Digital Scrapper®

Easy Peasy Pie Chart
By Barb Brookbank

Recently, I was in the process of creating a layout with a unique photo of my grandchildren. They were lying on their backs in a snow bank, in a circular position.

Suddenly, the idea of using a pie chart popped into my mind.

I spent the next half hour drawing out triangles and trying to fit them together to create a simple pie chart, but I failed miserably.

Next, I tried some of the generators that are found online, but they were not quite what I wanted, since most of them resulted in 3D images.

Well, luckily, there is a very simple solution to this problem.

In this tutorial, I'm going to show you an easy, peasy technique to create a pie chart using the Rectangle tool and the Elliptical Marquee tool.

Step One: Prepare the Workspace

- Create a new 12 x 12 inch document (File > New > Blank File) at 300 ppi with a white background. (Photoshop: Choose File > New.)

- Press the letter D to reset the Color Chips to the default of black and white.

- In the Menu Bar, choose View > Grid. (Photoshop: Choose View > Show > Grid.)

- Press Ctrl K (Mac: Cmd K) to open Preferences.

- In the dialog box, choose Guides & Grid. (Photoshop: Choose Guides, Grid & Slices.)

- Set the Gridline to every 1 inch and the Subdivisions to 4.

- Click OK.

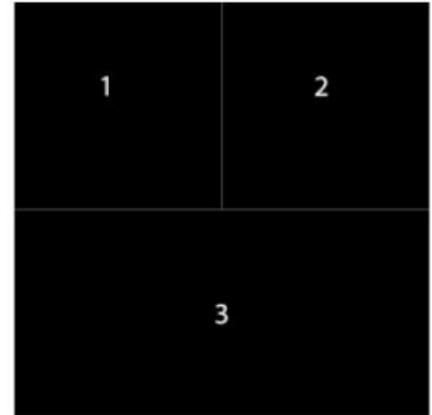- In the Menu Bar, choose View > Snap to > Grid.

Step Two: Create Two Squares

- Get the Rectangle tool.

- In the Tool Options, click on the Create New Shape Layer icon. (Photoshop: Set the Tool Mode to Shape and the Path Operations to New Layer.)

- Open the Geometry Options and choose Fixed Size. Set the Width to 3 inches and the Height to 3 inches.

- On the document, click once to create the shape. (Photoshop: Click and drag slightly to create the shape.)

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

- Get the Move tool.

- In the Tool Options, check Auto Select Layer and Show Bounding Box. (Photoshop: Check Auto-Select and Show Transform Controls.)

- On the document, while holding down the Alt key (Mac: Opt key), click on the square and drag to the right to create a new square.

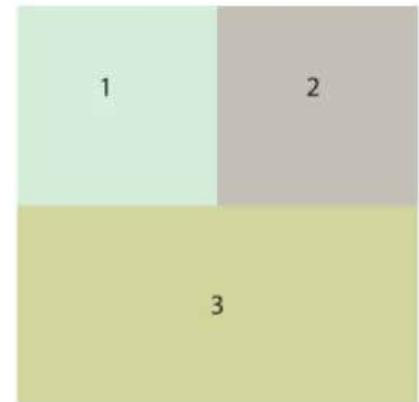- Position the new square right beside the first square.

Step Three: Create a Rectangle

- Get the Rectangle tool.

- Open the Geometry Options and set the Width to 6 inches and the Height to 3 inches.

- On the document, position the cursor at the lower left corner of the first square.

- Click once to create the shape.

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

Step Four: Fill the Shapes with Color

- Click on the Foreground Color Chip to open the Color Picker. Choose any color you want. I'm using Hex Color #d5edda. Click OK.

- In the Layers panel, activate the first square.

- Press Alt Shift Backspace (Mac: Opt Shift Delete) to fill the shape with color.

- Click on the Foreground Color Chip and choose a different color. I'm using Hex Color #c3c0b7. Click OK.

- In the Layers panel, activate the second square.

- Press Alt Shift Backspace (Mac: Opt Shift Delete) to fill the shape with color.

- Click on the Foreground Color Chip and choose a different color. I'm using Hex Color #d1d69d. Click OK.

- In the Layers panel, activate the rectangle.

- Press Alt Shift Backspace (Mac: Opt Shift Delete) to fill the shape with color.
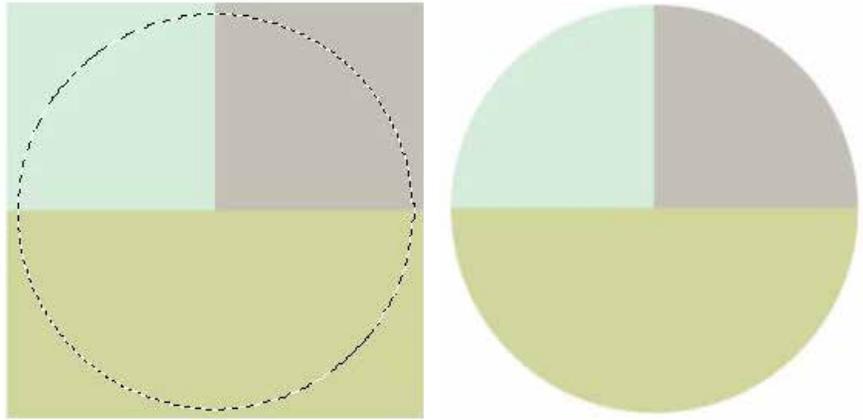
Step Five: Merge the Layers

- In the Layers panel, click on the top shape, then Shift click on the bottom shape to activate all the shape layers.

- In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Merge > Layers.

Step Six: Cut Out a Circle

- Get the Elliptical Marquee tool.

- In the Tool Options, click on the New Selection icon.

- On the document, while holding down the Shift key, click and drag out a circle inside the merged shape layer.

- Press Ctrl J (Mac: Cmd J) to copy the selection to a new layer.

- In the Layers panel, drag the original shape to the Trash.

Instant pie chart! And, here's how I used it on my layout!

Credits

Digi Scrap Tutorial: Easy Peasy Pie Chart by Barb Brookbank
Background papers: Duty, Honor, Country by Danyale Lewis
Snowflakes: Winter Wonderland by Elise Hansen
Circle stitching: A Legacy of Love by Kristin Cronin-Barrow
Font: Myriad Pro