



Adobe® Photoshop® Elements 2.0

Lessons for Educators

All Occasion Project

Adobe Education



Adobe

Tools for the New Work™

All Occasion Gift Box

This project offers practice in positioning selections and in using Shapes, Filters, and Layer Styles to create decorative images using Adobe® Photoshop® Elements.

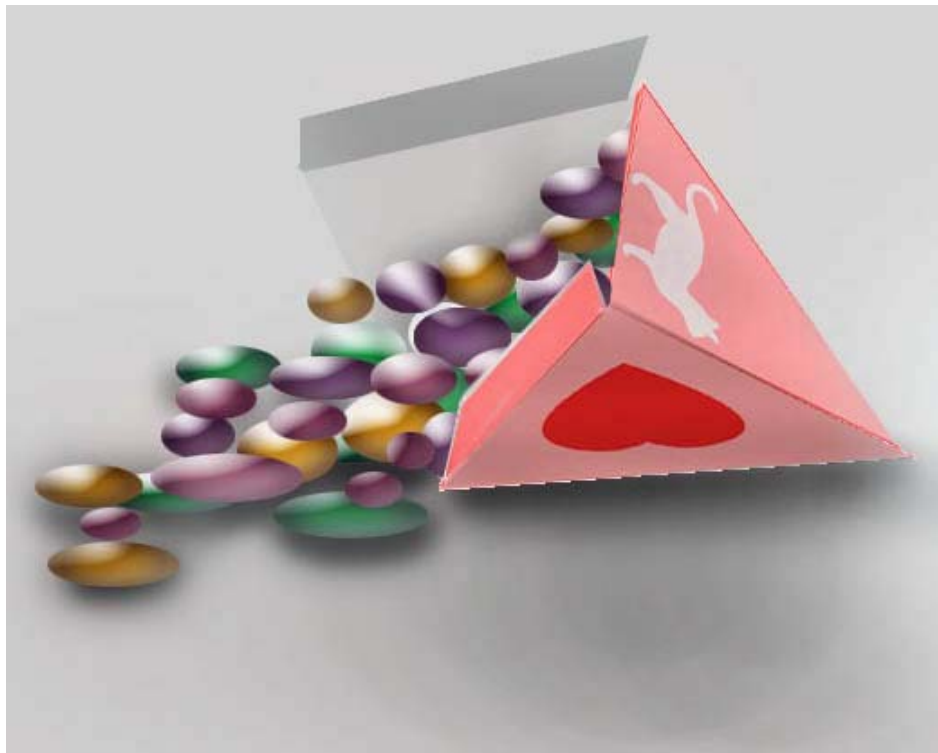
The gift box created with this project can be used for any occasion. The box also can be created with larger proportions and printed on larger paper.

Materials:

- Paper no less than 24 lb in weight
- Glue stick
- Stickers or double-stick tape

Before Photoshop Elements:

File Management: Create a new work folder. Name this folder with a unique name that you will recognize. Always keep all image files for a single project in their own unique folder.



In Photoshop Elements:

Refer to the illustration of the palette well (Figure 1) and the toolbox (Figure 2) for steps requiring the use of any of the Photoshop Elements tools.

Create a new Photoshop Elements master file. From the menu, choose File > New. In a new file window set the new file size to Width 8 inches, Height 10 inches, Resolution 150 Pixels/Inch, and RGB Mode.

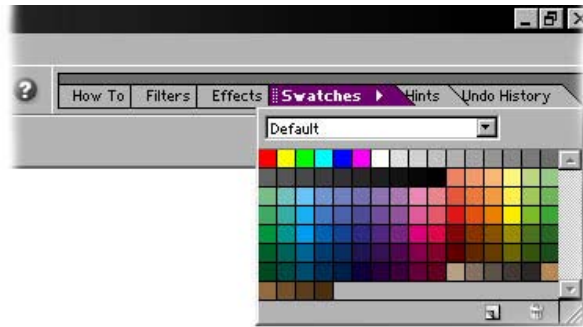


Figure 1

1. Save the file. To do this: from the menu, choose File > Save As and browse the dialog box for your folder. Open the folder, name your file a short, easy-to-remember name, and choose Save. This will be the Master file. Be sure you save your work inside the new work folder.
2. Creating the background color.

