


# HAND-DRAWN ELEMENTS

Adding hand-drawn artwork or signatures to your book is a popular and fun way to add a personal or whimsical touch to a design.

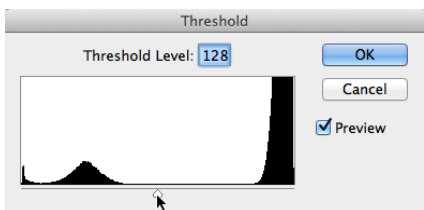
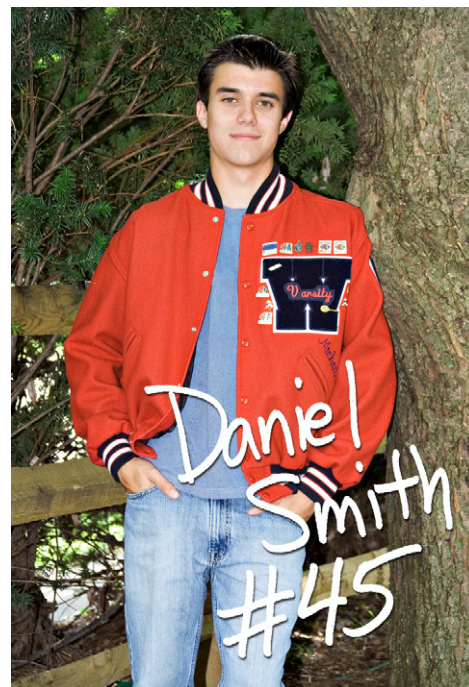
## CREATE AND SCAN

For best results, the artwork or signature should be drawn on white paper with a black, thick-tipped pen (like a Sharpie®). Scan the artwork at 300 ppi. If a scanner is not available, you can place the artwork in a well-lit area and take a picture of it from above.




## PREPARING THE ARTWORK

Open the scanned artwork in Photoshop®. First crop away any extraneous parts of the image. Switch to the Crop tool  and click and drag around the part of the image you want to keep. After you release the mouse button, a crop box will appear. Click and drag on any of the square handles on the crop box to adjust it. When you like the crop area, press the Enter or Return key to accept the crop.

Even though the artwork may look like it has a white background, in most cases the white actually has low color values or shades of gray that would show up when printed on white paper if not adjusted in Photoshop. In the next step you will make all of the background pixels completely white.



The best way to do this is with a Threshold adjustment in Photoshop. Go to Image > Adjustments > Threshold to open the Threshold dialog box. This adjustment will force all the pixels in the image to be completely black or completely white. Moving the slider to the right or left will change where the drop-off occurs between what becomes completely white and what becomes completely black.

Experiment with the settings to achieve clearly defined black artwork and a solid white background. When you are satisfied, click OK. In some cases you will have some small areas or specs in the background that were not removed. Use the Eraser tool  to clean up these spots after applying the Threshold adjustment. Switch to the Eraser tool, press the D key on the keyboard to set the background color to white, and then erase away any spots in the white background area. The Eraser diameter can be adjusted as you erase by using the right bracket key  to make the Eraser larger and the left bracket key  to make the eraser smaller. Note: the bracket keys are located to the right of the P key on a standard keyboard.

Once you apply the Threshold adjustment you can save the artwork as a JPEG and place it on your layout—that is, if you are planning to place it directly on a white page. If, however, you plan to place the artwork over other elements or on a colored background, you will want to remove the white background pixels. This process is described below.

## REMOVING THE WHITE BACKGROUND

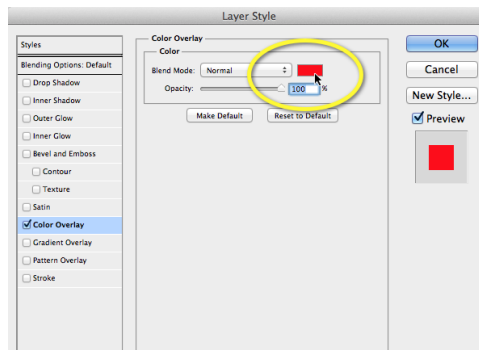
After applying the Threshold adjustment and cleaning up the background with the Eraser tool (if necessary), you will need to release the Background layer. This will allow transparent pixels to exist on this layer. To do this go to the Layers panel (Window > Layers) and double-click on the “Background” layer name. You can give the layer a new name or accept the default “Layer 0” name and click OK.

Next, go to the Select menu and choose Color Range. When the Color Range dialog appears, click on the white background area in the image. Then click OK. You should then see the animated selection outline around all of the white background pixels. Press the Delete key on the keyboard to remove the white background. You will see a gray and white checkerboard pattern where the white once was. This pattern indicates these areas are transparent.

## ADDING A COLOR TO THE ARTWORK

If you would like the artwork to appear in a color other than black, you should add the color in Photoshop before placing it on the layout.

Go to the bottom of the Layers panel and click on the Layer Style button (fx) and choose Color Overlay. In the Layer Styles dialog box, click on the color swatch (as shown in the screen shot to the right). This will open the Color Picker where you can select a color or enter an exact CMYK value. When you have chosen the color, click OK. Then click OK on the Layer Style dialog box to apply the Color Overlay.



## SAVING FOR USE IN YOUR PAGE LAYOUT APPLICATION

You are now ready to save the file for use in eDesign® or InDesign®. The process is different for each program. Files destined for eDesign should be saved as PNG files; files to be used in InDesign should be saved as TIFF files with transparency preserved. For more information about the proper way to save files with transparency, see *Photoshop Tips & Tricks - Saving Files*.

## COMPANION VIDEO

A companion video tutorial entitled *Photoshop Tips & Tricks - Hand-Drawn Elements (video)* can be found at [yearbooks.biz](http://yearbooks.biz) > Resources > eLearning > Photoshop. When viewing the video online, you can use the table of contents (with times) below to navigate back to a part of the video that you would like to watch again:

Preparing the Artwork	-	0:10
Cropping the Image	-	0:28
Threshold Adjustment	-	1:12
Clean Up Background	-	2:20
Remove White Background	-	3:24
Change Color of Artwork	-	5:34
Saving the File	-	6:33

