

COOKIE CUTTER / ELEMENTS 3.0

Presented by Doris McCrossin

Start with a colorful image.

You must make a **Background Copy** to work on. You cannot use the **Blending Modes** unless you do.

In **Adobe Elements 3.0**, click on the **Cookie Cutter** (located on the side toolbar).

Choose your **Shape** and **Drag** across the image. When you release the mouse, you need to click inside the image of the shape to close the **Bounding Box**.

You now have 2 layers: Background and Background Copy/Shape

Use the **Blending Mode**. (Look at the top of the Layers Palette for a box that says "Normal". Click the little arrow to see all the available Blend Modes). You will have to experiment with this.

Above the Layers Palette is another Palette where you can access your **Filters, Effects** and **Layer Styles**. Again you will have to experiment to get the results you are satisfied with.

There are times you will work on the **Shape Layer, the Background Copy Layer** or change the arrangement of the Layers.

Another nice feature is the **Undo/Redo** option located in the top tool bar.

Your finished image will always be one of a kind. It is difficult to explain step by step because you may **undo/redo** several times before you are happy with your finished image.

Just to get you started, try this:

Open an image of a flower...Make a Background Copy

Click on the Cookie Cutter -----choose Floral Arrangement #2

With Background Copy Shape Layer highlighted----Changing Blending Mode to Multiply.

Go to Layer Styles----Patterns---Angled Spectrum---Click OK

You can experiment with the Opacity if you want your image to show through more.

You can also go to Effects, scroll through them to Gold Sprinkles.

This will make another Layer. (Layer 1) Now move the Background Copy Layer above the Layer 1 and you have completely removed the original background.

Don't like that?! UNDOChange your Mind?! REDO

INSTRUCTONS AND IMAGES FOR COOKIE CUTTER DEMO

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Untitled No. 1 Yellow Flower

Background Copy
Shape....Floral Ornament #2
Blending Mode...Multiply
Layer Styles----Angled Spectrum

To change Background---Effects---Gold Sprinkle---Layer 1---Move Background Copy above Layer 1

Untitled No. 2 Pink Flower

Background Copy
Shape---Ornament #3
Blending Mode----Overlay...Multiply
Filter----Glowing Edges
Effects----Sunset Layer (65%)
Move Layers

Untitled No. 3 Purple Flower

Background Copy
Shape----Snail
Multiply
Filter---Glowing Edges
Layer Styles---Image Effects---Color Burn
Effects---Marbled Glass
In Layers Palette---Click on Gradient----Change to Transparent
Rainbow---Lower Opacity

Untitled No. 4 White Flower

Background Copy
Shape----8 Point Star Frame
Blending Mode----Multiply
Effects---Marbled Glass
Layer Styles---Complex---Salt---Wow Neon

SHAPE TOOL-----PHOTOSHOP 7/CS

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Select colorful image. (This is a good way to make use of your out of focus flowers!)
(Don't have any? I'll lend you some)

Set the Colors on your Toolbar to Black/White.

Make a **Background Copy**. (You have to work on this to use the **Blending Modes**)

Bring up the Styles Palette.

Click on **Shape Tool** (on side tool bar). On the top Toolbar, click the first option which is for a Shape Layer. Make sure the **Shape is checked Unconstrained Proportions**. This box is at the top of the screen also just to the left of the word "Shape". It is checked by default but if it is not, you will not be able to size your shape. **Make sure the Styles Palette is at the "Default Styles" and White with a Red Line though it is highlighted on the Toolbar at the top of the Screen.**

Example:

Working on **Background Copy**, hold and drag your **shape** over the image.
(You can reposition it using the Move Tool)

Your Shape will be Black (you now have 3 layers).

On Shape Layer---Blending Mode: Change to Overlay

Filter: Optional

Styles Palette: Click on Small Arrow and from the drop down list, choose **Photographic Effects---Exclusion Magenta**. (only one that is transparent)

Highlight Background Copy Layer---Blending Mode---Difference

Your image is now **Black**. Don't Panic!

Move Background Copy Layer above the Shape Layer.

Your image may look kind of Yucky at this point.

Highlight Shape Layer---Styles Palette.---Drop Down List and Choose Buttons

For this example, I chose the **Angled Spectrum**. You may want to experiment with several others. Remember you can always check your **History Palette and Undo/Redo**.

If the **Shape** is too dark----**Highlight Background Copy Layer**

Blending Mode---Lighten. Too light? Lower the Opacity.

Have fun trying different shapes, filters and effects. You'll be surprised at all the different things you can do. You will even start talking to your computer (if you don't already) and say **WOW!** Isn't that neat?!

The biggest difference between using Elements 3.0 and the full version of Photoshop is that you have to keep changing the Styles Palette. In Elements, the Filters, Effects and Layer Styles are more readily available and I think have more choices.