

How to Build a Starburst Ribbon Effect in Photoshop Elements

A starburst is created by using the star tool. It is found in the DRAW section of the tools panel just above the pencil. There are other tools in this group, so you may see an oval, square, polygon, line or an arrow. Click on that tool to open the tool options, and then you can choose the star.

- After choosing the star you can set how many sides it has, and the percent of indent.
- Keep or deselect the indents and corners check boxes depending on if you want your starburst to have sharp points or rounded points. You can choose the color now, or color it later with the paint bucket.
- Click and drag in your canvas to create the size of starburst you want. Change the color if desired.
- To add a black border with slightly rounded points use the layer styles to add a stroke.
- If you want a border with sharp points, copy the layer.
- Select the lower of the two in the stacking order in the layers panel.
- Color it black using the paint bucket, or the fill layer dialog box.
- With black starburst still selected, go to Image-Resize-Scale.
- Make sure it will scale from the center and put in a percentage. This creates an even border around the starburst. (It only works on round objects. If the object is not round, the border will be uneven).
- Add a layer style to the black starburst layer to add a drop shadow.
- Select the type tool and add any type you would like. Make sure the type layer is the top layer in the layer stack and the type color is different than your starburst color so it will be visible.
- Add a stroke to your type and a shadow if desired by using layer styles.
- Select the two starburst layers and the type layer by holding down the shift key while clicking on the layers.
- Click and drag them to the create layer group icon at the top of the layers panel.
- With the group selected press Command/Control T and drag the curved arrows in one of the corners to rotate the group slightly if desired.
- To make a second starburst effect, copy the group by selecting the group and pressing Command/Control J, or drag the whole group to the create new layer icon at the top of the layers panel.

- Using the move tool, move the copied group to a new location.
- Change the color of the starburst, and the type if desired. The layer styles of the original type should remain on the new type.
- To add a ribbon to the starburst, create a new layer
- Using the oval marquee tool, draw an oval where you would like the inside edge of the ribbon to be. Hold down the Option/Alt key and draw another oval where you want the outside edge of the ribbon to be. This will subtract parts of the first oval, leaving a curved ribbon shape.
- Use the polygon lasso tool, and holding down the Shift key to add to the selection, or the Option/Alt key to subtract from the selection, create the end of the ribbon you would like.
- Fill the selection with the desired color, and add the same stroke, shadow and other layer styles that you used for your starbursts.
- Add type to the ribbon, add layer styles to the type if desired. Use the warp tool to arc the type in the direction of the ribbon. You can copy the layer styles from one of the other type layers by holding down the Option/Alt key, then click on the fx on the layer you want to copy from, and drag the fx to the new type layer. The layer styles will be copied to the new layer.
- To move one ribbon click and drag the group it is in.
- To move all the ribbons at once, select all the groups by shift clicking on the groups in the layers panel, then click on the create new group icon at the top of the layers panel. With all the groups nested in a new group you can move that new group to the desired location.
- Name your groups to keep things less confusing.