



Creatively Yours

Lesson 2: Playing Dress Up with the Shape Tool (Photoshop Elements)

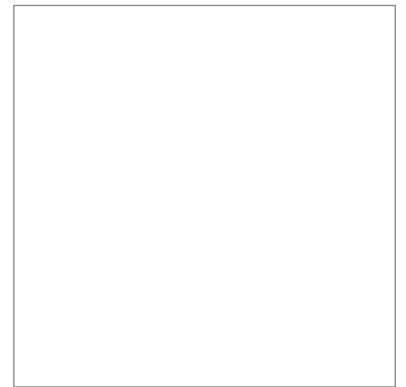
In this lesson, explore how fun border brushes are when paired with the Shape tool!

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Set Up the Workspace

- Begin in Advanced Mode of (Expert Mode for earlier versions) Photoshop Elements.
- Create a new 12x12 inch document (File > New > Blank File) at 300 ppi with a white background.



Add a Shape

- In the Color Swatches panel, choose the Bubblegum swatch from the CTY-Class-Swatches.
- Get the Custom Shape tool; it's nested with the other shape tools
- In the Tool Options, open the Shape Picker, then open the dropdown menu, and choose Default. Click on the Heart Card shape. If you don't see the names of the shapes, open the flyout menu and choose Large List. The Color Chip should already be Bubblegum. Open the Geometry options and choose Fixed Size. Set the Width to 8.5 inches and the Height to 7.41 inches. Check From Center. The New Shape Layer icon should be active.

- On the document, click in the middle and drag slightly to create the shape.

TIP: Try other shapes with this technique!



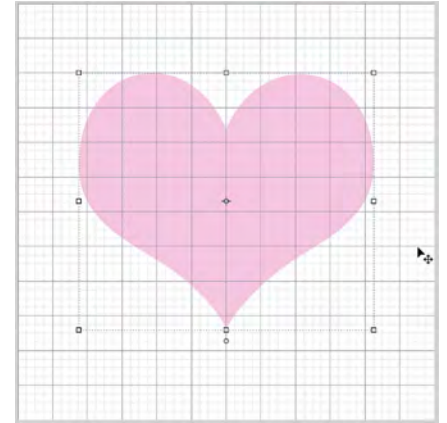
Turn on the Grid

The grid should be set to a 1 inch grid. If not, do the following:

- Press Ctrl K (Mac: Cmd K) to open Preferences (Mac: Preferences or Settings).
- In the dialog box, click on Guides & Grid. Set the Gridline Every to 1 and the Subdivisions to 4. Click OK.
- In the Menu Bar, choose View > Grid.
- Back in the Menu Bar, choose View > Snap To > and make sure all options are unchecked.

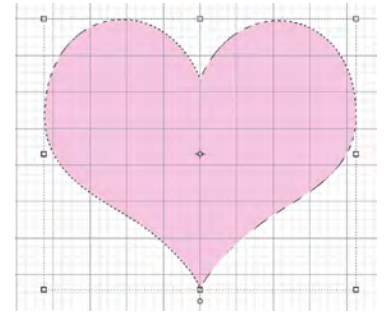
NOTE: If you have these options checked, it may affect how your brush behaves.

- Get the Move tool.
- On the document, click on the heart and move it so that the top-left edge of the shape sits up against one of the black horizontal grid lines. This will help us with our spacing.



Make a Selection of the Shape

- In the Layers panel, Ctrl click (Mac: Cmd click) on the thumbnail of the shape layer to make a selection of the heart.
- Click on the Create a New Layer icon to create a new layer.



Add the Flower Brush to the Shape

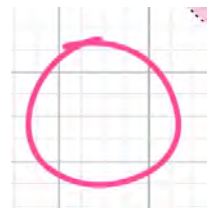
- In the Color Swatches panel, choose the Carrot swatch.
- Get the Brush tool.
- In the Tool Options, open the Brush Picker and choose the SK Life is Sweet Dot Flower brush from the CTY-Class-Brushes.

NOTE: The class brushes have built-in settings, so any adjustments made to the brush will revert back to the original settings once you choose a different brush, with the exception of the Opacity Setting. The Opacity for all the class brushes should be set to 100%.

