



Layered Word Art Using Layer Styles

by Jenifer Juris

Is your word art falling flat? Give your word art some dimension with the use of layer styles.

For this tutorial you will need:

- Layered PSD document from the downloads for this lesson
- Photoshop Elements or Adobe Photoshop

If you'd like to follow along exactly, **use the PSD document from the download that included this manual.**

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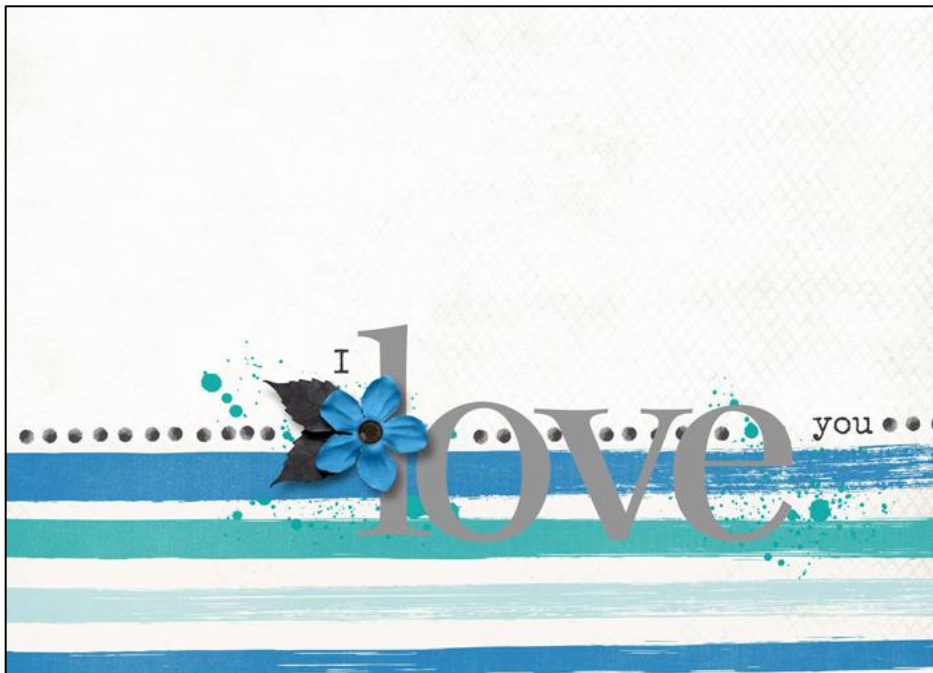
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Step One: Prepare the Workspace

- Open the DST-Layered-WordArt-Card-Front.psd file (File > Open) that came in the downloads for this lesson.

NOTE #1: If you want to use a different word than the word love, you'll want to download and install the font called Bentham from the Font Squirrel website before you try to change the word.

NOTE #2: If you want to use a different word and you're using an older version of Photoshop Elements that does NOT have the Tracking option available in the Type tool Tool Options, it's important that you simply edit the current type layer instead of deleting it and making a new one. The current type layer has a Tracking setting of -100 which works perfectly for the Bentham font. If you delete this layer and make a new one, you will lose the Tracking setting associated with this type layer.



Step Two: Add the Layer Styles

Photoshop Elements Only:

- In the Layers panel, make sure the type layer is the active layer.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Layer Style > Style Settings.
- In the dialog box, set the Lighting Angle to 120°.
- Click directly on the word Drop Shadow to open the settings.

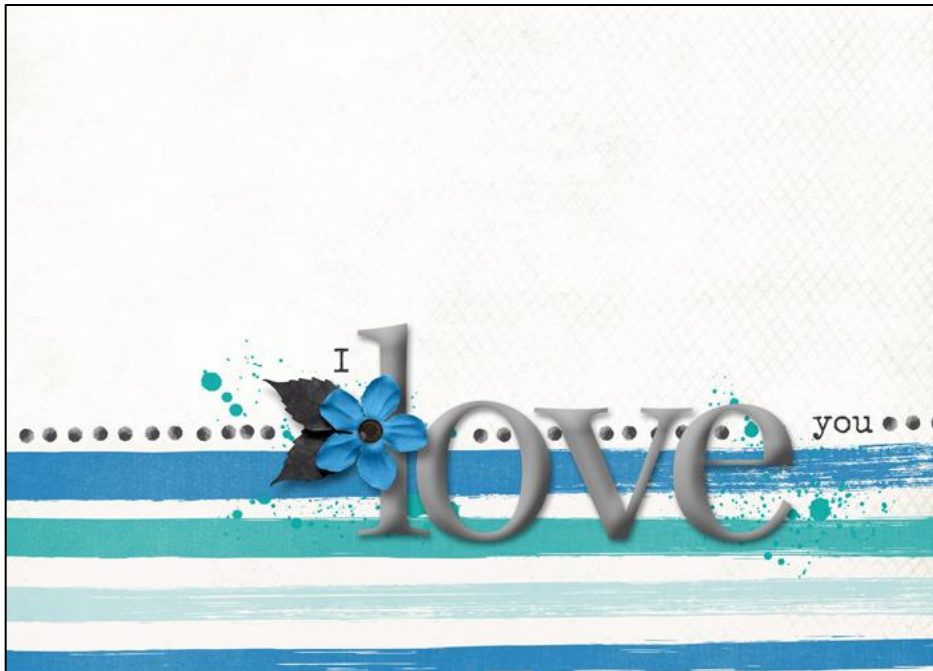
- Set the Size to 15, the Distance to 10, and the Opacity to 50.
- Click directly on the word Bevel to open the settings.
- Set the Size to 50px and the Direction to Up.
- Click OK to close the Style Settings dialog box.

