



Generate a Custom Striped Pattern

By Nannette Dalton

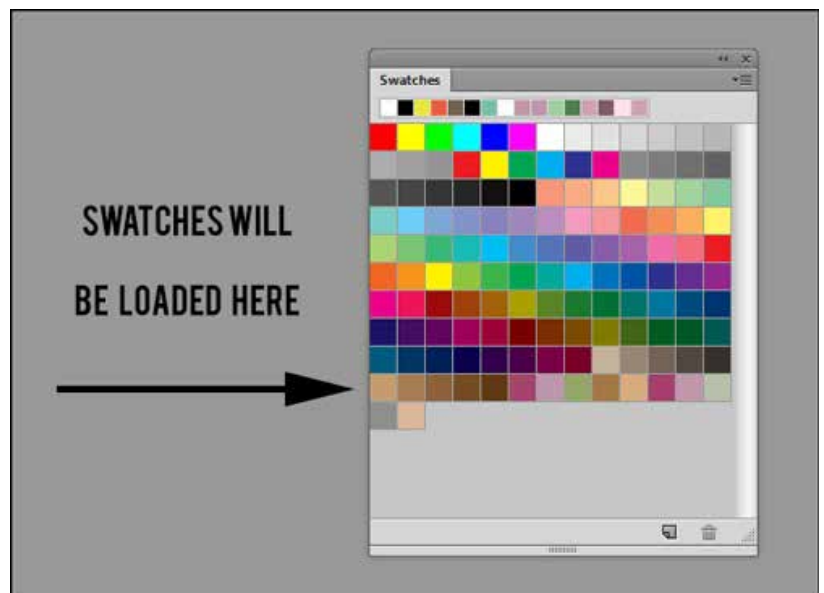
I find that I like to use certain types of papers on my digital scrapbook layouts. Two of my very favorites are cardstock and stripes. I also love it when my papers match the pictures in my layout. Remember [this](#) tutorial? This time I will show you how easy it is to create your own perfectly matched striped pattern. I will also teach you how to add a little texture to it so that it is interesting and has a realistic appearance. Then, we will use that pattern to fill a shape on a layered template. Wow! That is a lot; we better get started! Check out my blogpost—[Kuler Color Tool](#)—for a quick tutorial on how I used a picture to generate the

color swatches that I am using to make my stripes. You will need these swatches for Step One.

Step One: Prepare the Workspace

- Create a new 4 x 1 inch document (File > New > Blank File) at 300 ppi with a white background. (Photoshop: Choose File > New.)
- In the Menu Bar, choose Window > Color Swatches to Open the Color Swatches panel. (Photoshop: Choose Window > Swatches.)
- In the Color Swatches panel, open the fly-out menu and choose Load Swatches.
- In the dialog box, navigate to the folder where you saved your swatch set or sets, choose the .ase file/files you wish to load, and click Open.

Note: When choosing which swatches file to load, you may need to open the File Type drop-down menu and change the File Type from .aco to .ase. Your color swatches should now show up at the bottom of the Color Swatches panel.



Step Two: Create Some Stripes

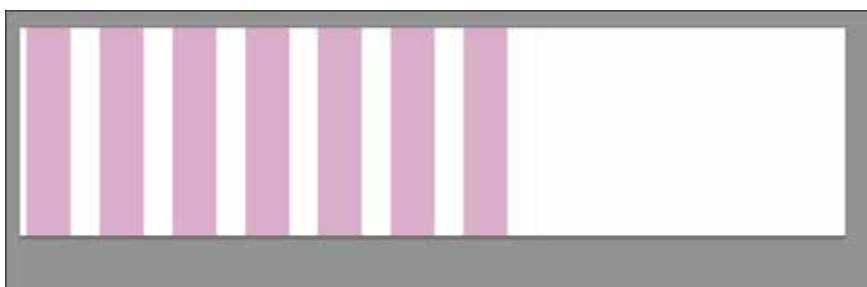
- In the Layers panel, click on the Create a New Layer icon.
- Get the Rectangular Marquee tool.
- In the Tool Options, click on the New Selection icon, set the Feather to 0 and the Aspect to Normal. (Photoshop: Set the Style to Normal.)
- On the document, click and drag out a rectangular selection outline.



- In the Color Swatches panel, click on the swatch of your choice.
- Get the Paint Bucket tool.
- On the document, click inside the selection outline to fill it with the foreground color.
- Press Ctrl D (Mac: Cmd D) to deselect.
- Get the Move tool.



- In the Tool Options, make sure Auto Select Layer is checked. (Photoshop: Make sure Auto-Select is checked.)
- On the document, while holding down the Alt key (Mac: Opt key), click on the original stripe and drag to the right to create a copy of the stripe.
- Repeat until you have as many stripes as you want colors in your finished striped paper. I want to use seven colors, so I created seven stripes.
- In the Layers panel, activate the top stripe layer, press and hold the Shift key, and click on the bottom stripe layer to activate them all.
- In the Tool Options, click on the Distribute Horizontal Centers icon.



Note: At this point, don't worry if some of the stripes are different lengths.

