Photo Tag with the Rectangular Marquee Tool
by Carla Shute

Use the Rectangular Marquee tool to showcase the subject of your photo on a tag.

For this tutorial you will need:
- photo-CarlaShute.jpg from the downloads or a photo of your own
- tag-dst-digitalscrapper.png from the downloads or a tag from your stash
- Adobe Photoshop or Photoshop Elements

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Step One: Prepare the Workspace

- Create a new 12x12 inch document (File > New > Blank File) at 300 ppi with a white background or open a new document in your preferred scrapping size at 300 ppi with a white background. (PS: Choose File > New.)
- Open the tag-dst-digitalscrapper.png file (File > Open) from the downloads or a tag from your stash.

How to Choose a Good Tag

- Choose a tag large enough to fit the subject of your photo.
- Choose a single layer tag with flat edges.
- Your tag can be any shape, color, or pattern.
- Avoid skinny tags, tags with raised edges or tags with layers.

- Get the Move tool.
- On the document, hold down the Shift key and click and drag the tag onto the new document.
- In the Layers panel, double click directly on the name of the tag layer and rename it "Tag." Press Enter/Return to commit the change.
- Press the letter D to reset the Color Chips to the default of black over white.
- Press Ctrl + (Mac: Cmd +) to zoom into the image so the tag is visible. To reposition the zoom, hold down the Space bar and click and drag on the document.

Step Two: Create the Clipping Mask

- In the Layers panel, make sure the Tag layer is the active layer. If it is not, click on the Tag layer to make it active.
- Click on the Create a New Layer icon.
- Double click directly on the name of the new layer and rename it "Clipping Mask." Press Enter/Return to commit the change.
- 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. (PS: Set the Style to Normal.)
- On the document, starting outside the boundary of the tag, click and drag a long selection wider than the tag. To reposition while dragging, press and hold the Space bar.

Note: By creating a selection larger than the tag, we will ensure that the mask will cover the width of the tag, no matter the shape of the tag.

- In the Layers panel, make sure the Clipping Mask layer is the active layer. If it is not, click on the Clipping Mask layer to make it active.
- Press Alt Backspace (Mac: Opt Delete) to fill the selection with black.
- Press Ctrl D (Mac: Cmd D) to deselect.

Step Three (Optional): Align the Clipping Mask

If you are using a tag that has a tilt, you will need to tilt the clipping mask as well.

- To rotate the clipping mask so that it's parallel with the edge of the tag, get the Move tool.

Hover your cursor near a corner handle of the bounding box until you see a curved, double-headed arrow. Then, click and drag in a circular motion. If you do not see the bounding box, press Ctrl T (Mac: Cmd T) to get the Transform options.

- Click the checkmark to commit.

Step Four: Add a Layer Mask to the Clipping Mask

- In the Layers panel, hold down the Ctrl key (Mac: Cmd key) and click on the thumbnail of the Tag layer to get a selection outline.
- In the Layers panel, with the Clipping Mask layer still active, click on the Add Layer Mask icon.

Step Five: Adding a Photo to the Tag

- Open the photo-CarlaShute.jpg file (File > Open) from the downloads or a photo of your own.
- Get the Move tool.
- On the photo, hold down the Shift key and click and drag the photo onto your working document.
- Close the photo file.
- In the Layers panel, double click directly on the name of the photo layer and rename it "Photo." Press Enter/Return to commit the change.
- The Photo layer should be above the Clipping Mask layer. If it is not, in the Layers panel, click and drag the Photo layer above the Clipping Mask layer.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Create Clipping Mask.

Step Six: Resize and Reposition the Photo

- On the document, click and drag from a corner handle of the bounding box to change the size of the photo. If you cannot see a bounding box, press Ctrl T (Mac: Cmd T) to get the Transform options. If you still cannot see the bounding box, press Ctrl 0 (Mac: Cmd 0).

Note: Make sure the boundaries of the photo are outside the boundaries of the clipping mask.

- To reposition the photo, click and drag inside the bounding box.
- Click the checkmark to commit.
- (Optional) To rotate the photo so that it's parallel with the clipping mask, hover your cursor near a corner handle of the bounding box until you see a curved, double-headed arrow. Then, click and drag in a circular motion.
- Click the checkmark to commit.

Step Seven: Group Layers (Optional) and Finish the Scrapbook Page

- In the Layers panel, the Photo layer should be active. If it is not, click on the Photo layer to make it active.
- Holding down the Shift key, click on the Tag layer. Now all 3 layers should be active.
- Click on the Create a New Group icon.
- Double click directly on the name of this group and rename it Photo Tag.
- Press Enter/Return to commit the change.

Note: Grouping helps keep your Layers panel organized and less cluttered. This is helpful when you have a lot of layers in the panel.

- Finish your page as desired.

Here is my finished page. I love how the tag showcases my butterfly photo and makes it the focus of the page.

Page & Photo by Carla Shute
Tutorial: Photo Tag with the Rectangular Marquee Tool
Kits: Great Outdoors: Meadows and A Simple Life by Kristin Cronin-Barrow, tag-digitalscrapper, Autumn Woods by River Rose Designs
Fonts: Arcon

And here is another page I did highlighting my daughters on our last vacation. The photo had a lot going on in the background, so by zooming in on their faces on the tag, I could focus on their cute hats and braids!

Photo & Page by Carla Shute
Tutorial: Photo Tag with the Rectangular Marquee Tool
Kit: Be a Trailblazer: Wild & Free by Kristin Cronin-Barrow
Font: Arcon

Tags used in examples:
Warmth by Melissa Renfro (2)
Evergreen by Chere Kaye Designs
A Little Elvish by Aimee Harrison
Autumn Vibes by Blue Heart Scraps
Everyday Grace by Chere Kaye Designs
Something Wonderful by Tami Miller