NOTE: If you decide to use a different font, you may need to adjust the Bevel Size smaller or larger in order to get the three-dimensional (puffy) look.

Adobe Photoshop Only:

- In the Layers panel, make sure the type layer is the active layer.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Layer Style > Drop Shadow.
- In the dialog box, click on Reset to Default.
- Set the Blend Mode to Multiply, the Opacity to 50%, the Angle to 120°, the Distance to 10, the Spread to 0, and the Size to 15.
- In the left-side menu, click on Bevel & Emboss to activate it and open the settings.
- Click on Reset to Default.
- Set the Style to Inner Bevel, the Technique to Smooth, the Depth to 100%, the Direction to Up, the Size to 50 and the Soften to 0.
- Click OK to close the Layer Style dialog box.

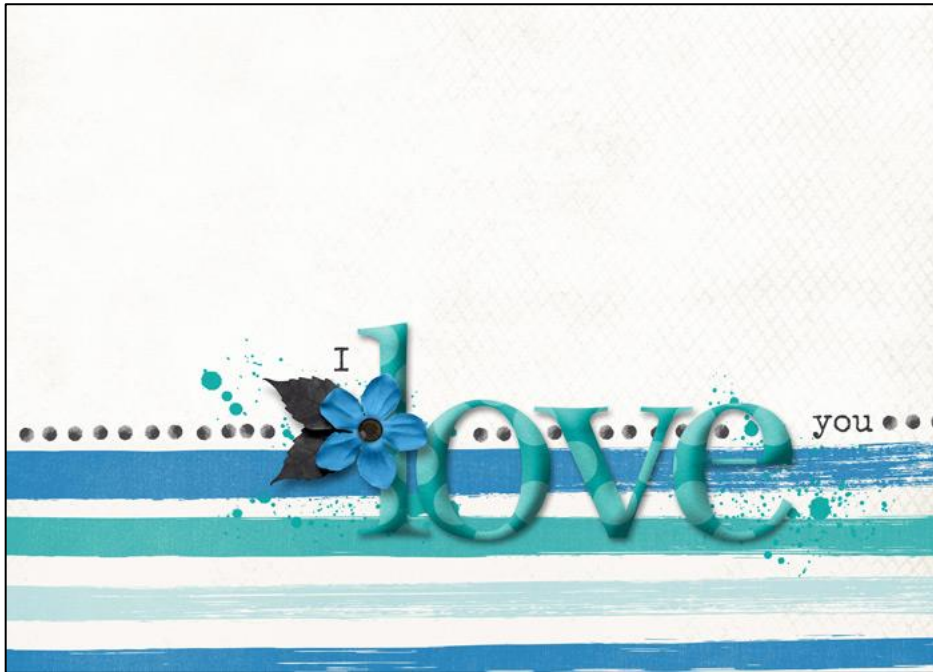
NOTE: If you decide to use a different font, you may need to adjust the Bevel Size smaller or larger in order to get the three-dimensional (puffy) look.



Step Three: Clip the Paper to the Type Layer

- In the Layers panel, there is a paper that is hidden above the type layer. Click on the Visibility icon of the paper layer to reveal it.
- In the Layers panel, click on the Paper layer to make it the active layer.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Create Clipping Mask.

NOTE: If you want to use a different paper of your own, feel free to do that.



Step Four: Create the Second Layer of the Word Art

- In the Layers panel, hold down the Ctrl key (Mac: Cmd key) and click on the thumbnail of the type layer to get a selection outline.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Select > Modify > Expand.
- In the dialog box, enter 15 px and click OK.
- In the Layers panel, click on the Card Background layer to make it the active layer.
- In the Layers panel, click on the Create a New Layer icon.
- Click on the Foreground Color Chip to open the Color Picker.
- On the document, sample the lighter teal color from within one of the polka dots.
- Within the Color Picker, click and drag towards the top left until you get a light teal color. I used Hex #: d8ffff.
- Click OK to close the Color Picker.

