

# SCRAPPER'S GUIDE

The Easiest Way To Learn Digital Scrapbooking. **Guaranteed.**

## Text Mats (Photoshop Elements)

Tip of the Week by Sara Horton on October 19, 2009

They say a picture is worth a thousand words, but sometimes a word is just the thing you need to enhance a special photo.

Creating a customized photo mat gives your project a personalized touch. In just a few minutes, you can make your scrapbook page one-of-a-kind!

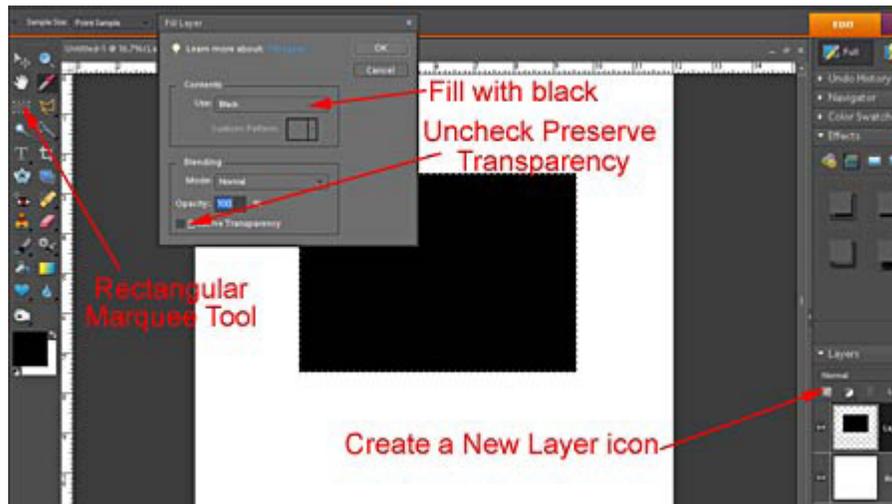


### Step 1: Create the Photo Block

Begin by creating a new document at 300 pixels per inch in RGB color mode. For the sample, I created a 12x12-inch scrapbook page.

Create a new transparent layer over the background by clicking the Create a New Layer icon above the Layers panel. Get the Rectangular Marquee tool and draw out a rectangle on your document.

Fill the Rectangle by selecting Edit > Fill Selection from the Menu. Choose Black for the contents and make sure that the Preserve Transparency box is not checked.



Press Ctrl D (Mac: Cmd D) to remove the selection.

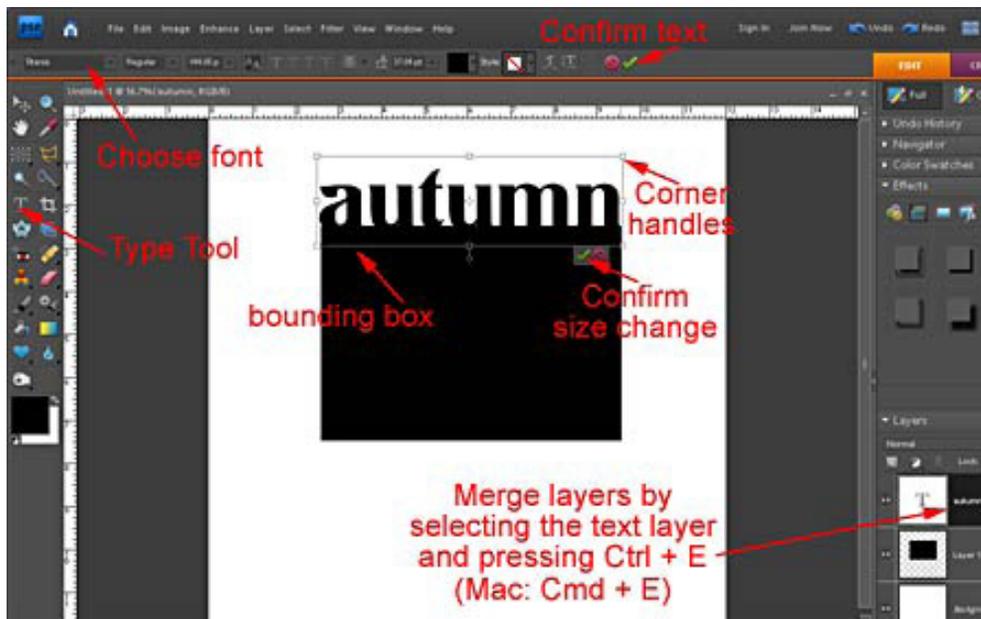
### Step 2: Add the Title

Next, get the Text tool and select a font that matches the theme or style of your photo. Chunky, filled, headline fonts work well for this technique. For the sample I used Titania font, which I downloaded from [1001 Free Fonts](http://1001FreeFonts.com).

