

Let's Get CHARM-ing!

Hanging Charms or Tags

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Often, we need to 'hang' one item from another – tags, charms, other elements. There are many different ways you can accomplish this, in this tutorial we will go over a few of the most useful!

All screen shots in this tutorial were made with PSCS2, but should be very similar to most Photoshop and PS Elements versions.

To Get Started:

1. Open your ribbon, and drag onto your layout
2. Open your charm, and drag to onto your layout. It should be on TOP of the ribbon.

What we want to do here is delete the portion of the charm that should be UNDER the ribbon, since it would not be seen in real life! You COULD use your eraser tool, but it can be hard to get a nice straight line, so...



3. Choose your Marquee tool
4. Draw a box just the width of the ribbon, starting right in the center of the hole. You only have to pull the box just past the edge of the charm hole, in this example I've pulled it farther.

5. Click on the charm layer to select.



6. Hit DELETE key.

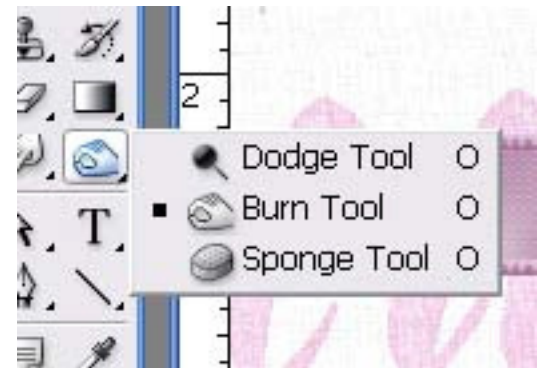
You will notice one side of the charm hole is now 'hidden' behind the ribbon, but it looks kind of FLAT...



So we're going to add some depth by adding shadows and highlights. There are several ways to do this, here is the one I use most:

7. Click on the RIBBON layer again to select it.

8. Choose the BURN tool (it may be under the DODGE or SPONGE tool)



9. Use the Burn tool to darken the area under the part of the charm that is showing. Use a brush size much larger than the width of the charm hole, with a soft edge. (see below). In the tool options bar, set the options as follows:



10. Now choose the Dodge tool to lighten the area on the other side where the charm passes under the ribbon. Keep this highlight large and subtle.

Too often, I see this mistake: The highlight is just the width of the charm, and very bright.

WRONG



RIGHT!!



On the second example, the highlight is wider and less intense.

ADDING A DROP SHADOW

It is BEST to add the drop shadow BEFORE you erase/delete part of the charm.

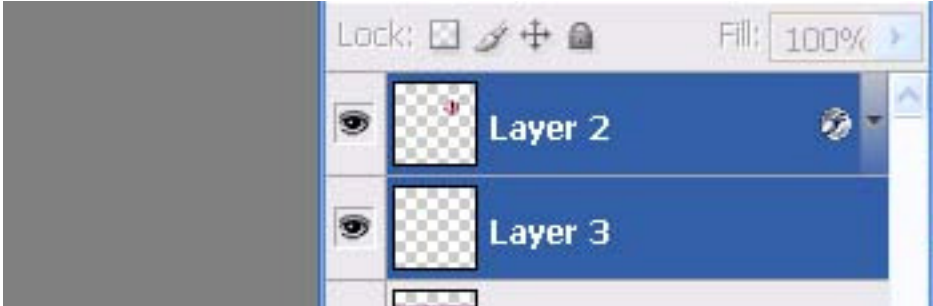
This can be tricky. If you have added a drop shadow to your charm, you will find when you erase or delete a portion of it, the shadow adjusts to the new edge:



There is a quick fix for this, and you can do it whenever you apply the drop shadow, before or after you delete/erase the charm.

1. Click on the charm layer that has the drop shadow.
2. Make a new layer below it by holding the CONTROL key and clicking on the New Layer icon in the layers palette.

