



Color Story

Lesson 9: Monochromatic Color Scheme (Photoshop Elements)

In this lesson, we'll explore and play with the Monochromatic Color Scheme.

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Download the Mom's Typewriter font used in this lesson:

<https://www.dafont.com/moms-typewriter.font>

Installing fonts on a Mac:

Open the moms_typewriter folder.

Double-click the MomÆt____.ttf file in the Finder window, then click Install Font in the font preview window. Your Mac will then validate the font and open the Font Book app.

The font is now installed and ready to use.

Installing fonts in Windows:

Right-click on the moms_typewriter.zip, and then select "Extract All" from the pop-up menu.

Right-click on the MomÆt____.ttf font file and select Install.

Your font should be installed and ready to use.

Monochromatic Color Scheme

The Monochromatic color scheme focuses on a single color and consists of different tints, tones and shades of that color. This color scheme provides variations in color value that can add interest and dimension to your project. It's extremely versatile, is easy on the eyes, and is a great way to let your photos stand out and shine on a page.

Monochromatic

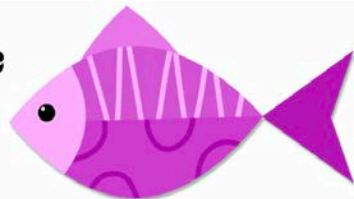
Variations of one color using Tints, tones, and shades





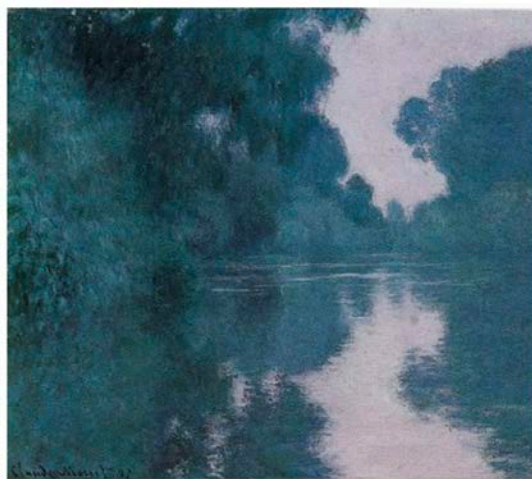
Monochromatic

Varying values of a single color



Monochromatic

Varying values of a single color



Monochromatic Paintings by Monet

A Monochromatic project can be either:
 1- Projects that have varying values of one color.

Monochromatic

Neutral colors with pops of a single color



Paris Rain - Camille Pissarro (1819)

Charing Cross Bridge - Monet (1900-1901)



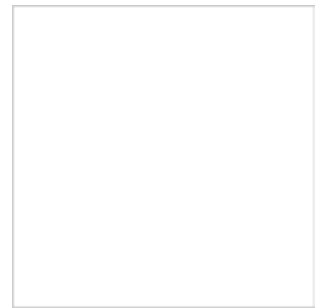
2- Projects that are mostly neutral - such as black and white with spots of one color.

Project 1: Grosgrain Ribbon

Use monochromatic colors to help create a textured grosgrain ribbon.

Set Up the Workspace

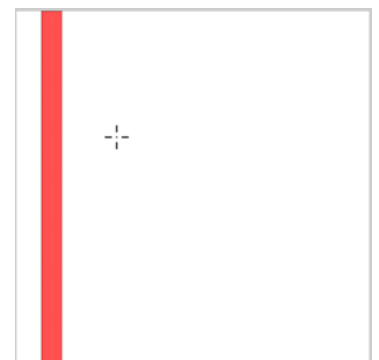
- Begin in Advanced/Expert Mode of Photoshop Elements.
- Create a new 12x12 inch document (File > New > Blank File) at 300 ppi with a white background.
- Press the letter D to reset the Color Chips to the default of black and white.
- In the Menu Bar, choose View > Snap To > Document Bounds. Make sure the other options are unchecked.