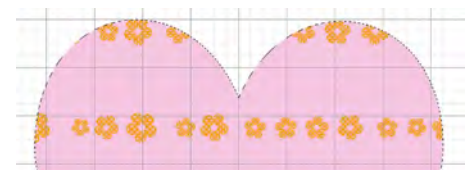
- Press Ctrl + (Mac: Cmd +) to zoom in if desired.
- On the document, starting on the top-left side of the heart, hold down the Shift key, and then click and drag across the heart with the brush. Make sure to let go of the Shift key after adding the line.



The grid is broken up into 1-inch squares that are divided into 16 little squares. We are only going to use the 1-inch horizontal guidelines which are easy to spot since they are black.

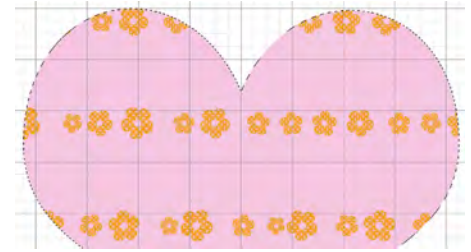
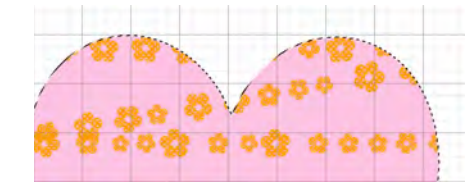


- Move down to the 3rd square of the grid on the left side of the heart, right under its horizontal line, hold down the Shift key, and click and drag across the heart with the brush. Let go of the Shift key.

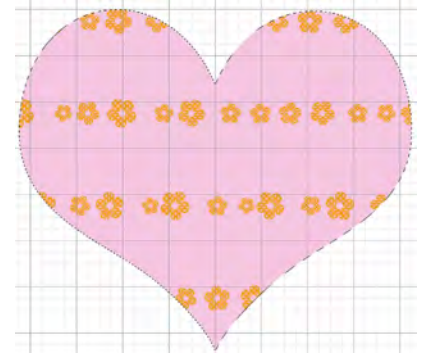


If you find that you get a zigzag line with the brush, try clicking once outside the selection before holding down the Shift key and adding the next line with the brush.

- Move down to the 5th square on the left side of the heart, and right under the horizontal guideline, hold down the Shift key, and the click and drag across the heart with the brush. Let go of the Shift key.



- Move down to the 7th square on the left side of the heart right under the vertical line, hold down the Shift key, and then click and drag across the heart with the brush. Let go of the Shift key.



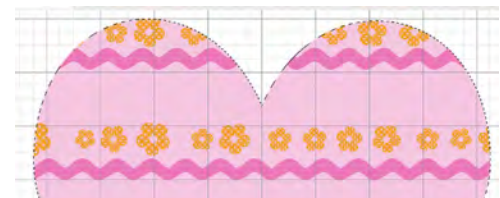
Add the Rickrack Brush to the Shape

- In the Tool Options, open the Brush Picker, and choose the SK Life is Sweet-Rickrack brush from the class brushes. Leave the Settings as is since the brush settings are built-in to the brush.
- In the Color Swatches panel, choose the Strawberry Cream swatch from the CTY-Class-Swatches.
- Make sure you are still on the brush layer.

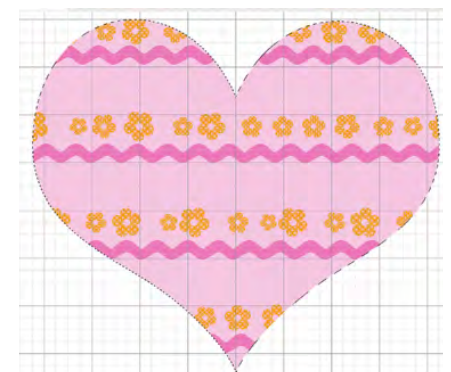
- On the document, starting on the left side of the heart under the first row of flowers, hold down the Shift key, and click and drag across the heart with the brush. Let go of the Shift key.



- Move down under the next row of flowers on the left side of the heart, and then holding down the Shift key, click and drag across the heart with the brush. Let go of the Shift key.



- Continue adding rickrack with the brush, under each row of flowers, working your way to the bottom of the heart shape.



