

Feeling Edgy—Zig Zags

Digi Scrap Tutorial by Nannette Dalton on March 05, 2013

I used to be a paper scrapper. I have a closet full of supplies that I do not use. One of the tools I used quite often was my decorative scissors. I have a whole collection of them. My favorite pair of scissors was the pinking shears. I just loved putting edges on my mats and paper. (Does that date me?)

I no longer go for that particular look, but occasionally it would be nice to add a little edge to my digital papers. It adds a little extra flair to my page.

Let me show you how you can make your own pinking shear. One nice thing about scrapping digitally is that I do not have to go out and buy new tools. I already have them at my disposal in Photoshop and Elements.



Step One: Prepare the Workspace

You will need to find or create a paper to use.

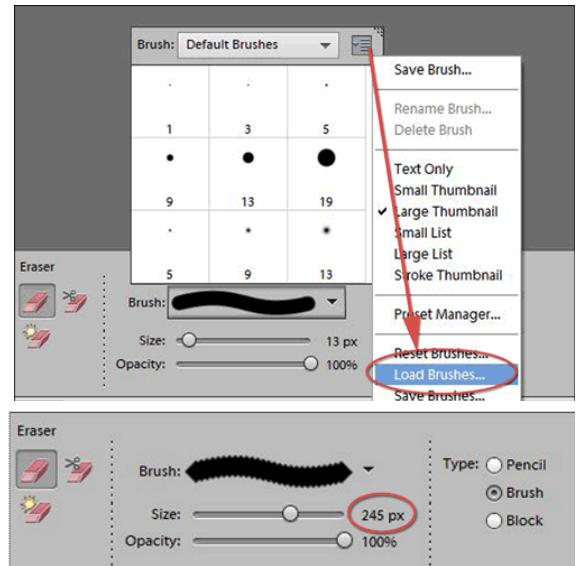
- Create a new document (File > New > Blank File) or open (File > Open) an existing scrapbook page.
- Open a paper you want to cut.
- Get the Move tool.
- Holding down the Shift key, click on the paper element and drag it onto your document.

Step Two: Create Your Pinking Shear Brush

Photoshop Elements:

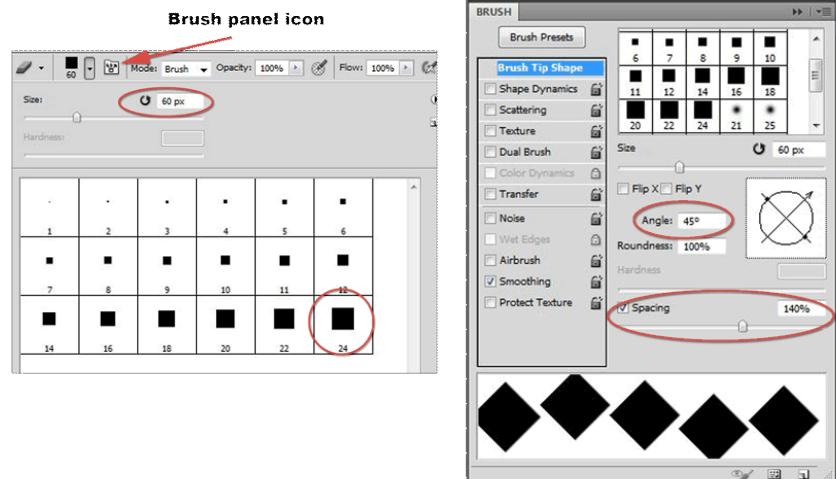
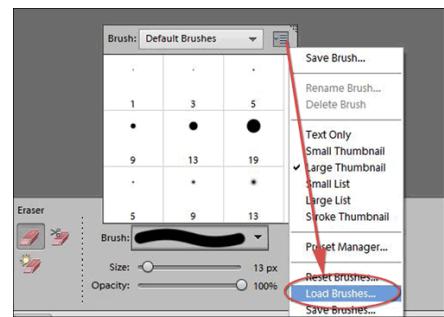
Note: Photoshop Elements does not have the capability to rotate an eraser brush, so I've provided a Pinking Shear brush for you in order to complete this tutorial. You can directly download it [here](#).

- Get the Eraser tool.
- In the Tool Options, open the Brush Picker, open the fly-out menu, and choose Load Brushes.
- Navigate to the location where you have opened and saved your DS-Pinking-Shear brush. Click on it and click Load.
- In the Tool Options, the Size should be 245 px and the Opacity should be 100%.



Adobe Photoshop:

- Get the Eraser tool.
- In the Options Bar, open the Brush Picker, open the fly-out menu, choose Square Brushes, and click OK.
- In the Brush Picker, choose the Hard Square 24 px brush. Adjust the Size to around 60 px.
- In the Options Bar, set the Mode to Brush, the Opacity to 100%, and the Flow to 100%.
- Click on the Brush panel icon to toggle open the Brush panel.
- In the Brush panel, change the Angle to 45°. Make sure that Spacing is checked and set to 140%.
- Uncheck all the boxes under Brush Tip Shape.
- In the Options Bar, click on the Brush panel icon again to toggle it closed.