Create the Ribbon Base

- Click on the Foreground Color Chip, and in the Color Picker, choose a medium dark color. I used Hex# ff5c5c. Click OK.
- Click on the Background Color Chip, and with the Color Picker open, click on the Foreground Color Chip to sample the color. In the Color Picker, choose a lighter version of the color. I used Hex# ffacac. Make sure there's a good contrast between the lightness and darkness (value) of the color. Click OK.
- Get the Rectangle tool.
- In the Tool Options, open the Geometry Options and choose Fixed Size. Set the Width to .7 in and the Height to 12 in. Uncheck From Center and Snap. Click on the Create New Shape Layer icon.

- On the document, click and drag slightly at the top-left side to create the shape.
- Get the Move tool.
- Click on the shape and move it on the document so that the entire shape sits inside the document bounds.

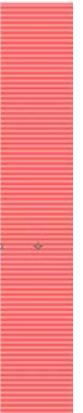


- Press Ctrl J (Mac: Cmd J) to duplicate the shape.
- In the Layers panel, double-click on the name of the layer and rename it Ribbon. Press Enter/Return to commit the change.
- Click on the Visibility icon of the original shape layer to hide it.
- Right click (Mac: Ctrl click) on the Ribbon layer and choose Simplify Layer.

Add a Filter

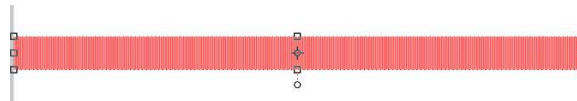
- In the Menu Bar, choose Filter > Filter Gallery > Sketch > Halftone. If there are two Filter Galleries listed choose the second one. Set the Size to 3 and the Contrast to 20. Set the Pattern type to Line. Click OK.

NOTE: If your result looks different than mine, make sure no previous filters are listed and turned on in the applied filters list at the bottom-right of the Filters dialog box. If there are other filters listed, click on the Visibility icons of all filters in the list, with the exception of the Halftone filter we just applied, to hide them.



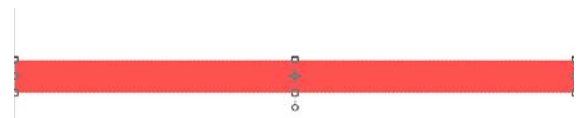
Rotate the Ribbon

- In the Menu Bar, choose Image > Rotate > Rotate Layer 90° Right.
- Get the Move tool.
- On the document, holding down the Shift key, click and drag the ribbon to the right so that it sits inside the document bounds.



Create the Ribbon Edges

- In the Layers panel, Ctrl click (Mac: Cmd Click) on the thumbnail of the Ribbon layer to make a selection of the ribbon.
- Click on the Create a New Layer icon.
- Press Alt Backspace (Mac: Opt Delete) to fill the selection with the foreground color.
- Press Ctrl D (Mac: Cmd D) to deselect.
- In the Layers panel, double-click on the name of the layer and rename it Edges. Press Enter/Return to commit the change.
- Press Ctrl + (Mac: Cmd +) to zoom in, but make sure the entire ribbon is still visible.



- Get the Rectangular Marquee tool.
- In the Tool Options, click on the New Selection icon, set the Feather to 0 px, and the Aspect to Normal.
- Starting on the left side of the ribbon, click and drag out a selection from the left to the right side of the document, leaving a thin border on the top and bottom edges of the ribbon.
- Use the arrow keys to nudge the selection either up or down if needed.



- Press the Backspace/Delete to delete the selection.
- Press Ctrl D (Mac: Cmd D) to deselect.



- In the Layers panel, change the Blend Mode to Overlay.



