Transparent Edge Sticker

by Julie Singco

Quickly turn a title into a transparent edge sticker with this complex layer style. The secret is to reduce the opacity of the stroke outline.

For this tutorial you will need:
- The template from the download
- Photoshop Elements or Adobe Photoshop

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My Dilemma

The title on my greeting card looks nice but what could I do to jazz it up? It might be tempting to add a bevel or drop shadow but that's a no-no when designing with type.

I will add a complex layer style and turn the title into a sticker with a transparent edge.

Step 1: Prepare the Workspace

- Open the dst-transparent-edge-template.psd (File > Open) from the downloads.
- In the Layers panel, click on the Word Art layer to make it the active layer.

This tutorial will work with any typed or simplified word.

Step 2: Add a Complex Style

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 Stroke to activate it and open the settings.
- Set the Size to 10, the Position to Outside, and the Opacity to 20.
- Click on the Stroke Color Chip to open the Color Picker. Choose white and click OK.
- Click directly on the word Drop Shadow to activate it and open the settings.
- Set the Size to 12, the Distance to 10, and the Opacity to 50.
- Click OK to close the Style Settings dialog box.

Adobe Photoshop Only:

- In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Layer Style > Stroke.

- Set the Size to 10, the Position to Outside, the Blend Mode to Normal, and the Opacity to 20.
- Click on the Stroke Color Chip to open the Color Picker. Choose white and click OK.
- Click directly on the word Drop Shadow to activate it and open the settings.
- Set the Blend Mode to Multiply, the Opacity to 50, the Angle to 120, the Distance to 10, the Spread to 5, the Size to 12, and check Layer Knocks Out Drop Shadow.
- Click OK to close the Layer Style dialog box.

NOTE: If you use PSE 2018, you will likely struggle with Step Two because of a bug in the software. If the stroke outline positions inside instead of outside, in the Style Settings dialog box, change the Stroke Position to Inside and then back to Outside. Fiddling with the dropdown should fix the problem.

Before   After

NOTE: You may want to adjust the Size of the Stroke and Drop Shadow for different fonts.

Step 3: Add More Details and Save

- In the Layers panel, click on the Visibility icon of the Cluster layer to reveal it.
- To preserve the layers for later use, save the document (File > Save As) as a PSD file with a unique name.
- To create a flattened image, save the document (File > Save As) as a JPEG file with a unique name. Then, close the working document without saving.

Here's how my title looks with the complex style.

Credits:
Card: Julie Singco
Kit: Memory Keeper by Kim Broedelet
Font: Hello My Lovely Pro

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