



3 Ways to Use a Dotted Brush

by Carla Shute

Create a dotted brush and learn three ways to use your newly created brush on your next digital project.

For this tutorial you will need:

- Adobe Photoshop or Photoshop Elements

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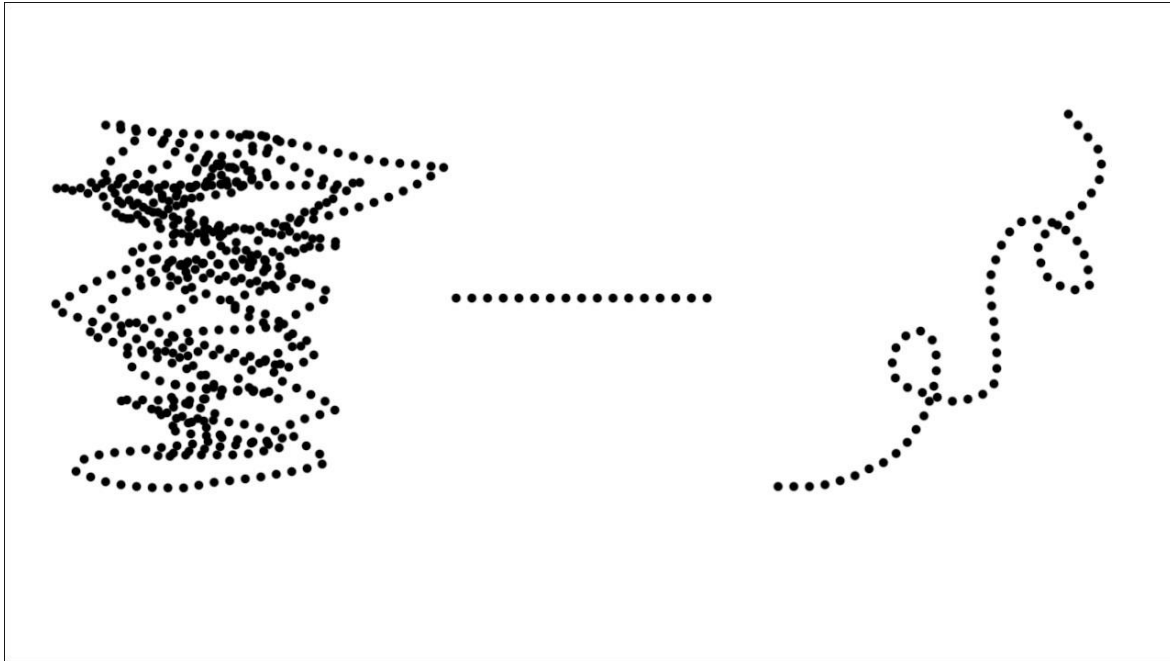
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Here is a preview of what we'll be creating together.



Step One: Prepare the Workspace

- Create any sized document (File > New > Blank File) at 300 ppi with a white background. (PS: Choose File > New.)

NOTE: I'll create a 4x6 inch document for a greeting card.

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

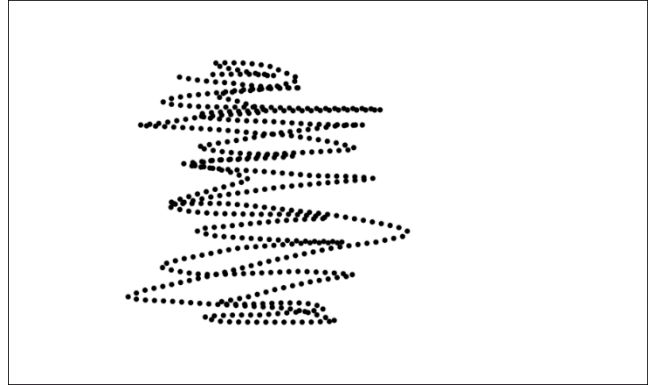
Step Two: Create the Dotted Brush

- Get the Brush tool.
 - **Photoshop Elements Only:** In the Tool Options, open the Brush Picker, open the dropdown menu, and choose Default Brushes. Choose a Hard Round brush. If you cannot see the names of the brushes, click on the flyout menu and choose Large List. Set the Size to 15, the Opacity to 100%, and the Mode to Normal. Click on Brush Settings. Set the Fade to 0, the Hue Jitter to 0%, the Scatter to 0%, the Spacing to 170%, the Hardness to 100%, and the Roundness to 100%.
 - **Adobe Photoshop Only:** In the Tool Options, open the Brush Picker, open the General Brushes, and choose the Hard Round brush. If you cannot see the names of the brushes, click on the flyout menu and choose Brush Name. Set the Size to 15 px and the Hardness to 100%.

In the Tool Options, set the Opacity to 100%, the Flow to 100%, and the Smoothing to 0%. Click on the Brush Settings icon to toggle open the Brush Settings panel. In the Brush Settings panel, set the Spacing to 170%. Uncheck all Brush Tip Shape settings. In the Tool Options, click on the Brush Settings icon to toggle it closed.