Group the Ribbon Layers

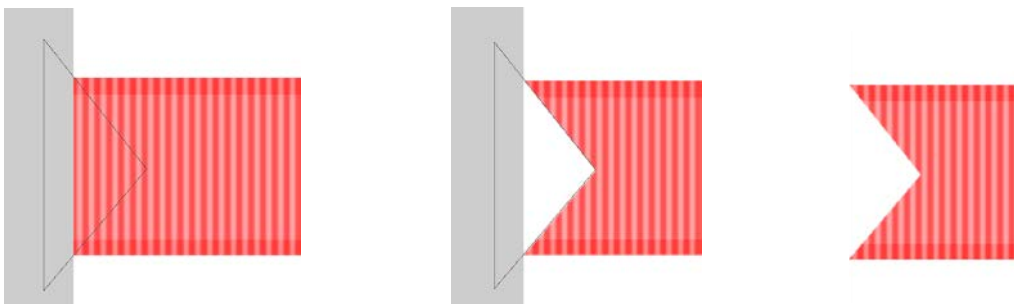
- With the Edges layer active in the Layers panel, hold down the Shift key, and then click on the Ribbon layer so both layers are active. Click on the Create a New Group icon.
- Double-click on the name of the group and rename it Ribbon Master. Press Enter/Return to commit the change.

Merge the Layers

- Press Ctrl J (Mac: Cmd J) to duplicate the group.
- Click on the Visibility icon of the original Ribbon Master group to hide it.
- Right click (Mac: Ctrl click) on the duplicate group and choose Ungroup Layers. Both the Edges and Ribbon layers should be active.
- Right click (Mac: Ctrl click) on one of the active layers and choose Merge Layers.
- In the Layers panel, double-click on the name of the merged layer and rename it Ribbon. Press Enter/Return to commit the change.
- Press the letter D to reset the Color Chips to the default of black and white.
- Press the letter X to swap the color chips so that white is now the foreground color.

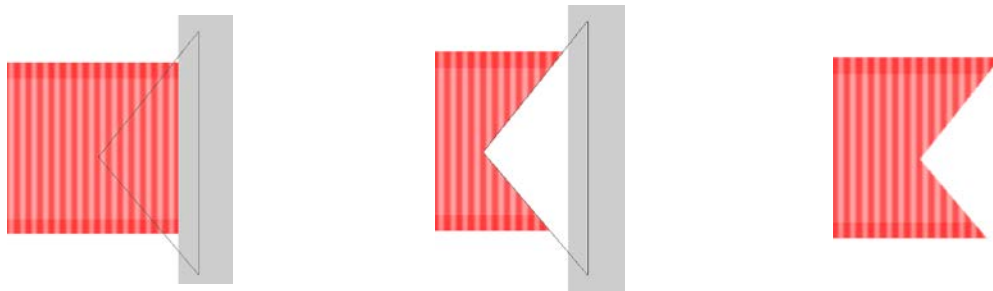
Cut Out Ribbon Ends

- Get the Eraser tool.
- In the Tool Options, open the Brush Picker and choose the Ribbon Cut Out Left - SR brush from the class brushes (CLR-Class-Brushes). This brush has built-in settings so we can leave them as is.
- Press Ctrl + (Mac: Cmd +) to zoom in on the left side of the ribbon.
- On the document, on the left edge of the ribbon, click once with the Eraser to cut out a triangle.



NOTE: You can achieve different looks depending on where you click and erase with the brush. It looks more realistic when the cut out area is not centered.

- On the document, move over to the right edge of the ribbon.
- In the Tool Options, open the Brush Picker and choose the Ribbon Cut Out Right - SR brush from the class brushes. Leave the settings as is.
- On the document, move over to the right edge of the ribbon, and click once with the Eraser to cut out a triangle.



- Press Ctrl 0 (Mac: Cmd 0) to fit the document on the workspace.

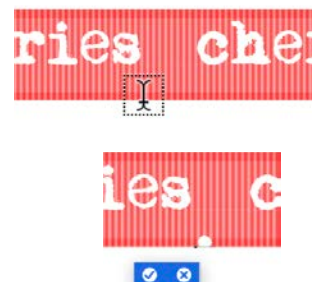


Add Type to the Ribbon

- Get the Horizontal Type tool.
- Press Ctrl + (Mac: Cmd +) to zoom in making sure the entire ribbon is visible.
- In the Tool Options, open the Font Picker and choose a font. I'm using the Mom's Typewriter font (You can find a link to this font on page one of this manual). Set the Size to 30 pt and press Enter/Return so that it sticks. Set the Leading to Auto and the Tracking to 0. Click on the Left Align Text icon.
- On the document, click once on the left side of the ribbon to place the cursor. Then type cherished memories.
- Press the spacebar twice to leave space and then type cherished memories again.
- Press the spacebar twice and type the first few letters of the word cherish until you run out of room on the ribbon.
- Click the checkmark to commit the type.



