

# ADOBE PHOTOSHOP Elements TECHNIQUES

## Border Effects

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How to create unique border effects that can be reused on other photos.

1. Open a photo you'd like to add a border effect to. Hold the **Alt** or **Option** key and **double-click** the background layer in your layers palette. This will unlock that layer and rename it Layer 0.
2. Select your **Rectangular Marquee** tool. Make a selection that takes up most of your photo, leaving a little bit of a border around the outside.
3. With your rectangle selected, click on the **Add a Layer Mask** button at the bottom of your layers palette. This will create an automatic layer mask with your selection. (**Note:** This option is only available starting with Elements 9. If you want to create a layer mask using Elements 8 or earlier,

take a look at Mike Rodriguez's video "[Creating Layer Masks with Adjustment Layers.](#)")

4. Hold the **Control** or **Command** key and click on the **Add a New Layer** button at the bottom of your layers palette. This will add a blank layer underneath your photo layer.
5. With your new, blank layer selected, go to the **Edit** menu and choose **Fill Layer**. Inside the Fill Layer dialog box, select **White** from the **Use** drop down menu and press Ok.
6. Select your top, photo layer. Go to your **Effects** panel and choose a **Drop Shadow** to apply. (Note: This step is optional and can always be deleted layer.)
7. **Alt** or **Option** click on your photo layer's layer mask. This will allow you to see it in plain black and white.
8. Go to the **Filter** menu, than to **Brush Strokes** and select **Spatter**. Inside the Spatter dialog box, feel free to experiment with the **Spray Radius** and **Smoothness** sliders until you're happy.
9. To add another effect on top of your Spatter filter, go to the bottom right of the filter dialog box and click on the **New Effect Layer** button (it will look exactly like the Add a New Layer button from your layers palette). Now you can select another effect from the drop down menu and it will be applied on top of your first effect. Once you're done, press Ok.
10. To view your border effect with the photo, **Alt** or **Option** click your layer mask again. If you'd like to add another effect, make sure that your layer mask is selected and you can choose another effect from your Filter menu.
11. Save your image as a .PSD file to make sure you've saved your layers and layer masks.
12. To add this effect to another photo, open your second image. With your first photo's top layer selected, choose the **Move** tool and simply drag your image to the second photo. This will drop the entire layer, photo and layer mask, on top of your second photo. If you need to resize it or move it around, you can use **Free Transform** (PC: Control+T, Mac: Command +T) to do so.

13. Hide the top layer that you just dragged over. Hold the **Alt** or **Option** key and **double-click** on the bottom photo layer to unlock it.
14. Hold the **Control** or **Command** key and click on the top layer's layer mask to load it as a selection. With the bottom layer still selected, click on the **Add a Layer Mask** button at the bottom of your layers palette. Now you can throw away your top, hidden photo layer.
15. To add the white (or black) background layer, hold the **Control** or **Command** key and click on the **Add a New Layer** button. With the bottom, blank layer selected, go to the **Edit** menu and select **Fill Layer** and choose the color you'd like to use as a background.