



Playful Plaid

By Karen Schulz

Create a plaid paper that color coordinates with your photo by using the Rectangular Marquee tool.

For this tutorial you will need:

- A photo, with multiple colors in it
- Photoshop Elements or Adobe Photoshop

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Step One: Prepare the Workspace

- Open the photo that comes in the Downloads (File > Open) or open your own photo which contains multiple colors.
- In the Menu Bar, choose File > Duplicate to create a copy. (PS: Choose Image > Duplicate.)
- In the dialog box, click OK.
- Close the original photo without saving.
- Press Ctrl 0 (Mac: Cmd 0) to fit the image to your screen.

Step Two: Prepare the Photo

- **Photoshop Elements Only:**
 - In the Menu Bar, choose Image > Resize > Image Size. In the dialog box, check Resample Image and uncheck Constrain Proportions. Click on the dropdown menu and choose Bicubic (best for smooth gradients). Under Document Size, set the Width to 12 Inches, the Height to 12 Inches, and Resolution to 300 Pixels/Inch. Click OK.
 - Reset the Image Size options. In the Menu Bar, choose Image > Resize > Image Size. In the dialog box, check Constrain Proportions and uncheck Resample Image. Click OK.
- **Adobe Photoshop Only:**
 - In the Menu Bar, choose Image > Image Size. In the dialog box, click on the link icon to unlock the proportion constraints. Set the Width to 12 Inches, the Height to 12 Inches, and the Resolution to 300 Pixels/Inch. Check Resample. Open the dropdown menu, and choose Bicubic (smooth gradients). Click OK.
 - Reset the Image Size. In the Menu Bar, choose Image > Resize > Image Size. In the dialog box, click on the chain icon to relink document Width and Height. Reset Resample to Automatic. Click OK.

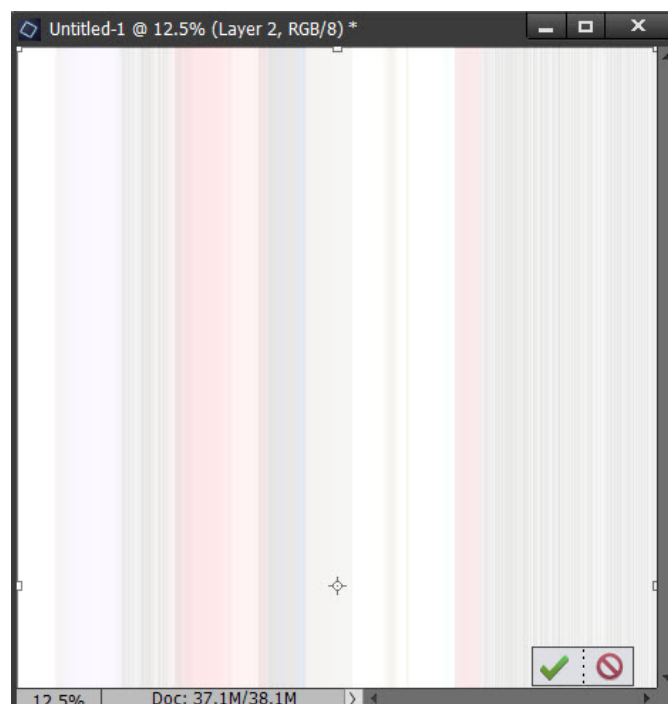
Step Three: Create a Plaid Paper

- Get the Rectangular Marquee Tool.
- In the Tool Options, click on the New Selection icon. Set the Feather to 0 and the Aspect to Fixed Size. (PS: Set the Style to Fixed Size.) Set the Width to 3600 px and the Height to 1 px.
- Click on a colorful area of the photo to place the selection.
- (Optional) Press the Up or Down Arrow keys to move the selection line to another area of the photo.



- Press Ctrl J (Mac: Cmd J) to create a copy of the selected pixels.
- In the Layers panel, click on the Visibility icon of the photo layer to hide it. The duplicate layer should still be the active layer.
- Press Ctrl T (Mac: Cmd T) to get the Transform options.
- On the document, click and drag the top handle of the bounding box to the top of the document, then click and drag the bottom handle of the bounding box to the bottom of the document. (PS: Hold down the Shift key while you drag). Click to checkmark to commit.

Note: You may not see the stretched pixels at 100% opacity until you commit.



- Press Ctrl J (Mac: Cmd J) to create a duplicate layer.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Image > Rotate > Rotate Layer 90° Left. (PS: Image > Image Rotation > 90° Clockwise.)
- In the Layers panel, lower the Opacity of the duplicate layer to 50%.
- Save the document (File > Save As) as a high quality JPEG file with a unique name.

With this technique you can create different plaid papers, both in color and in pattern, from the same photo, depending upon where you place the 1 px line.



Credits:

Photo: Karen Schulz

Kit Elements: Chalk it Up by Karen Schulz Designs

Fonts: Amara and Cute Maple

Font Layer Style: Letter Press Style by Karen Schulz