



Word Split with the Magic Wand Tool

by Jenifer Juris

Give your greeting card template the look of perfectly cut paper using the magic of the Magic Wand tool.

©2019 Digital Scrapper

[Terms of Use](#)

For this tutorial you will need:

- Photoshop Elements or Adobe Photoshop
- A script title or word art that's connected with no spaces ([download mine here](#))

Step One: Prepare the Workspace

- Create a new document (File > New > Blank File) that is 7 inches wide by 5 inches high at 300ppi with a White Background. (PS: Choose File > New.)
- In the Menu Bar, choose View > Rulers to turn your Rulers on.
- Open a the word art file you wish to use. You can find the included word art in the downloads link above. (File > Open).

NOTE: No matter which of the 3 pieces of word art you choose to use, the tutorial will work the same.

Step Two: Add The Word Art

- Get the Move tool.

- On the document, while holding down the Shift key, click and drag the word art onto the 7x5 document and then let go.
- Press Ctrl T (Mac: Cmd T) to get the Transform options.
- On the document, while holding down the Alt key (Mac: Opt key), click and drag from a corner handle until the word art fits to the edges of the document. If you don't see the corner handles of the bounding box, press Ctrl 0 (Mac: Cmd 0) to fit the bounding box to your viewing area.

NOTE: This step is important for the tutorial to work properly. The word art **must** be slightly overlapping the edges of the document in order for the rest of the tutorial to work.

- Click the checkmark to commit.
- On the document, while holding down the Shift key, click and drag the word art down until it's roughly two thirds of the way down the document. This would put the middle of the word art at about 3.33 inches down along the vertical.
- In the Layers panel, click on the name of the word art layer and change it to Xmas Word Art. Press Enter to commit the name change.



Step Two: Create a Light Gray Layer

- Click on the Foreground Color Chip to open the Color Picker and choose a light gray color. I'm using Hex #: cccccc. Click OK.
- In the Layers panel, click on the Create a New Layer icon.
- Press Alt Backspace (Mac: Opt Delete) to fill the new layer with the Foreground Color.
- In the Layers panel, move the light gray layer below the word art layer.



Step Three: Create the Word Split

- In the Layers panel, click on the word art layer to activate it.

- Press Ctrl J (Mac: Cmd J) to duplicate the word art layer.
- In the Layers panel, click on the word art layer just above the light gray layer to activate it.
- In the Layers panel, hold down the Shift key and click on the light gray layer so that both it and the word art layer above it are activated.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Merge Layers.
- Get the Magic Wand tool.
- In the Tool Options, click on the New Selection icon and set the Tolerance to 32. Uncheck Sample All Layers but check both Contiguous and Anti-Alias. (PS: Set the Sample Size to Point Sample.)
- On the document, click once on the light gray portion below the word art to select it.
- Press Backspace (Mac: Delete) to remove the unwanted pixels.
- Press Ctrl D (Mac: Cmd D) to deselect.



Step Four: Add A Drop Shadow

Normally, it's not good design to add a drop shadow to type. But in this case, we're using the word art in such a way that adding a drop shadow adds to the design of the card so here's how to do it.

- In the Layers panel, click on the Xmas Word Art copy layer to activate it.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Layer Style > Style Settings. (PS: Choose Layer > Layer Style > Drop Shadow.)

Photoshop Elements:

- In the dialog box, set the Lighting Angle to 120° and then click on the Drop Shadow box to turn it on. Set the Size to 15, the Distance to 7 and the Opacity to 50%. Click OK.

Adobe Photoshop:

- In the dialog box, set the Blend Mode to Multiply, and the Opacity to 50%. Set the Angle to 120°. Set the Distance to 7, the Spread to 0, and the Size to 15. Click OK.



Step Five: Save As

- Save the document (File > Save As) as a layered PSD file with a unique name. I'm naming mine Word Split Christmas Card Template.psd.

Now that you know how to create the template, let me show you how I chose to customize this.



In the downloads for this lesson (above), I've included these two papers for you to practice with. But whether you use the included papers or papers of your own, it's a good idea to stick to using 1 solid and 1 patterned paper.

If you need help with how to clip a paper to a layer, please follow this link to our free [Fundamentals Classroom](#). In it, we have a lecture on how to clip papers to layers.

One last note, all three word art pieces were created to fit the 12 x 12 inch document size so if you wanted to use this idea to create a scrapbook page, you can do that as well.



Credits:
Card: Jenifer Juris
Page & Photo: Jenifer Juris
Kit: Spirit of Christmas by HGD by Laurie Ann
Fonts: Christmas Mystery, Forever Grateful, Coronamatic 67