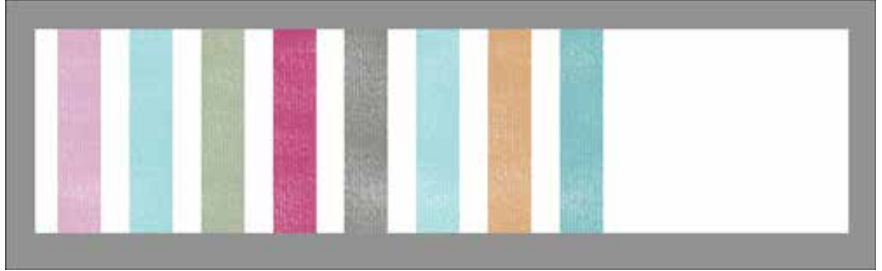
Step 3: Fill the Stripes with Color

- In the Layers panel, activate the second stripe layer.
- In the Color Swatches panel, click on the swatch of your choice.
- Get the Paint Bucket tool.
- On the document, click on the second stripe.
- Repeat for each color.
- In the Layers panel, activate the top stripe layer, press and hold the Shift key, and click on the bottom stripe layer to activate them all.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Merge Layers.
- Get the Move tool.
- On the document, click and drag the stripes until there is as much white on the left side as there is in between the stripes.



Step 4: Distress the Stripes

- Get the Eraser tool.
- In the Tool Options, open the Brush Preset Picker, open the drop-down menu, and choose Faux Finish Brushes. (Photoshop: Open the fly-out menu, choose Faux Finish Brushes, and click OK.)
- Choose the Rolled Rag - Cotton 120 pixels brush.
- In the Tool Options, set the Opacity to 25%. (Photoshop: Also set the Mode to Normal and the Flow to 100%.)
- On the document, click here and there to add some texture to the stripes.

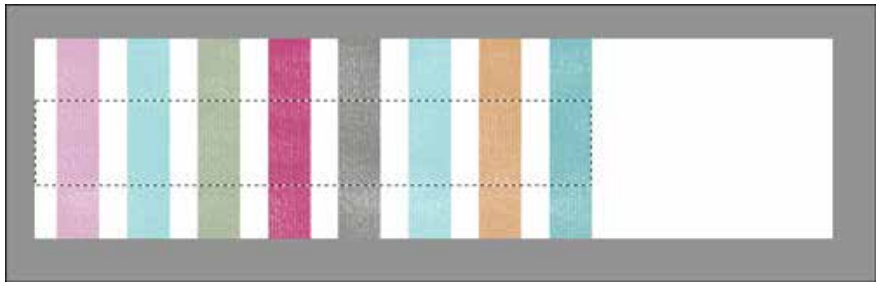


Step 5: Make a Pattern

- Get the Rectangular Marquee tool.
- On the document, click and drag a selection outline across the stripes.

Note: It does not matter how high the selection is; just make sure to have white on the left side and not on the right.

- In the Menu Bar, choose Image > Crop.
- Press Ctrl D (Mac: Cmd D) to deselect.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Edit > Define Pattern and click OK.

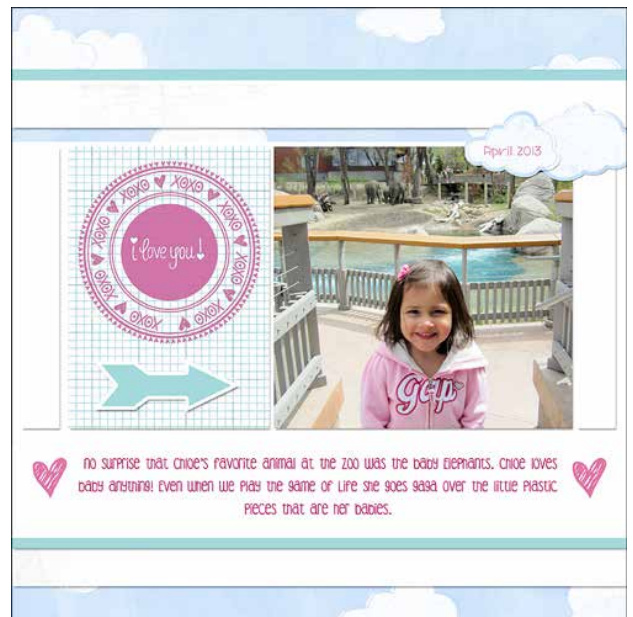


Step 6: Fill a Shape with the Pattern

Here is my template before adding the stripes:

- Open a layered template (File > Open).
- In the Layers panel, activate the layer you would like to fill with the stripe pattern.
- Click on the Create New Fill or Adjustment Layer icon and choose Pattern.
- In the dialog box, the newly created pattern should show up in the Pattern Picker. Check Link with Layer, adjust the Scale to your liking, and click OK.

Note: If you want to use the Pattern adjustment layer as a paper so that you can rotate it, you will need to Simplify the layer (Layer > Simplify Layer). (Photoshop: Choose Layer > Rasterize > Layer.)



You can use the new stripe pattern to fill in shapes that you create, template pieces, etc. Have fun creating a page with this technique, and if you do make a page, I would love to see it in the [Digi Scrap Tutorial Gallery](#).



Credits

Digi Scrap Tutorial: Generate a Custom Striped Pattern by Nannette Dalton

Paper: [Menagerie](#) by One Little Bird

Kit: [Holiday Sparkle](#) by Michelle Shefveland

Tutorial: [Circular Sentiments](#) by Jen White; part of February 2014 [Premier](#)

Fonts: KG-Heart Doodles, DJB CoffeeShoppe Espresso