



## Wrapping a Ribbon Around a Photo (Photoshop/Photoshop Elements)

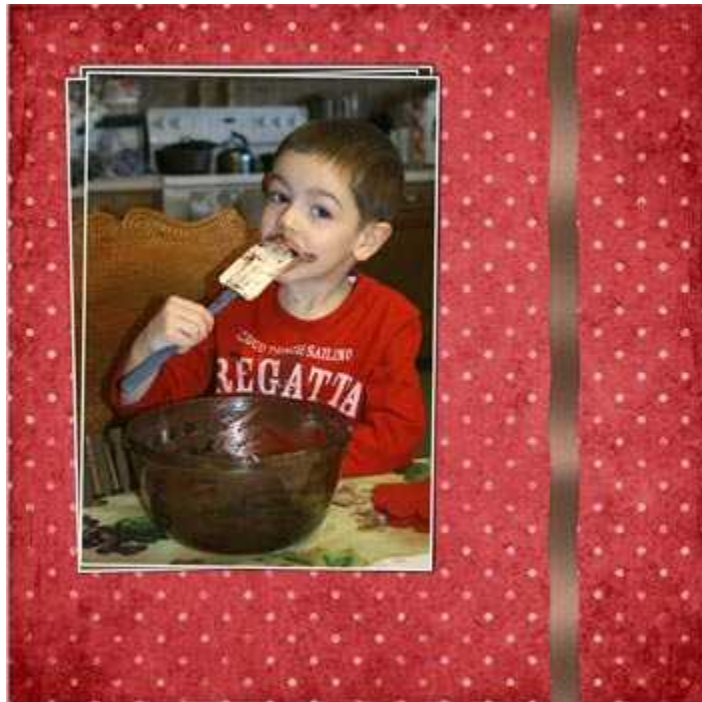
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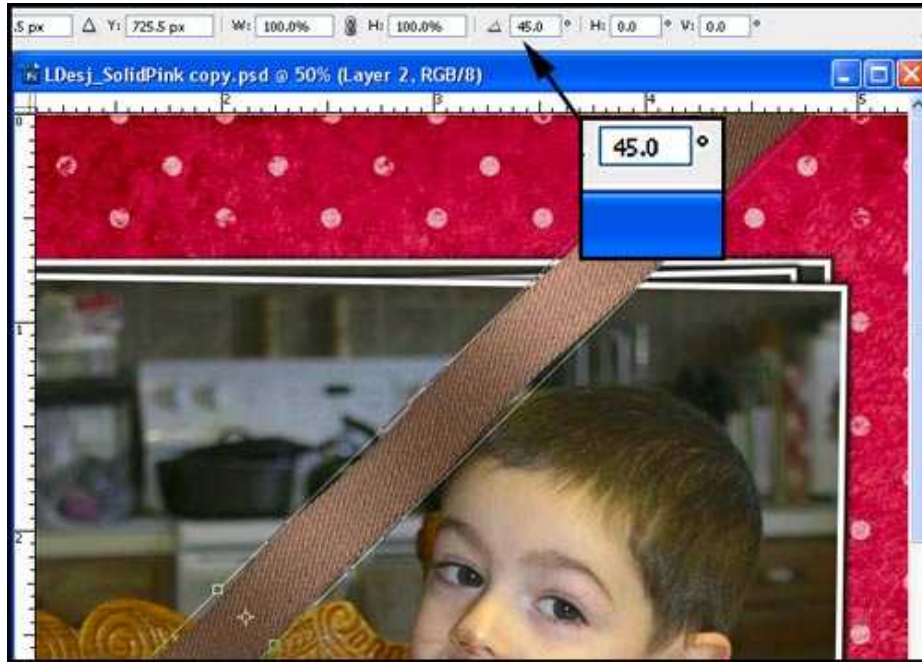
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One of my favorite ways to highlight a photo in a simple and elegant way is to wrap a ribbon around the photo. Sometimes I like to wrap it around a single corner while other times, I may wrap it around vertically or horizontally. It's also a nice way to "tie" a stack of photos together. In Photoshop or Photoshop Elements, this is a pretty simple effect to achieve using shadowing, along with dodge and burn tools.