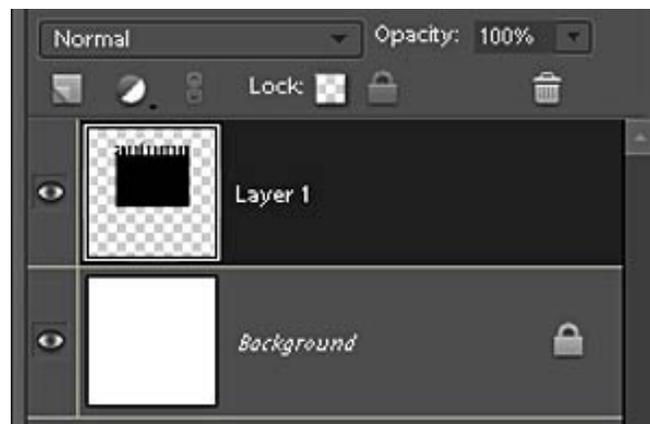
Press the letter D to reset your Color Chips to black and white. Type your title word in black, across the top or bottom of the black rectangle you created in Step 1.

Click the check mark in the Options Bar to confirm the text.

Get the Move tool, and make sure Show Bounding Box is checked in the Options Bar. Move the text so it rests along the upper or lower edge of the black rectangle, flush with the left side. To resize the text so it fits all the way to the right, click and drag a corner handle to make the text larger or smaller. When you're satisfied with the size, click the green check mark to confirm the change.

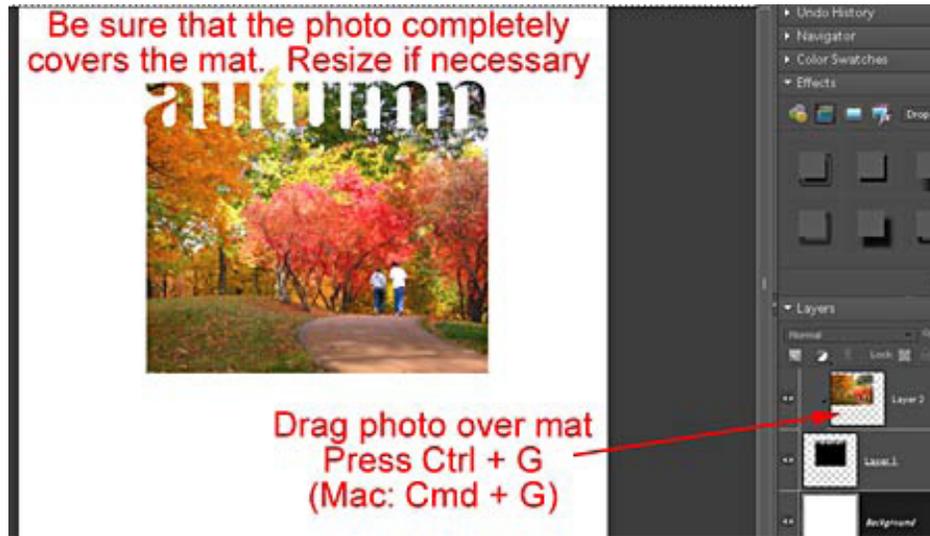


With the text layer selected, press Ctrl E (Mac: Cmd E) to merge the text and the rectangle layers.



### Step 3: Insert a Photo

Add a photo to your block by opening an image. Get the Move Tool and drag the photo over the text mat you created in the last step. Make sure the photo layer is just above the mat layer in the Layers panel. With the photo layer selected, press Ctrl G (Mac: Cmd G) on your keyboard to create a clipping mask which will “glue” the photo to the mat. At this point, the photo will take on the shape of the mat beneath it.



### Variations:

- \* Try placing the text up the left side or down the right side of your photo mat.
- \* A scripty font gives an elegant, lacy look to the text mat.
- \* Add a phrase or quote around the entire perimeter of the rectangle for a different look.
- \* Create a very large text mat, then clip patterned paper to it as a background mat for your scrapbook page.

### Credits:

- \* Scrapbook page by Sara Horton
- \* Out-of-a-Box Elements by Katie Pertiet at Designer Digitals
- \* Audubon Notebook Paper Pack 1 by Katie Pertiet at Designer Digitals
- \* My Family Geneology Clippings No. 2 by Katie Pertiet at Designer Digitals
- \* Digitally Pressed Petals No. 2 by Katie Pertiet at Designer Digitals
- \* Vintage Photo Frames Curled and Flat by Katie Pertiet at Designer Digitals



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