- Press Ctrl + (Mac: Cmd +) to zoom in between the words memories and cherished.
- Click once under the previous type to place the cursor and type a period.
- Click the checkmark to commit the type.



- Get the Move tool
- On the document, click on the period and move it so it's centered between the word memories and cherished.
- Press Ctrl - (Mac: Cmd -) to zoom out.



- Press Ctrl J (Mac: Cmd J) to duplicate the period layer.
- Click on the duplicate period and move it to the right between the second memories and cherished words on the ribbon.



Align the Layers

- In the Layers panel, hold down the Shift key, and click on the ribbon layer so that all the ribbon layers are active.
- In the Tool Options, click on the Align Center icon.



- With the Ribbon layers still active, in the Layers panel, click on the Create a New Group icon.
- Double-click on the name of the group and rename it Ribbon. Press Enter/Return to commit the change.
- Click on the arrow on the left side of the group to open it.
- Activate the type layer at the top of the group.
- Change the Blend Mode to Overlay.
- Follow the previous instructions to activate and change the Blend Mode of all the type layers.
- Activate the cherished memories type layer.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Create Clipping Mask.



Add a Drop Shadow

I've included some drop shadow styles in the class styles that you can add to the ribbon layer if you like.

- In the Layers panel, open the Ribbon group.
- Activate the Ribbon layer.
- In the Styles panel, (Window > Styles) click on a shadow style icon from the CLR-Class-Styles-Bonus to apply the shadow.



By using different values of one color we were able to create a realistic ribbon.

Project 2: Fun Photo Trick

Focus on one color in a photo or image using a Hue/Saturation adjustment layer.

This is a great technique for photos that have a lot of colors that may not coordinate with your page, or you just want to focus on one color in the image. This also works for elements and papers.

- Open the limor-zellermayer-1133093-unsplash.jpg (File > Open) from the class files.
- Make a duplicate copy (File > Duplicate).
- Close the original photo (File > Close).



- In the Layers panel, click on the Create a New Fill/Adjustment Layer icon and choose Hue/Saturation.
- In the Adjustments panel, open the Channel menu, and choose Reds. Move the Saturation slider all the way to the left. This eliminates the red hues in the image.
- Open the Channel menu and choose Yellows.
- Move the Saturation slider all the way to the left to get rid of the yellow hues in the image.
- Follow the previous steps for the Greens, Cyans, and Magentas.



