Adding Text Balloons
By Jerry Koons

Have you ever wanted to add text balloons to an image? It can be an effective method for adding humor or information.

It is easy in Elements and Photoshop to add them and this tutorial shows you how.

**Step One**
Open your image and make the necessary corrections.

**Step Two**
Click on the *Text Tool* icon and place your desired text on the image. Make sure that the text is the size and color you want and move it to the desired location.

Refer to Figure One on Page 2.

**Step Three**
Add a new blank layer by clicking on the *Create A New Layer* icon at the top of the Layers Palette as shown in Figure Two. It will automatically be named Layer 1.

**Step Four**
Click on the new layer (Layer 1) and drag it downward until it is approximately half way between the other two layers and release the mouse. If the new layer 1 does not appear between the other layers, try again until it is between them as shown in Figure Three on Page 4.

**Step Five**
Click on the *Marquee Tool* icon and hold the mouse down to show the other options. Select the *Elliptical Marquee* option.

Draw an elliptical marquee around the text and move it to the desired location as shown in Figure Four. The selection can be moved by moving the mouse so it is inside of the marching ants and the cursor will turn into an arrow indicating you can move now it.

Note that the marquee is represented by marching ants because we have not filled it yet.

**Step Six**
Click on the *Lasso Tool* icon and hold the mouse down to show the other Lasso Tool options. Select the *Polygonal Lasso* text option.

Refer to the arrow on the left side of the image in Figure Four and click on the *Add to Selection* icon to permit you to add to the existing marching ant selection.
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**Step Seven**
Refer to Figure Five on Page 5 and click inside of the marching ants and then move the mouse to the desired location of the point of the balloon and click and then move the mouse inside of the marching ants again and click and finally move the beginning point of this flag pointer and click to complete the selection. If you have trouble completing the selection, you can double click near the beginning point to help close it.

Note that Figure Five shows the four points that were clicked to add the flag to the existing elliptical selection. The lasso icon in this selection indicates the starting and ending points.

NOTE: When you complete the flag pointer selection, the actual selection (marching ants) will become one selection as shown in Figure Six.

**Step Eight**
Fill the selection with the desired color.

Click on *Edit > Fill Selection* on the upper toolbar and click on the down arrow in Contents to select the desired color. Refer to Figure Seven on Page 6.

**Step Nine**
Deselect by pressing the *Ctrl and D keys* or clicking on *Select > Deselect* on the upper toolbar.

**Step Ten (Optional)**
Reduce the opacity of the layer to make the balloon color become translucent and allow portions of the image to show.
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Figure One

Figure Two
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Figure Three

Figure Four
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Figure Five

Figure Six

Page 5 of 6
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Figure Seven