3. Hold your SHIFT key and click on BOTH the charm layer AND the new layer to select them.



← Charm Layer

← New Layer

4. Hit CNTRL+E to merge (or go to Layer> Merge Layers)



You will notice, the layer style symbol is GONE!! Now when you delete or erase, the shadow won't come back on the new edge. You will get best results if you use this technique to 'fix' the shadow BEFORE you alter the charm... but if you've ALREADY erased/deleted, and still see the

shadow, just use your Erase tool, and erase the portion of the shadow you don't want.

But My Ribbon is too WIDE!!!

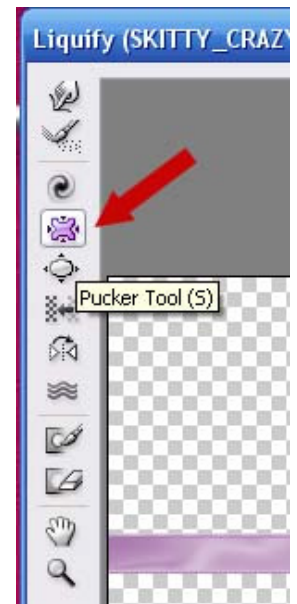
In this case, you will notice that the ribbon is WIDER than the hole on the charm. If we were using REAL ribbon (instead of digital ribbon) we would simply squish it through the hole.



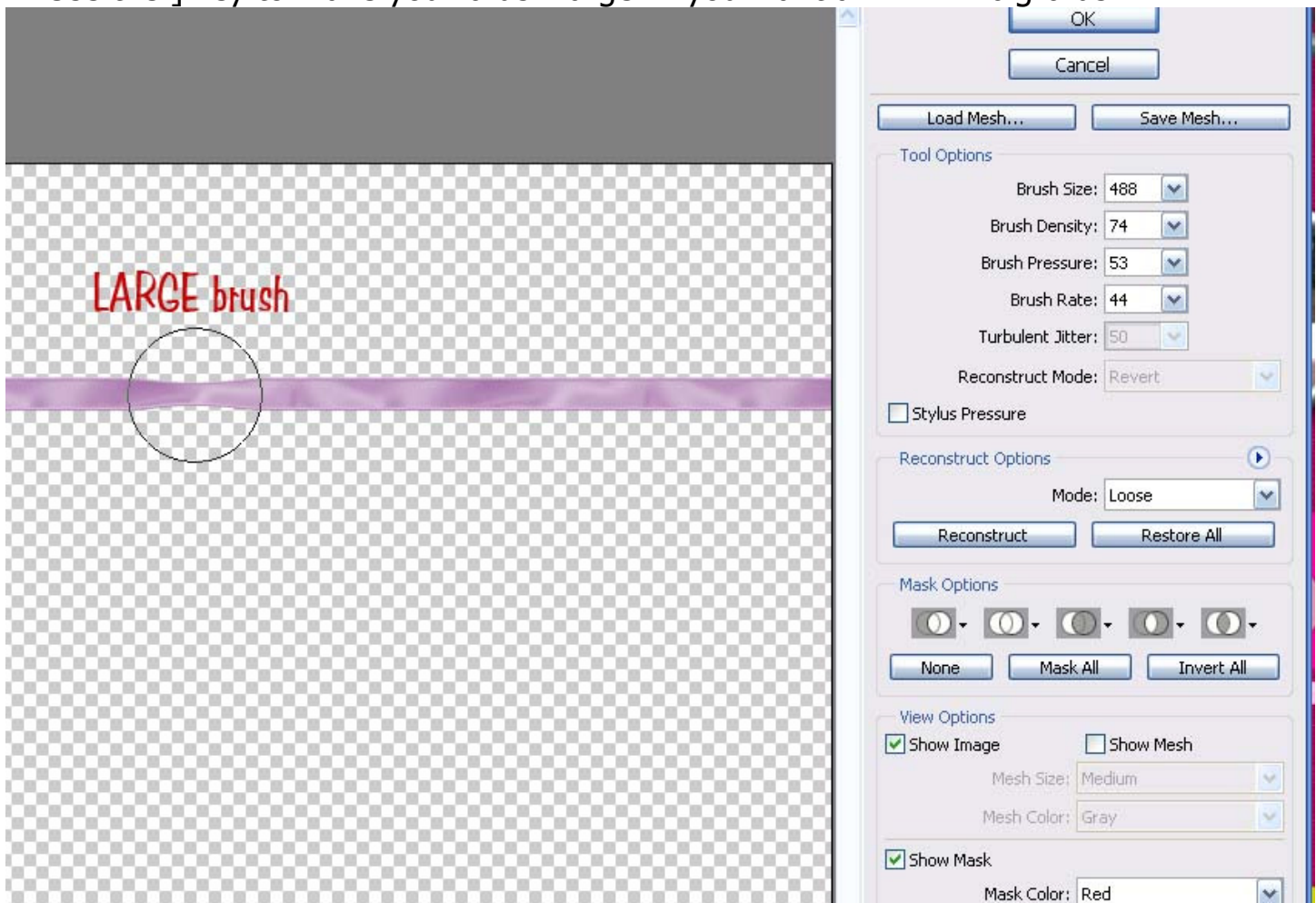
We can squish our digital ribbon with the LIQUIFY filter in PS and PSE.