- Press Alt Backspace (Mac: Opt Delete) to fill the selection with the Foreground Color.
- Press Ctrl D (Mac: Cmd D) to deselect.



Step Five: Add a Drop Shadow

Photoshop Elements Only:

- In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Layer Style > Style Settings.
- In the dialog box, set the Lighting Angle to 120°.
- Click directly on the word Drop Shadow to open the settings.
- Set the Size to 15, the Distance to 10, and the Opacity to 50.
- Click OK to close the Style Settings dialog box.

Adobe Photoshop Users Only:

- In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Layer Style > Drop Shadow.
- In the dialog box, click on Reset to Default.
- Set the Blend Mode to Multiply, the Opacity to 50%, the Angle to 120°, the Distance to 10, the Spread to 0, and the Size to 15.
- Click OK to close the Layer Style dialog box.



Step Six: Save As

- Save the document (File > Save As) as a layered PSD file with a unique name.

After completing the tutorial, you will need to reset the Type tool to make sure the -100 Tracking setting doesn't stick. To do that:

Photoshop Elements 2018 and Older Only:

- Get the Horizontal Type tool.
- In the Tool Options, click on the Tool Options Menu icon and choose Reset Tool.

If that doesn't get rid of the -100 Tracking setting, then reset Photoshop Elements Preferences. To do that:

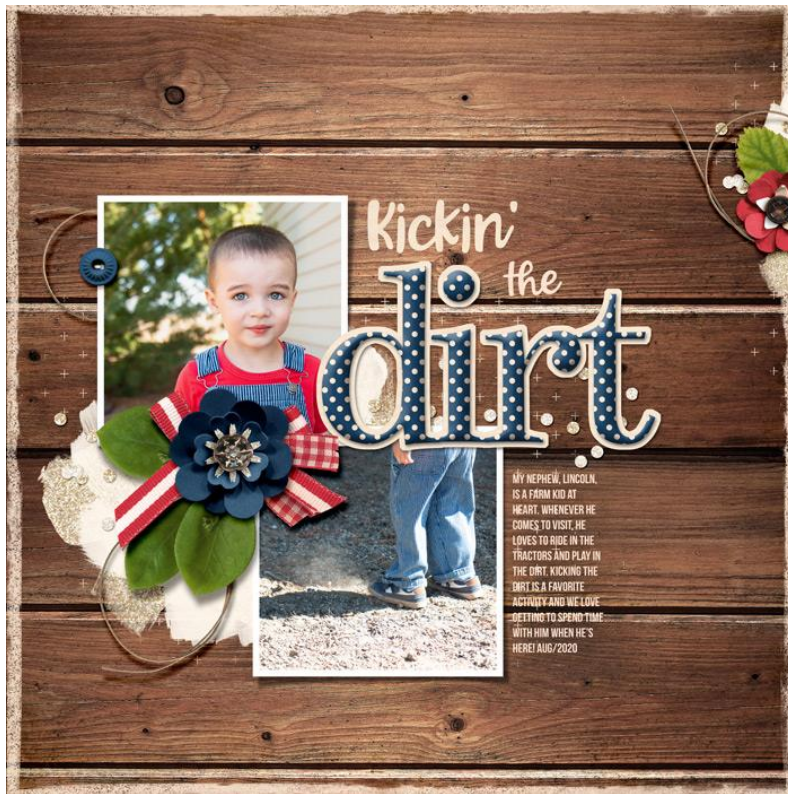
- Press Ctrl K (Mac: Cmd K) to open the Preferences dialog box.
- Click on the "Reset Preferences Upon Next Launch" icon.
- Close Photoshop Elements and relaunch it.

Photoshop Elements 2019 and Newer Only:

- Get the Horizontal Type tool.
- In the Tool Options, set the Tracking to 0.

Adobe Photoshop Only:

- In the Menu Bar, choose Window > Character to open the Character panel.
- Click on the Character panel Menu icon and choose Reset Character.



And here is how I used this technique for a title for a scrapbook page. My nephew is almost 4 years old and so he's at the age where kicking the dirt is one of the coolest things ever. I love how the layered word art makes the title pop and helps draw the eyes to the photos.

Credits:

Page & Photo: Jenifer Juris
 Kits: Country Charm by Kristin Cronin-Barrow
 Extras: Edge Overlay and Stamps from Sweater Weather by Simple Pleasure Designs
 Fonts: Bentham, Forever Grateful, Bebas Neue

Card Credits:

Card: Jenifer Juris
 Kits: New Years Celebration by Just Jaimee
 Polka Dot Paper from Summertime by Digilicious
 Fonts: Bentham, Special Elite

Master the secrets of the Type tool with [Secrets of Terrific Type](#) by Jenifer Juris. **Use Coupon Code STT25** at checkout to save 25%* off the full price of the class.

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