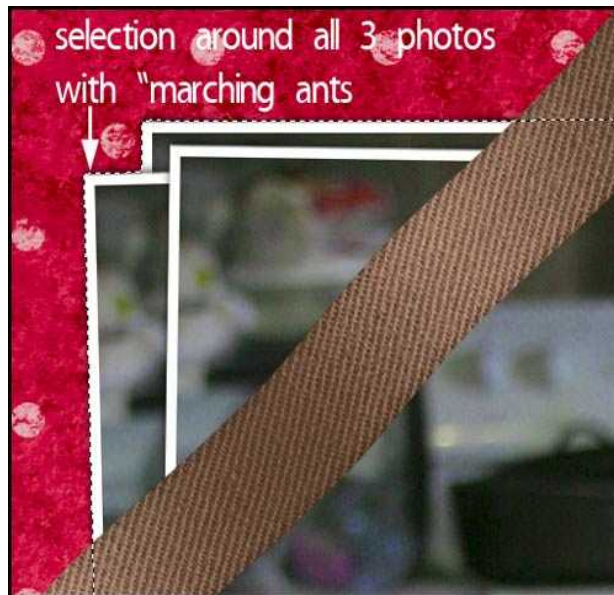
This is the layout I've used for this tutorial. I've already added a shadow to the photo stack. I will use the ribbon to wrap around two corners of the photo.



1. First you need to position the ribbon how you like it. For this one, I've tilted the ribbon at a 45 degree angle. Click the move tool and then on the transform controls. In the options bar, type in 45, or your desired angle. Then move the ribbon into position. I've put my ribbon over the top left corner.



2. Now I need to eliminate the parts of the ribbon that I don't need. To do this, I'll select the *photo layers*. Because there are multiple layers, I'll need to make a selection of all three. Press **Ctrl+Shift** while clicking on the each of the layer *thumbnails*. Using the **Shift** key will allow you to add to each previous selection.

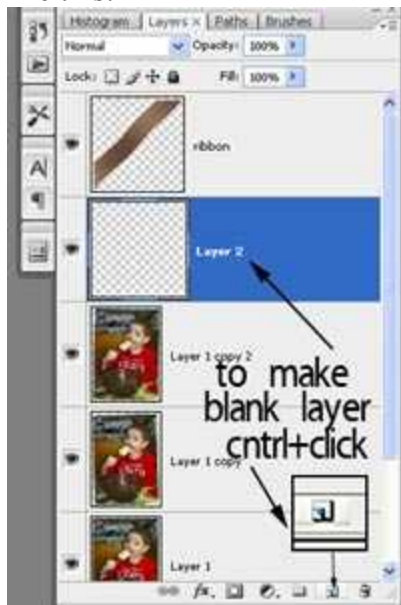


3. With the selection still active, activate the ribbon layer. Choose Cntrl+J. This will duplicate only the portion of the ribbon that is within the selection. Delete the remaining portion in the layer below. (See below.)

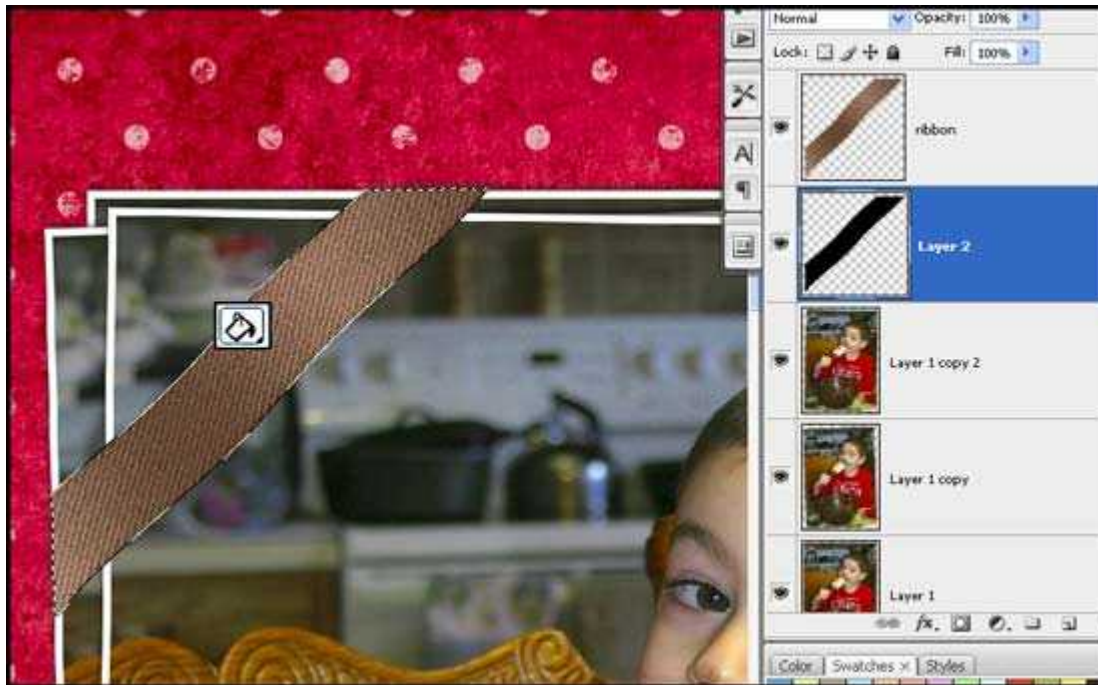


Now all that is left is the part of the ribbon that wraps around the photo.