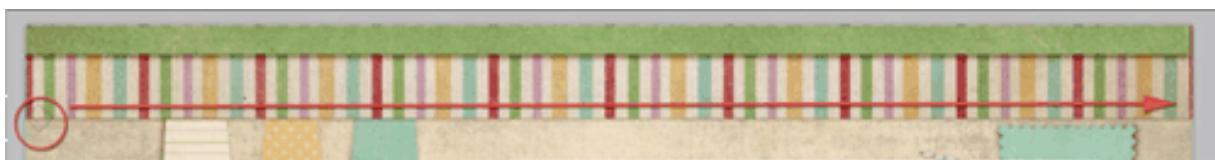
Step Three: Erase the Edge of Your Paper

- In the Layers panel, make sure that the paper you want to cut is the active layer.

Photoshop Elements Note: Position your brush to erase with just the tip. See the first image below.

Adobe Photoshop Note: Position your brush to erase with the top half. See the second image below.

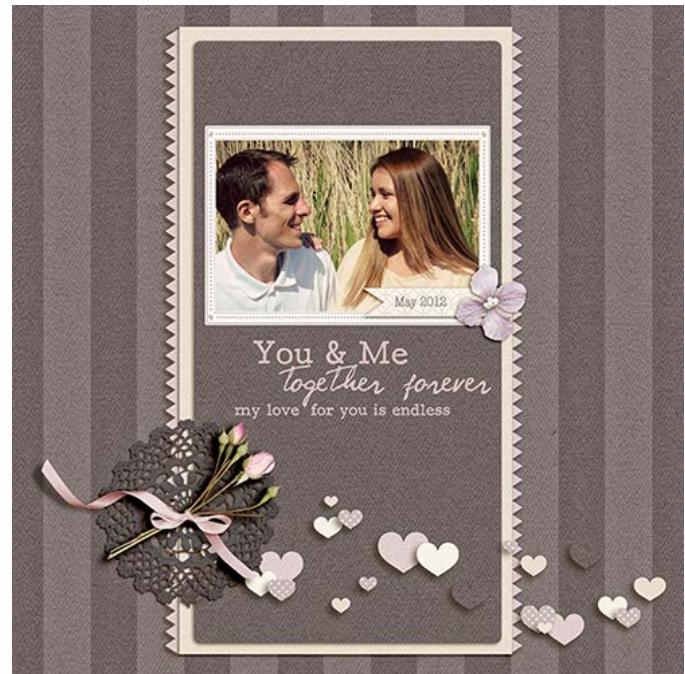
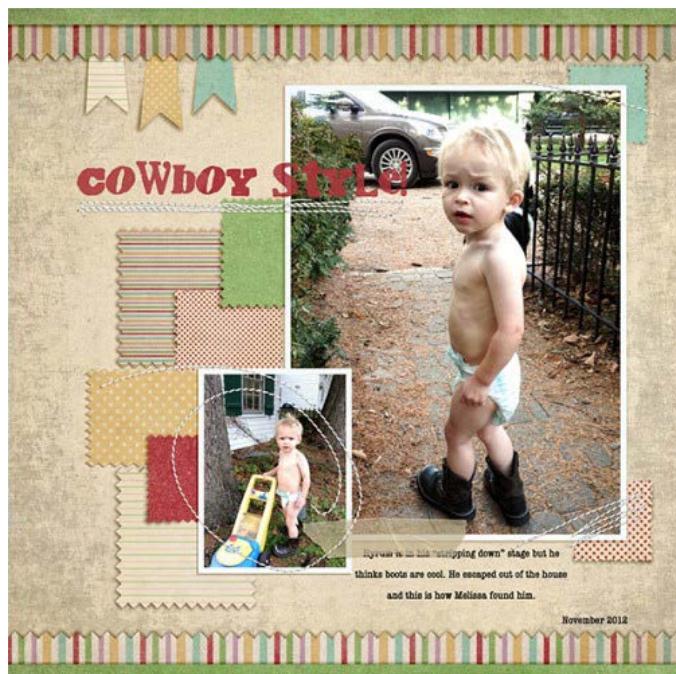
- On the document, holding down the Shift key, click and drag from the left end of your paper straight across to the other end. See the third image below.



Don't forget to add a low drop shadow to the paper for more realism. You should be able to use this same brush for both vertical and horizontal erasing.

Well there you go. You have just created your own pinking shears. And, it's much easier than going out to buy a pair. I also think they are a lot easier to cut with!

Here are a couple of layouts I made using this eraser brush.



Credits:

Digi Scrap Tutorial: Feeling Edgy-Zig Zags by Nannette Dalton

Layout: Cowboy Style by Nannette Dalton

Kit: [Our Holiday](#) by SMJ Designs

Overlay: [Textures Vol. 1](#) by Susie Roberts

Stitching: [All Stitched Up](#) by Susie Roberts

Fonts: American Typewriter and Cry Kitty

Layout: You and Me by Nannette Dalton

Kit: [Two Hearts](#) by Anita Designs