

“PAPER-PIECING” *YOUR* ELEMENTS

– *We BORROW a TECHNIQUE FROM PAPERSCRAPPING!*

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This tutorial includes instructions/screen shots for PSCS3 and PSE8, if you have other versions of PS or PSE it should work for you too. If you use another program, read carefully and you should be able to figure out which tools do the same thing in your program!

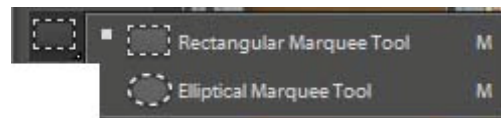


Paperscrappers have been piecing elements together out of paper forever, and just because we've gone digital doesn't mean we can't do it too! With so many beautiful papers around, sometimes it makes sense to make your own elements out of them!

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE SELECTION

Since we can't use scissors to cut our paper, we will use selections. There are various ways to make selections; which technique we use will be determined by what shape we're trying to cut!

MARQUEE TOOL



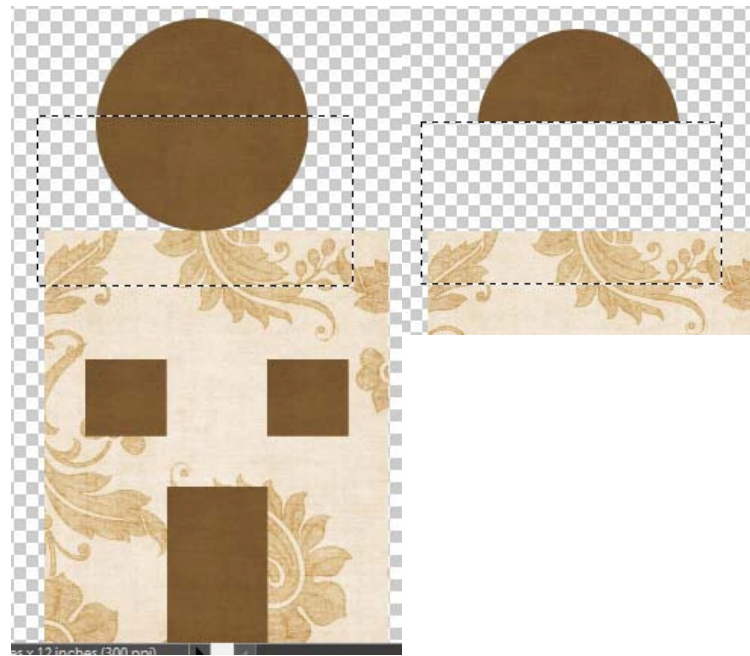
Simple shapes are easiest to make with the marquee tool.

You can make rectangles and squares with the Rectangular Marquee tool (hold the SHIFT key down to make a perfect square) and you can make ovals and circles with the Elliptical Marquee tool (hold the SHIFT key down to make a perfect circle).

1. Open the paper you want to cut your piece from.
2. Click and drag to select the shape you want.



3. Press CTRL+C to copy the paper within the selection.
4. Change to your layout and press CTRL+V to paste onto the layout.
5. Repeat this with other papers until you have the shapes you need!

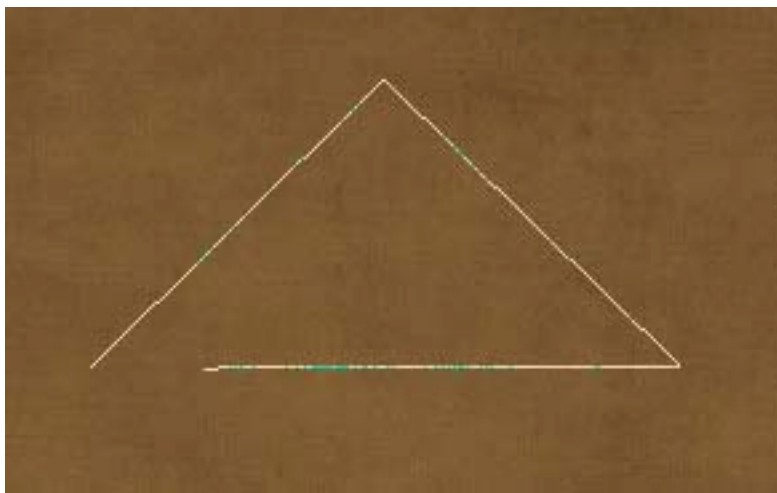


To get a half circle, you can first cut and paste your circle, then use the rectangular marquee tool to cut off one half.