Step Three: Create a Dotted Scribble

- In the Layers panel, click on the Create a New Layer icon.
- Double click directly on the name of this new layer and rename it “Scribble”.
- Press Enter/Return to commit the change.
- On the document, click and drag back and forth in a scribble motion.
- Use the scribble element as an anchor behind the focal point of your page.



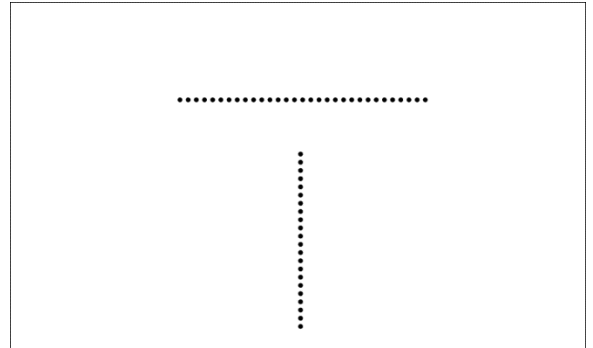
This is how I used the scribble as an anchor on my card.



Step Four: Create a Dotted Line

- In the Layers panel, click on the Visibility icon of the Scribble layer to hide it.
- Click on the Create a New Layer icon.
- Double click directly on the name of this new layer and rename it “Line”.
- Press Enter/Return to commit the change.
- On the document, hold down the Shift key, and click and drag a line of dots.

NOTE: Holding the Shift key while clicking and dragging will ensure a precise horizontal or vertical line.



Here is a card I made with the dotted brush as a dotted line. I added a straight line of dots under my sentiment to emphasize it.

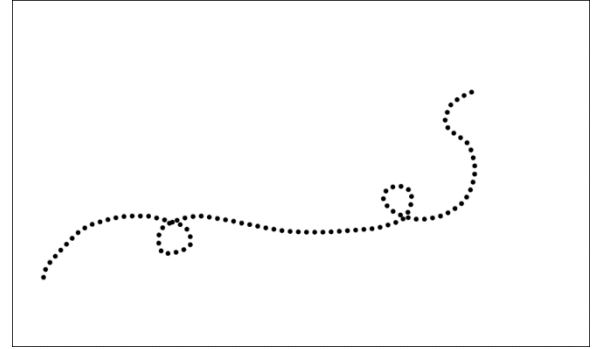


Step Five: Create a Dotted Insect Trail

- In the Layers panel, click on the Visibility icon of the Line layer to hide it.
- Click on the Create a New Layer icon.

- Double click directly on the name of this new layer and rename it “Trail”.
- Press Enter/Return to commit the change.
- On the document, click and drag a whimsical, curvy line.

Here is a card I made with the dotted brush as an insect trail. I added a butterfly trail of dots to my card for a fun, whimsical touch.



(Optional) Step Six: Fill the Scribble, Line, or Trail with Color

- In the Layers panel, click to activate either the Scribble, Line, or Trail layer.
- If the layer is not visible, click on the Visibility icon to reveal it.
- Hold down the Ctrl key (Mac: Cmd key) and click on the thumbnail of the active layer to get a selection outline.
- Click on the Foreground Color Chip to open the Color Picker.
- In the Color Picker, choose a new color. I'm choosing red.
- Click OK.
- Press Alt Backspace (Mac: Opt Delete) to fill the selection with the new color.
- Press Ctrl D (Mac: Cmd D) to deselect.

After you are finished with your project, reset your brush settings so the next time you use the brush tool, you won't have a dotted brush.

- Get the Brush tool.
 - **Photoshop Elements Only:** In the Tool Options, click on Brush Settings. Set the Spacing to 25%.
 - **Adobe Photoshop Only:** In the Tool Options, click on the Brush Settings icon to toggle open the Brush Settings panel. In the Brush Settings panel, set the Spacing to 5%. In the Tool Options, click on the Brush Settings icon to toggle it closed.

Here is a page I created using the dotted brush as a scribble behind my photo and as straight lines. I added the dots to the frame and a line of dots under the word art. I love the repetition it adds to my design.



Page & Photo:
Carla Shute
Tutorial: 3
Ways to Use a
Dotted Brush
by Carla Shute
Kits: Jennifer
Ziegler Out of
Bounds Frame
Volume 2
ScrapSimple
Template,
Choose to
Shine by Jen
Maddocks
Designs and
Lori Fortini
Digital
Designs

Credits:

Happy Birthday card: Carla Shute

Kits: ScrapSimple Embellishments: Grunge Effect Photo Masks by Ginny Whitcomb, Blossom by Aja Fillmore Creations

Font: DJB Annalise the Brave

Thank You card: Carla Shute

Kits: ScrapSimple Cards: Sweet Kindness Templates by Cherise Oleson, Sunny by Aja Fillmore Creations

Font: Irendy

Hello Sunshine card: Carla Shute

Kit: Follow the Sun by Kristin Cronin-Barrow