



Extracted Word Art with the Magic Wand Tool

by Gina Harper

Use the Magic Wand tool and the Color Picker to repurpose elements and create fabulous word art.

For this tutorial you will need:

- Any digital item that contains word art you'd like to extract. To follow along exactly, use the wordart-DS.jpg file located in the downloads.
- Adobe Photoshop or Photoshop Elements

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In this tutorial, we will be repurposing this element into this word art, and you will see how easy it is to repurpose elements from your own stash.



Elements or papers containing solid-colored word art and clearly-defined word art edges will work best for this tutorial. Here are some examples:

What makes these elements a good choice?

- solid-color word art
- clearly-defined word art edges

What makes these elements a poor choice for extraction?

- varied-color word art, not solid and/or
- unclear word art edges

requires additional work when repurposing

Step One: Prepare the Workspace

- Open the wordart-DS.jpg file (File > Open) from the downloads.
- In the Menu Bar, choose File > Duplicate to create a copy. (PS: Choose Image > Duplicate.)
- In the dialog box, click OK.
- Close the original file.

Step Two: Create the Selection

- In the Layers panel, click on the Lock icon of the Background layer to unlock it.

NOTE: If the file layer is already unlocked, you can skip this step.

- Get the Magic Wand tool.
- In the Tool Options, click on the Add to Selection icon and set the Tolerance to 32. Uncheck Sample All Layers, but check Contiguous and Anti-Alias. (PS: Set the Sample Size to Point Sample.)

NOTE: When enabled, the Contiguous option forces the Magic Wand tool to select pixels that are directly connected.



- Press Ctrl + (Mac: Cmd +) a few times to zoom in on the phrase.
- On the document, click inside each of the words or letters you want selected.

- Continue clicking until you have the entire phrase selected.
- If you accidentally click on a wrong part, press Ctrl Z (Mac: Cmd Z) to undo the last selection.



Step Three: Isolate the Word Art

- Once you have the entire phrase selected, in the Menu Bar, choose Select > Inverse to invert the selection.
- Press the Backspace key (Mac: Delete key) to remove the unwanted pixels.
- Press Ctrl D (Mac: Cmd D) to deselect.
- Press Ctrl 0 (Mac: Cmd 0) to fit the image to your screen.

Step Four: Recolor the Word Art

- Click on the Foreground Color Chip to open the Color Picker.
- In the Color Picker, choose any color. I'm choosing pink. Click OK.
- Press Shift Alt Backspace (Mac: Shift Opt Delete) to fill the word art with your chosen color.



Step Five: Save the Document

- Save the document (File > Save As) as a PNG file with a unique name. I saved mine as children-see-magic.png.
- Even though you have created a new element, be sure to credit the designer.

NOTE: It's important to save this file as a PNG to preserve the transparent background.

It always feels so great to be able to repurpose an element in my stash. Selecting the phrase from this card made it so easy to add it to my page. The word art fit perfectly with the expression on my nephew's face.



Credits:

Photo by Debbie Gentry Steel

Page by Gina Harper

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Kit: The Good Life by Marisa Larin, Old Rose Watercolor by Chanut Industries, Liberty by Bo Bunny, Lace by Pngtree

Fonts: Macy's Handwriting, Hello Honey

Element Example Credits:

Kits: Holiday by Dianne Rigdon, ACT-Wonder by Kristin Cronin Barrow, Choose Kindness by Kristin Cronin Barrow, Boys & Toys by Digital Scrapper