Vellum Sticker

by Gina Harper

Control the chaos of your next scrapbook page or card by adding a vellum sticker to type or elements using a color fill layer.

For this tutorial you will need:

- Photoshop Elements or Adobe Photoshop
- template-dst-vellum-sticker-DS.psd from the download folder

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Why a Vellum Sticker?

- To maintain good design principles, sometimes a flat element needs to be turned into a sticker because it travels over shadowed objects.
- A vellum sticker can help to calm the chaos between an element and a busy background without completely blocking it.

Step One: Prepare the Workspace

- Open the template-dst-vellum-sticker-DS.psd file (File > Open) from the download folder.

NOTE: If you see a message asking you to update the text layers, click Update.

- Press the letter D to reset the Color Chips to the default of black over white.
- Press the letter X to switch the Color Chips. White should now be the foreground color.

Step Two: Create a Selection

- Get the Move Tool.
- In the Layers panel, click on the Rainbow layer to activate it.
- Hold down the Ctrl key (Mac: Cmd key) and click on the thumbnail of the Rainbow layer to get a selection outline.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Select > Modify > Expand. In the dialog box, set the Expand By to 40 pixels. Click OK.

NOTE: When creating a vellum sticker for other elements or type, you may need to adjust the Expand By number depending on the word or element you are using. Choosing a smaller number will decrease the size of the vellum sticker, and a larger number will increase the size of the vellum sticker.

Step Three: Add a New Color Fill Layer

- In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > New Fill Layer > Solid Color. In the dialog box, set the Color to None, the Mode to Normal, and the Opacity to 50%. Click Ok.
- In the Color Picker, choose white and click Ok.
- In the Layers panel, click and drag the Color Fill layer below the Rainbow layer.

NOTE: You may need to adjust the opacity depending on the background of your document. A lighter background will require a lower opacity.

Step Four: Add a Drop Shadow

- In the Layers panel, the Color Fill layer should be active.
  - **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 words Drop Shadow to open the settings.
    - Set the Size to 13, the Distance to 8, and the Opacity to 40.
    - Click OK to close the Style Settings dialog box.

  - **Adobe Photoshop Only:**
    - In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Layer Style > Drop Shadow.
    - In the dialog box, click on Reset to Default.
    - Set the Blend Mode to Multiply, the Opacity to 40%, the Angle to 120˚, the Distance to 8, the Spread to 0, and the Size to 13.
    - Click OK to close the Layer Style dialog box.

Step Five: Finish and Save the Document

- Add photos, journaling, a date, and elements to finish the page as desired.
- Save the document (File > Save As) as a high-quality JPEG file with a unique name.

Optional: To use this technique on type and word art, repeat steps two, three, and four.

Here are some examples using this technique on a flat element, a typed word and on some word art.

Take a look at my finished page. I was able to transform a flat element into a stackable element by adding a vellum sticker to the rainbow while maintaining good design principles.

Photos & Page: Promise by Gina Harper
Tutorial: Vellum Sticker by Gina Harper
Kit: In This Moment by KimB Designs (word art)
Fonts: Caroni, Amaze