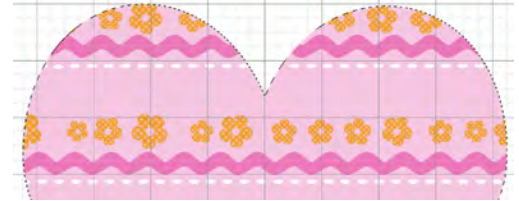
Add the Stitch Brush to the Shape

- In the Tool Options, open the Brush Picker and choose the Stitches brush we created in the last lesson. Set the Size to 55, and leave the other settings as is.
- In the Color Swatches panel, choose the white swatch.

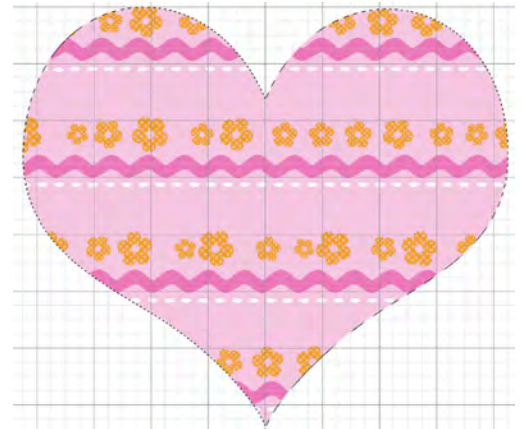
- On the document, starting on the left side of the heart under the first row of rickrack, hold down the Shift key, and click and drag across the heart with the brush. Let go of the Shift key.



- Move down under the next row of flowers on the left side of the heart, and then holding down the Shift key, click and drag across the heart with the brush. Let go of the Shift key.



- Continue adding stitches with the brush under each row of rickrack, working your way to the bottom of the heart shape.



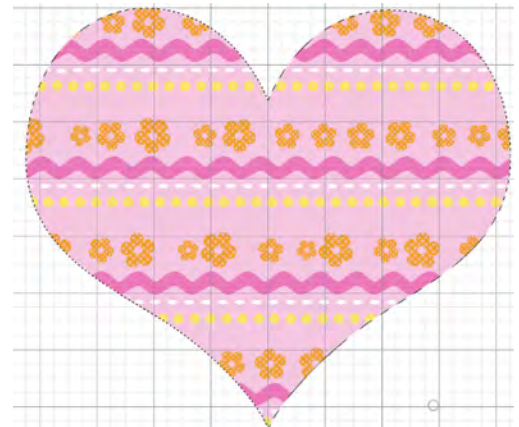
Add the Dots Brush to the Shape

- In the Tool Options, open the Brush Picker and choose the Dots brush we created in the last lesson. Set the Size to 55, and leave the other settings as is.
- In the Color Swatches panel, choose the Sunshine swatch.

- On the document, starting on the left side of the heart under the first row of stitches, hold down the Shift key, and click and drag across the heart with the brush. Let go of the Shift key.



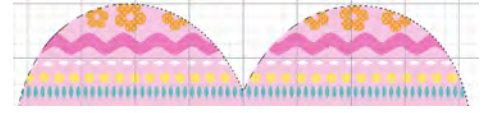
- Continue adding dots with the brush under the other rows of stitches, working your way to the bottom of the heart shape.



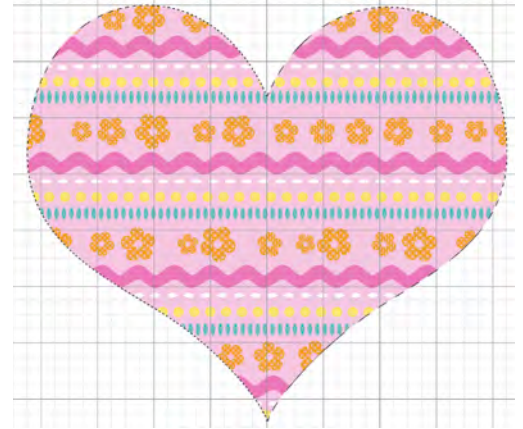
- Undo by pressing Ctrl Z (Mac: Cmd Z) if needed.
- Zoom in by pressing Ctrl + (Mac: Cmd +) if desired.