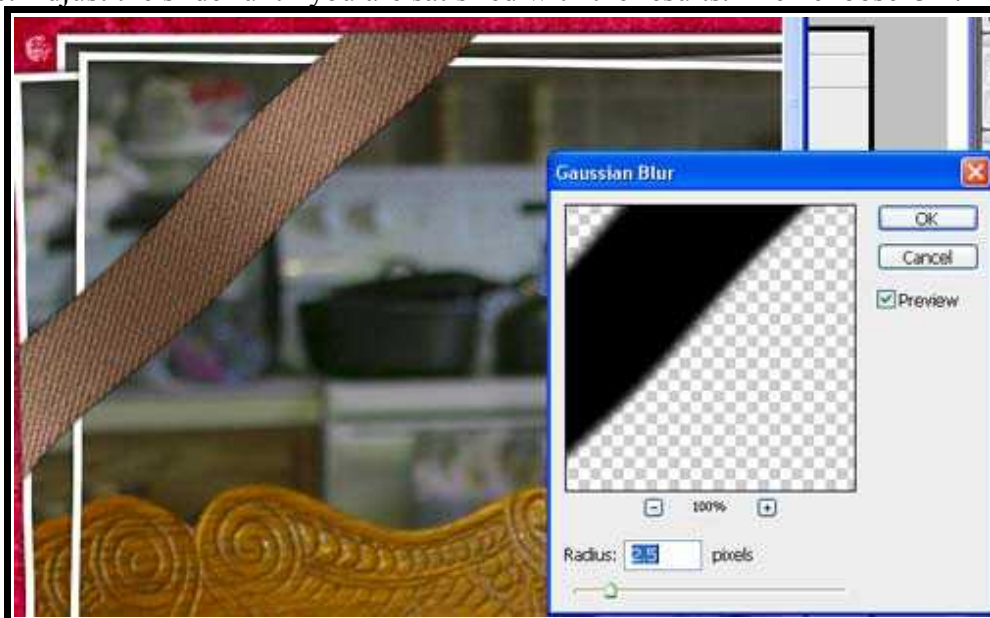
4. First we will add the shadow.
  - a. Add a layer just beneath the ribbon. To do this, with the ribbon chosen in the palette, Cntrl+click the new layer icon at the bottom of the layer palette. You palette should look like this:



- b. Then put a selection around the ribbon – cntrl+the ribbon layer's thumbnail to put marching ants around it.
- c. Use the paint bucket to fill the selection on the *blank* layer.



5. Next we'll blur the shadow.
  - a. Cntrl+ D to deselect.
  - b. Choose Filter>Blur>Gaussian Blur.
  - c. Adjust the slider until you are satisfied with the results. Then choose OK.



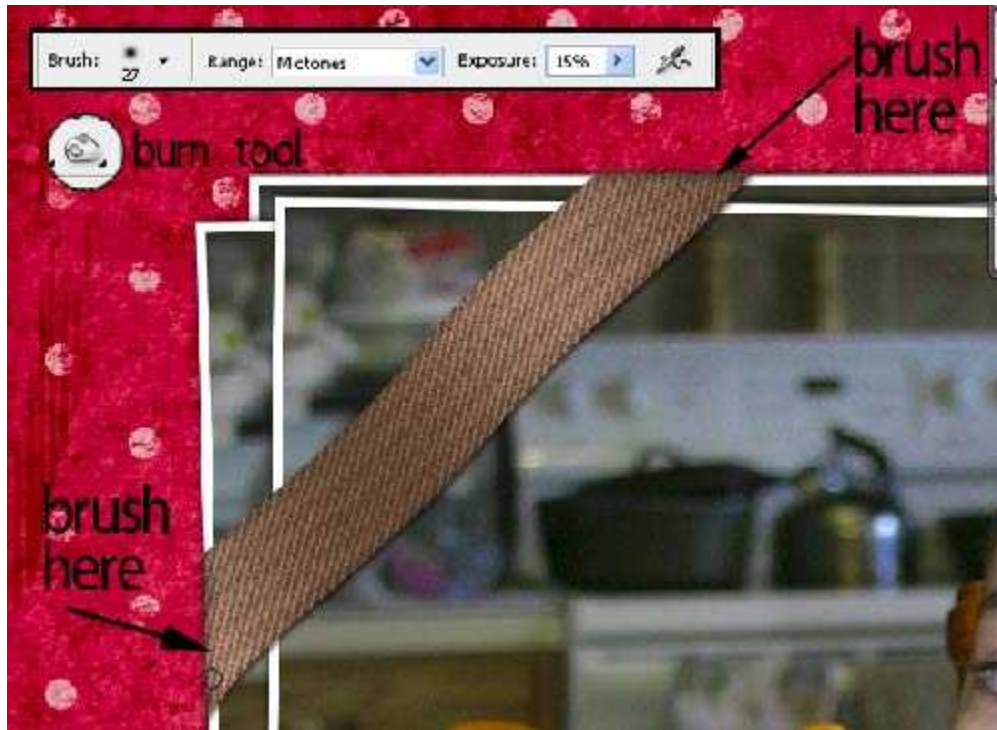
- d. In the layers palette, adjust the opacity. I've set it at about 68%.
- e. You may also wish to move the shadow down and to the right slightly using the move tool and the arrow keys on the keyboard.