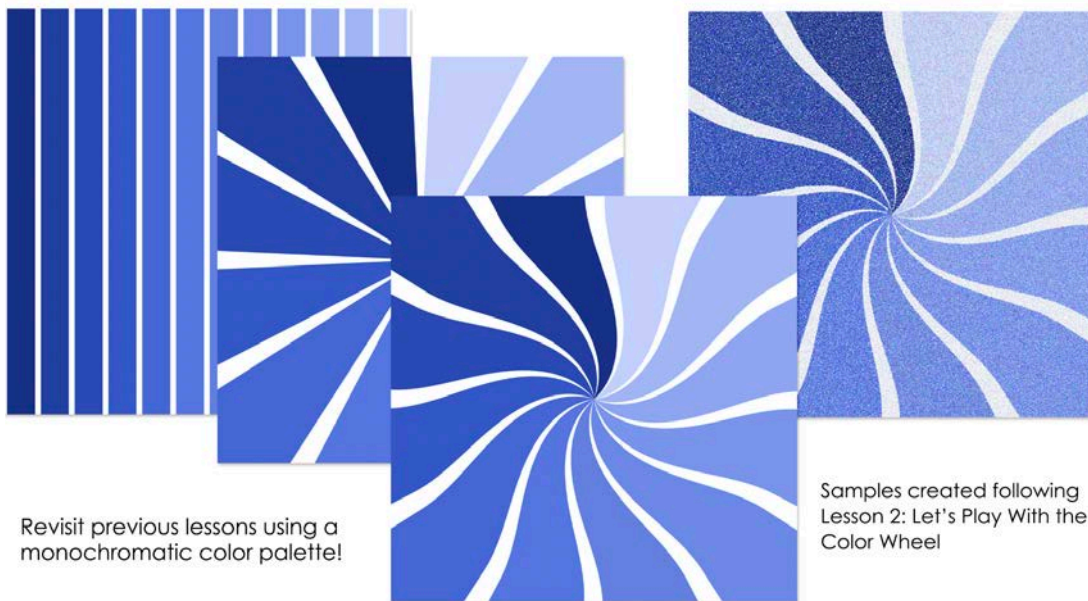
That leaves us with just the Blue hues in the photo. This technique can give us a monochromatic color scheme as long as there are varying values of the color we are focusing on.

Play time! Dig through your photos and focus in on one color in the image.



Ideas and Suggestions for Monochromatic Color Schemes:

- Revisit Lesson 2: Let's Play With the Color Wheel and follow the lesson using monochromatic colors.



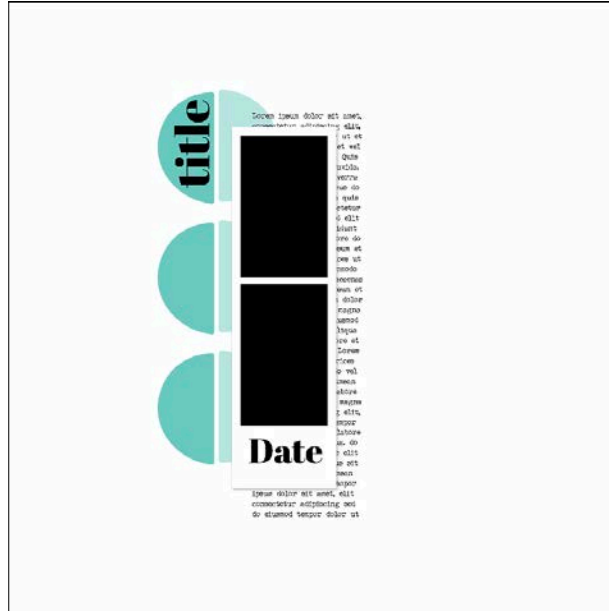
Revisit previous lessons using a monochromatic color palette!

Samples created following Lesson 2: Let's Play With the Color Wheel

If you add the Pointillize filter to your starburst paper, you may want to set the Foreground and Background Color Chips to different colors than what's shown in the lesson. I set my Foreground Color Chip to the darkest blue value on my striped paper, and the Background Color Chip to the lightest blue value on the striped paper shown above.

- Use monochromatic colors when your photos include a lot of colors or they have a very busy background. This will help keep your page and photos balanced.
- Short on time? Monochromatic color schemes work great with layout templates!

You can find this template (CLR-Monochromatic-Template-SyndeeR.psd) in the class files. It's perfect for pages featuring a monochromatic color scheme. Change the colors of the elements to match your page.



- Create a book of colors using a monochromatic color scheme for each page. This could be a book of scrapbook pages or a book for children who are learning their colors.
- Revisit Lesson 4: Let's Play With Color Value and use monochromatic colors to color in the flowers and add shading for a different look.
- Revisit Lesson 7: Primary Colors - Comic Page and use monochromatic colors instead.
- Revisit Lesson 8: Artist Inspired Template and recolor the colored mattes using monochromatic colors.

Save the Documents

- Save your documents (File > Save As) as layered PSD files.
- Give the files a name.
- Save the documents in the class folder for this lesson. Click Save.