1. Click on the ribbon layer in the layer palette to select it.
2. Go to Filter>Liquify (PSE: Filter>Distort>Liquify)
3. Once the Liquify window opens (it can take a while) choose your PUCKER tool: (sometimes called the PINCH tool).

You will notice that the ribbon is the only thing visible in the filter window. That is because it was the active layer. If you see something other than the ribbon in the Liquify window, close the window, select the ribbon layer, and go back to Liquify.

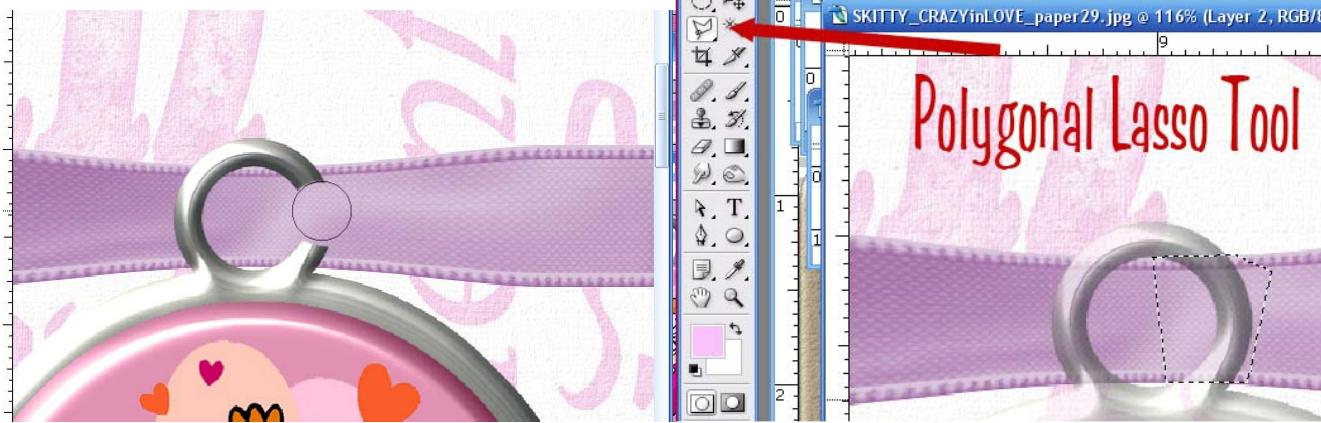


4. Use the] key to make your brush larger – you want a REALLY big brush:



5. Click on the ribbon several times at the point where you want the charm to hang. If you need to, there is a spot at the bottom of the window where you can zoom in or out. Look for the 100% and just change the number in that field.

- When the ribbon looks thin enough to go through your charm, click OK.
- You may have to move the charm a little to get it to the thinnest point of the ribbon.
- Now you can ERASE or use a selection tool like the Marquee or the Polygonal Lasso to delete the part of the charm that is under the ribbon.



ERASER

LASSO tool – notice that the opacity on the charm was lowered so that you can see where to select.

- Again, burn and dodge to shadow and highlight.



Happy Scrapping!

