

## How to create a repeat tile in Adobe Photoshop:

### Basics: By Tori Grace Coleman

#### Cleaning up a print in Photoshop:

This technique is useful if you have an illustrative piece that you want to turn into a repeat pattern.

1. As a rule, always create a duplicate of your work. One to keep as an original and one as a copy to work on.
2. Check the resolution on the original print. Next cut each motif from the original print using the lasso tool and open each one individually on a new page. Be sure to check the resolution is the same for each one.
3. Go into each page and change the colour mode to RGB, you do this by going to 'Image'- 'Mode'- 'RGB'.
4. Go to 'Image'- 'Mode'- 'Index Colour' and reduce the number of colours you are using. If this was going into production for a high street company for example the standard rule is 8. Remember the less colours you use, the cheaper it will be to print and manufacture.
5. With each individual motif, you must check if it's pixelated. You can check this by going into each page individually and zoom in slightly. If the motif is pixelated you will need to touch up the areas, but this may take some time. It can be easily done by using the paint bucket tool and adding fill colours to areas, but this doesn't always turn out great.
6. Save each motif individually.

#### Creating a repeat tile in Photoshop:

1. Create a new document roughly the size you would like the tile ie. 18cm x 18cm, making sure the resolution is the same as your motifs.
2. Once you have each individual motif separated and cleaned up, it might be a good idea to refer back to your original illustration. If you want something similar to this, you could always place the original artwork on the first layer. Reduce the opacity and lock it in place.
3. Now start by placing the motifs on individually from the centre, making sure none of them touch the edge.
4. Next think about the motifs that will go around the edge of the canvas. Pick one motif that will cover all the corners and place near the edge of the tile, but make sure the entire motif is within the tile walls.
5. Click the 'Crop' tool from the tool selector and press enter on your keyboard twice.
6. Next, be sure you have selected the corner motif layer and go to 'Filter'- 'Other'- 'Offset'- 'Warp Around'. Then carefully and slowly move the motif towards the corner of the tile until you have it in the correct place. Once completed click 'Ok'.
7. If you are not happy with the placement of the motif press 'Cmd'+ 'Z' to go back, or delete the motif and restart the process again.
8. To complete the tile, re-do steps 3-6 until the tile has all the motifs and evenly distributed across the tile. Always think about what's around each motif in the space. Having experience of creating repeat tiles, It's nice to have some main motifs and

some smaller basic ones to fill out the space with. (Take a look at my Joe Exotic inspired print- notice the four main motifs and various smaller motifs, all evenly spaced out creating a fun repeat tile ready to be printed. Notice the ancient mythology styled motif placed on the corner, covers all four corners).

9. If you still have the original pattern as a guide for positioning, be sure to unlock and remove this layer. Again be sure to save the final outcome. Multiple times if you've made any adjustments so you have copies.



### **Creating a spec sheet for the tile:**

This is useful if you are going to send a tile to a manufacturer for printing etc. Best to do this via a word document.

1. Firstly place the tile into the centre of the sheet and write underneath it whether it's to scale, to inform the printers. 'PRINT IS TO SCALE/ IS NOT TO SCALE'
2. You need to include detail about the tile regarding its size. It's beneficial to print off various sizes of the tile to see how large you would like it. Once you have decided, add the scale of the tile in CM or MM, depending on how you work.
3. If the tile is small, you could add a brief written description of what the tile looks like for the printers.
4. Add each pantone colour chip used within the tile, with the colour reference.
5. Also it's beneficial to include a name of the tile/ pattern, season and collection name for reference in case you or the printers need to identify and discuss the print.

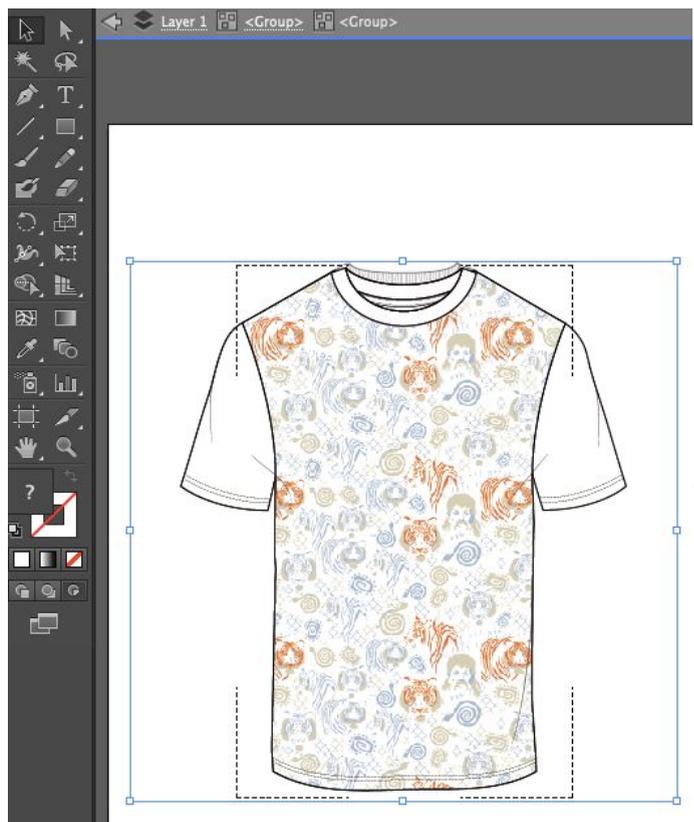
## How to fill a shape with a repeat tile:

This is very useful if you want to showcase your repeat tile onto a spec drawing or a T-shirt for example.

1. Firstly open your repeat tile into Photoshop. Click 'Edit'- 'Define Pattern'. A pop up menu should appear asking you to rename your tile. The press 'Ok'.
2. Next, you can select the 'Paint Bucket Tool' from the tool menu and at the very top of the screen, it should have a dropdown menu where it says 'Foreground', change this to 'Pattern' and select your tile. You can then fill a shape, or page with your print.
3. Note that the print will be the exact scale your tile is set at. So you might need to rescale the print to show how it might look on a T-shirt for example.

If you wanted to use the tile in Illustrator to demonstrate how it might look on a spec.

1. Depending on the scale of your print, you can place the tile directly into Illustrator, or you can open a new, larger document on Photoshop (i.e 100cmx100cm) and fill the area with your tile, then place this sheet into Illustrator. I suggest dragging this across from one software to the next.
2. Open your spec document or draw your spec out and select the area you want to fill. Firstly press '**Cmd**+'**C**' on your print tile, or print sheet. Using the black selection tool, select the area you would like to fill and, at the bottom of the tool selection window, on the right hand side, click on the '**Draw Inside**' button. The click '**Cmd**+'**V**' to paste your tile or print sheet into place. You can then scale your print up or down and move it into the correct position.



If you are a fashion student, please take this knowledge away with you, as this is one of the most useful things I have learnt since leaving university. It makes drawing shapes within shapes (i.e. taping down a sleeve, or filling with a print), much more efficient use of time and gives you a neater finish.