Now finally, I'll add some subtle shadows and highlighting to the ribbon's edges to mimic the look of the ribbon wrapping around the photos.

6. In the layers palette, make sure the ribbon is selected. Then choose the burn tool from the toolbox.
  - a. In the options bar, select mid-tones from the drop down list and set the exposure at around 12-15%.
  - b. Select a small, soft round brush. I'm using soft round 27.

NOTE: If the ribbon is very dark you'll want to select shadows from the drop down box. Conversely, if it is very light you'll want to select highlights.

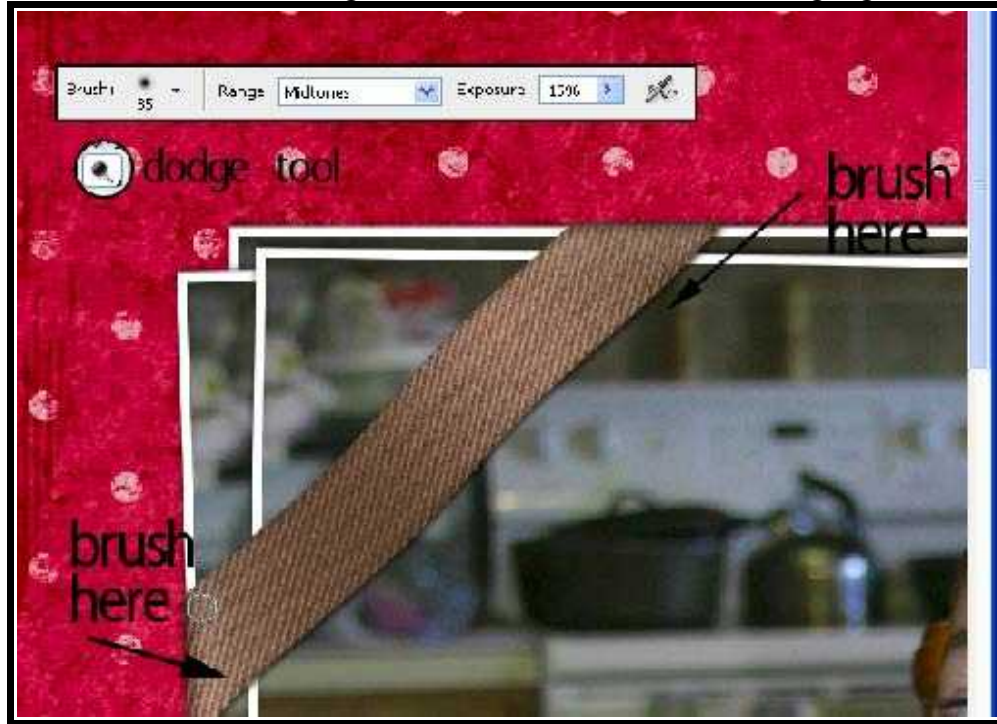


7. Drag the mouse along the out edge of the ribbon where it wraps around the photo to darken just the very edges. The effects should be subtle.

8. We also need to use the dodge tool to add realism. Select the dodge tool. It is in the same fly-out in the toolbox with the burn tool.

- a. In the options bar, select mid-tones from the range drop-down box and an exposure of about 12-15%.
- b. Choose a brush size. I'm using Soft Round 35.

9. Drag the brush inside the ribbon's edge. As with the burn effects, these highlights will be subtle.



That's all there is to it. Here is the finished effect on my layout.