POLYGONAL LASSO TOOL

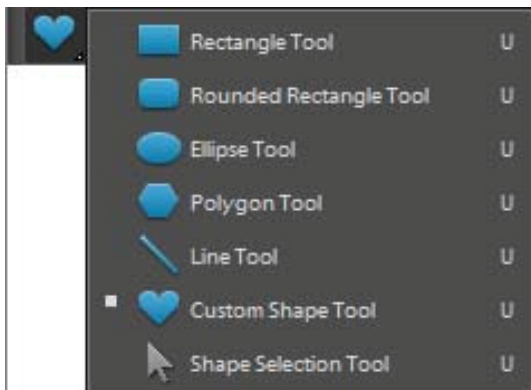


This tool works well to make irregular shapes that have straight sides, such as triangles.



To use it:

1. Click to anchor the line, then move your mouse to the next corner and click again to anchor the line. Keep moving and clicking until you come back to where you started.
2. CTRL+C to copy the paper within the selection
3. Change to your layout CTRL+V to paste the cutout onto the page.



SHAPE TOOLS

Photoshop/PSE comes with a nice library of useful shapes we can use. We'll work with the Custom Shape Tool here, but all the shape tools work the same way!

1. Choose your shape from the drop down menu at the top of the workspace.

2. Click and drag the tool across the paper you want to cut to create the shape. It will create a new layer above the paper, and fill in with your foreground color. It doesn't matter what that color is, we're not going to use that layer.

3. To create a selection from your shape, hold your CTRL key, and click on the layer thumbnail of the shape layer. This will make a selection in the shape of the shape!

4. Select the paper layer by clicking on it in the layers palette, and press CTRL+C to copy the paper within the selection.

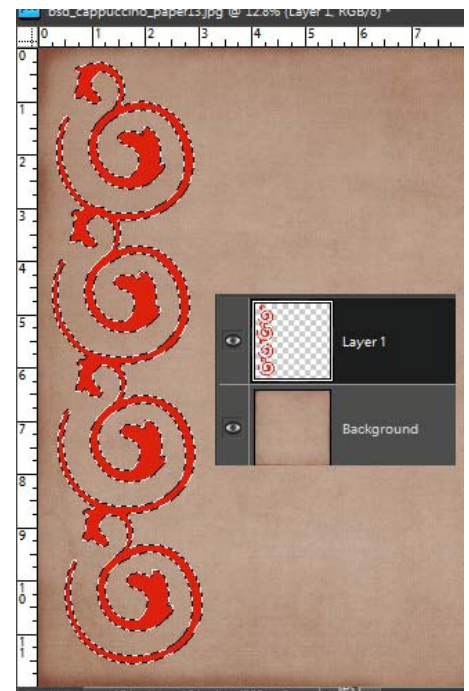
5. Change to your layout and press CTRL+V to paste your cutout onto your layout.



BRUSHES

We can use a similar technique with brushes as we did with shapes.

1. ON A NEW LAYER above the paper you wish to cut out, paint with your brush tools until you get the shape you want. Here, I've created a border by 'stamping' my brush 4 times overlapping.
2. Hold your CTRL key and click on the layer thumbnail on the brushed layer to create the selection.
3. Change to the paper layer, and press CTRL+C to copy the paper within the selection.
4. Move to your layout and press CTRL+V to paste the cutout onto your layout.



SHADOWS

Last but not least, don't forget to add drop shadows to your paper pieces! The shadows are what really make your pieces look like bits of paper stuck to your layout! If you need help understanding how to make your shadows look right, see our Shadows tutorial at <http://www.scrappersworkshop.com/hosted/tutorials/SHADOWS.pdf>

Don't forget to show us what you've done in our gallery!

Happy Scrapping! *Jenn*