

Brush Tool Frames with Quick and Easy Editing

Tip of the Week by Barb Brookbank on December 18, 2012

When I want to make a little creation of my own in Photoshop, I rely heavily on grids and guides to keep everything in order.

Some people seem to be able to “free-hand” art and it looks amazing! Me... not so much.



In this tutorial, I’m going to show you how to use a stroke outline as a guide to “stamp” some snowflakes in a circle. I’m then going to show you a clever little trick on how to move brushwork around!

Step One: Prepare the Workspace

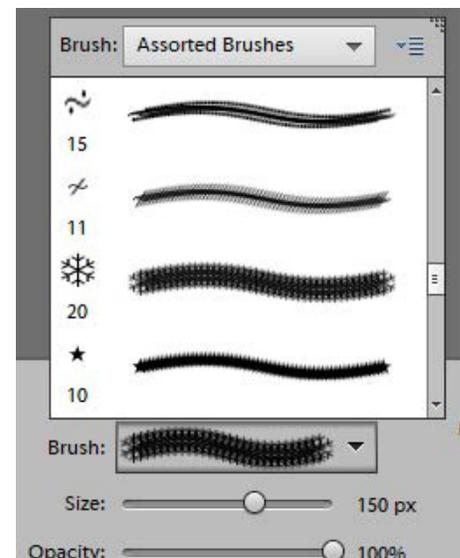
- Create a new document (File > New > Blank File) that is 12in by 12in at 300ppi with a white background. (Photoshop: Choose File > New.)
- Press the letter D to reset the Color Chips to the default of black and white.

Step Two: Create a Guide

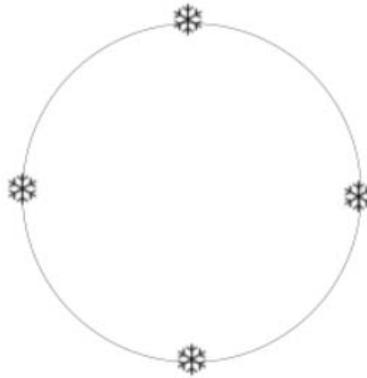
- Get the Elliptical Marquee tool.
- In the Tool Options, click on the New Selection icon and set the Feather to 0.
- On the document, while holding down the Shift key, click and drag out a circle selection.
- In the Layers panel, click on the Create a New Layer icon to create a new layer.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Edit > Stroke (Outline) Selection. (Photoshop: Choose Edit > Stroke.)
- Enter 2px for the Width and choose Inside for the Location. Click OK.
- Press Ctrl D (Mac: Cmd D) to deselect.

Step Three: Add the Brushwork

- Get the Brush tool.
- In the Tool Options, set the Mode to Normal and the Opacity to 100%. (Photoshop: Set the Flow to 100%.)
- Open the Brush Picker. Choose the Snowflake brush from the Assorted Brushes. Set the Size to 150px.
- In the Layers panel, click on the Create a New Layer icon to create a layer.
- Using the circle as a guide, click once on the top to create a snowflake.
- Click once on the bottom, then once on the left and once on the right.
- Click between the snowflakes at regular intervals to fill in the rest



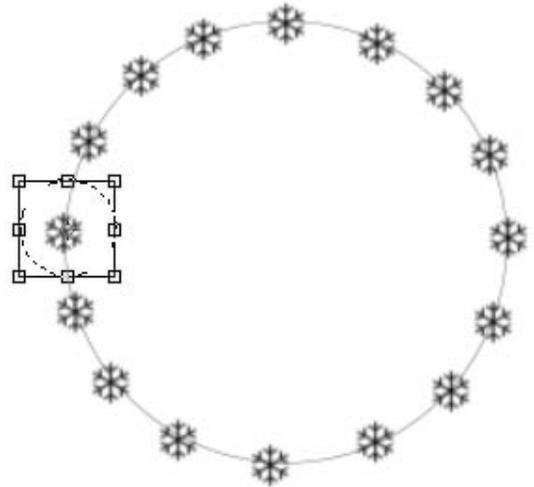
of the circle.



Step Four: Reposition a Snowflake

If you decide you need to reposition a snowflake, it's very easy to do!

- Get the Elliptical Marquee tool.
- Click and draw a selection outline around a snowflake.
- Press Ctrl T (Mac: Cmd T) to get the Transform options.
- Use the Arrow Keys to nudge it gently into place. Even though the snowflakes are all on the same layer this technique will allow you to move brushwork anywhere on the page.
- Double-click inside the Bounding Box to accept the changes.
- Press Ctrl D (Mac: Cmd D) to deselect.
- Drag the circle guide to the trash.



Credits:

Digi Scrap Tutorial: Brush Tool Frames with Quick and Easy Editing by Barb Brookbank

Paper and Elements from the December 2012 Digital Scrapper Premier kit [Our Holiday](#), by SMJ Designs

