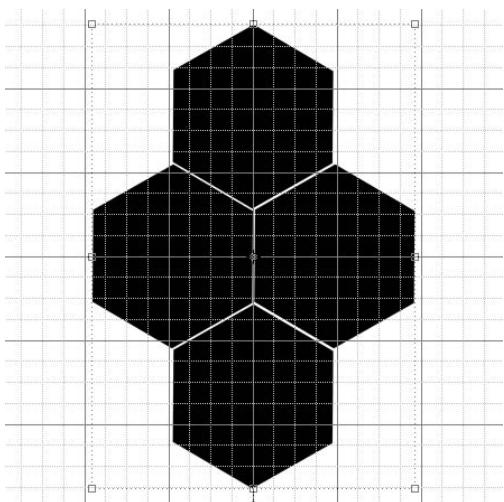
again.

- In the Options Bar, click Simplify. (Photoshop: In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Rasterize > Shape.)



Step Three: Create the Cluster

- Press Ctrl J (Mac: Cmd J) three times.
- Get the Move tool.
- In the Layers panel, activate the shape layer that you want to move.
- On the document, click on each hexagon separately and drag it into position as shown in the image below. Use your arrow keys to nudge it into place.



Step Four: Use the Cluster on Your Scrapbook Page

- Clip papers to each shape.
- Not sure what a Clipping Mask is or how to use it? Check out these videos: [What is a Clipping Mask?](#) and [How Do I Clip a Photo to a Photo Clipping Mask Layer?](#)

Have fun!

Credits:

Digi Scrap Tutorial: "Hexagon Hype - Create Your Own Trendy Element Cluster" by Barb Brookbank

Kit: "Big Ideas" by One Little Bird is available to [Premier](#) Members September 2012

Font: CK Jot

Layout: "Run and Jump Like You Mean It" by Barb Brookbank

