



## “A Stitch In Time, Saves Nine”

By Nannette Dalton

“A stitch in time, saves nine” is a common American proverb. It means that if you have a rip in your clothes, you will only have to stitch once; unless you wait until it gets bigger, and then you will have to stitch nine times more. What does this have to do with digital scrapbooking? Well, I am all about saving time. And, when it comes to stitches, I have found a way that is easy, looks good, and is almost quicker than going to find a pre-made set of stitching to use. Are you interested? Well, let me show you what I mean.

### Step One: Prepare Your Workspace

- Open an existing multi-layered scrapbook page (File > Open).
- In the Layers panel, activate the layer to which you want to add the stitching.

Here is the layout I want to work on. I think it is just crying out for some stitching!

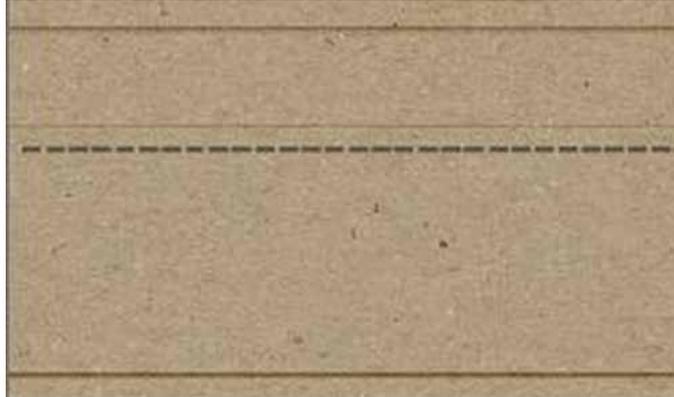


### Step Two: Type Some Dashes

- Get the Horizontal Type tool.
- In the Tool Options, open the Font Picker and choose Arial. Set the Size to around 33 pts. Click on the Left Align Text icon and choose a color that is a few shades darker than the paper on which you want the stitches.

Note: I found that the size of a dash in different fonts varied greatly. If you choose Arial, the size of your dashes will match mine. My paper is a tan color (Hex Code #ac997b), and I choose Hex Code #695d4b for my stitching color.

- On the document, click once and begin typing a line of dashes.
- Click on the checkmark to commit the type.

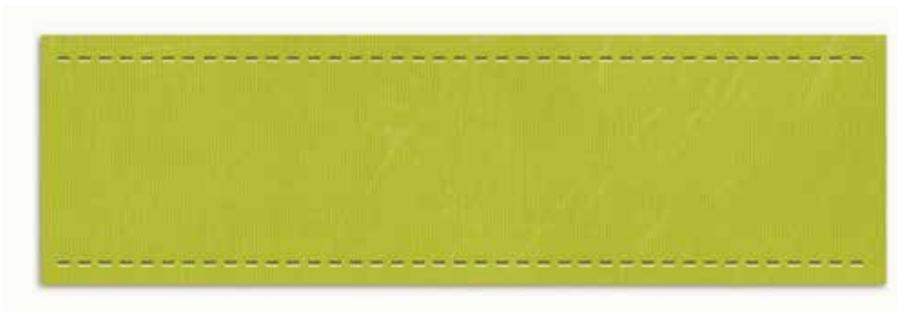


Note: The Style we will be using on the stitching applies a white shadow to the dashes. For that reason, white or light colored papers do not work well with this technique.

### Step Three: Create and Apply the Embossed Style

#### Photoshop Elements Users

This tutorial requires the ability to create Styles using Blend Modes. Photoshop Elements does not offer this option, so I've provided a work around for you. Download the DS-Embossed-Stitching.asl file by clicking on the image below.



- Install the Style. You can find instruction for how to install the style for your version of Photoshop Elements [here](#).
- Click on the NDalton-Stitching Style to apply it to your Type layer.

#### Photoshop Users

- In the Layers panel, make sure that your Type layer is still active.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Layer Style > Drop Shadow.
- In the dialog box, choose Normal for the Blend Mode, set the Color to white, the Opacity to 90%, the Angle to 90°, the Distance to 2 px, the Spread to 1%, and the Size to 1 px.
- Click on the New Style button, enter Embossed Stitching for the Name, and click OK.
- Click OK again to close the Layer Style dialog box.

TA DA! I told you! It is so easy. I had so much fun that I added stitching all over my layout. I even applied the Style to my title to give it a fun embossed look.



Note: For instructions on how to create a circular stitch, check out Jen White's Tutorial, "Connecting the Dots." Premier Members can access it [here](#).

## Credits

**Digi Scrap Tutorial:** "A Stitch in Time, Saves Nine" by Nannette Dalton

**Layout:** So Funny by Nannette Dalton

**Kit:** Rule the School by Julie Billingsley (2012 Costco Goodies)

**Cardstock-Lunch Bag** by Susie Roberts

**Layered Dates Set 3** by Cindy Schneider

**Fonts:** Arial, DJB Bailey