Add the Vertical Dashes Brush to the Shape

- In the Tool Options, open the Brush Picker and choose the Vertical Dashes brush we created in the last lesson. Set the Size to 65, and leave the other settings as is.
- In the Color Swatches panel, choose the Turquoise swatch.
- On the document, starting on the left side of the heart under the first row of dots, hold down the Shift key, and click and drag across the heart with the brush. Let go of the Shift key.



- Continue adding vertical dashes with the brush under the other rows of dots, working your way to the bottom of the heart shape.



Fill in Gaps

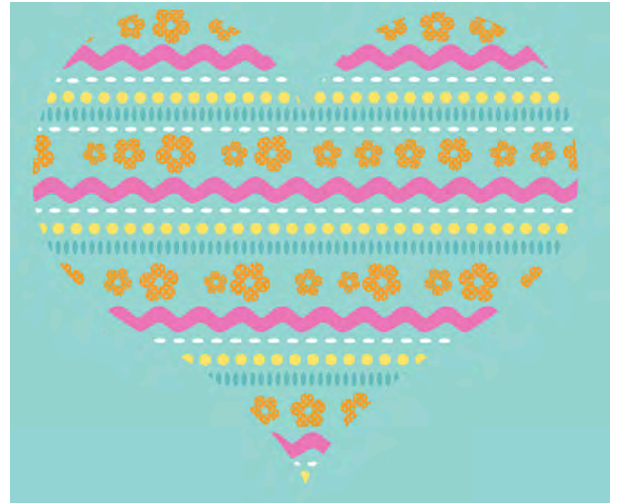
You may find that you have a few gaps between your rows of brushwork. To fix this:

- In the Tool Options, open the Brush Picker and choose a brush from the class brushes. Set the Size to 55, and leave the other settings as is. (You may need to adjust the size of the brush depending on which one you use.) I used the Stitches brush we created in the last lesson.
- In the Color Swatches panel, choose a color. I used white.
- On the document, starting on the left side of the heart, hold down the Shift key, and click and drag across the heart to fill in any gaps.
- Press Ctrl D (Mac: Cmd D) to deselect.
- In the Menu Bar, choose View > Grid to turn off the Grid.



How cute is that?!

You can also use the brushed border layer on its own by turning the heart shape layer off.



Add a Color Fill Layer (Optional)

This is a great way to test out background colors quickly.

- Activate the Background layer in the Layers panel.
- Click on the Create a New Adjustment Layer icon and choose Solid Color.
- In the Color Swatches panel, click on a swatch. As long as the Color Picker is open, you can cycle through the color swatches to test out how the brushed border layer looks on top of different colors.

Change the Color of the Heart Shape

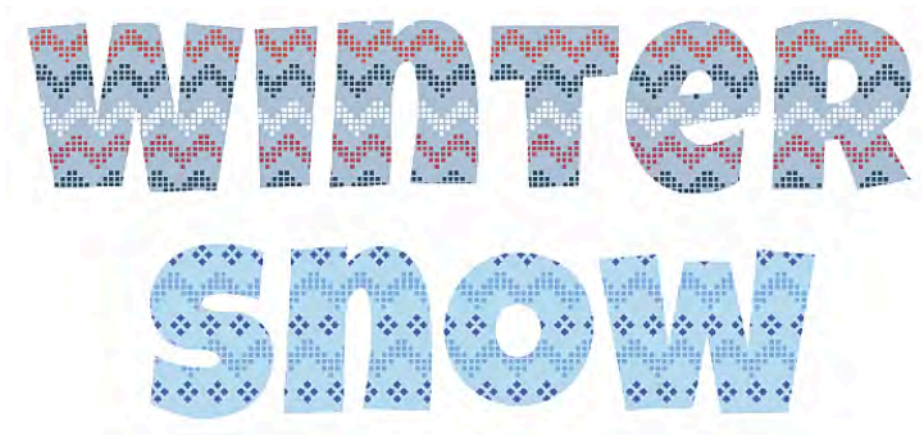
Since our heart is a shape layer, we can easily recolor it.

- In the Layers panel, activate the heart shape layer.
- Double-click on the thumbnail of the shape layer and choose a color in the Color Picker. You can also choose a color swatch from the Color Swatches panel. Click OK to close the Color Picker.

Try using different shapes with this technique!



The samples below were made using the SK Sweater Weather 2 and SK Sweater Weather 5 brushes included in the class brushes.



Save the Document

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