Click the Swatches tab in the palette well. Select a color for the background that complements the holiday or occasion for which you are making the box.

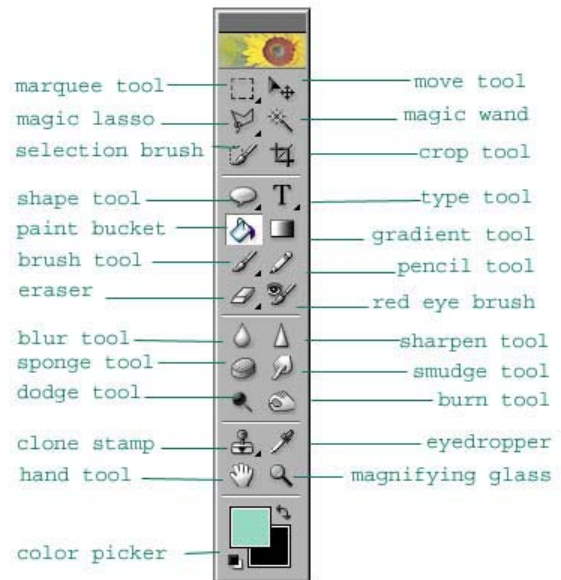


Figure 2

3. Creating the box template.

From the toolbox, select the polygon tool (found under the line tool). Click and hold the line tool to reveal the polygon tool (Figure 3).

4. In the Options bar, set the Sides number to 3 (Figure 4)

At the top of the master file page, drag a triangle, lining up the bottom of the triangle with the left side of the page (Figure 5).

5. In the Layers palette, click the more button at the top right of the window to open the menu. Select Simplify Layer (Figure 6).

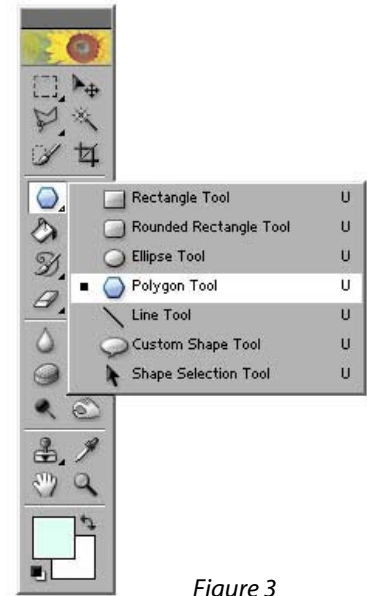


Figure 3



Figure 4

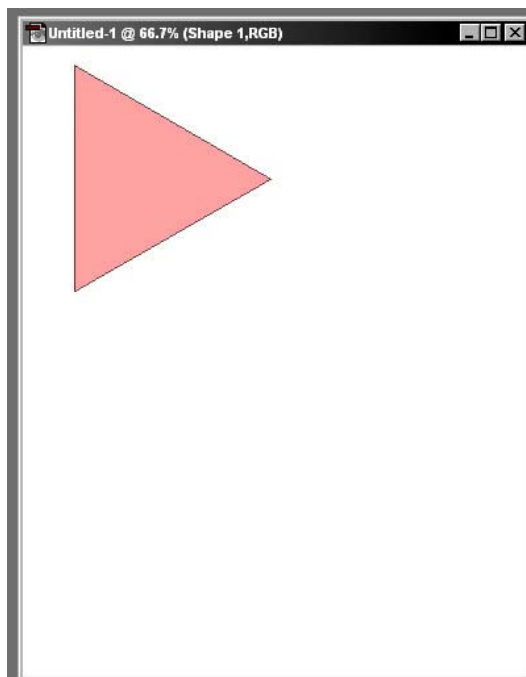


Figure 5

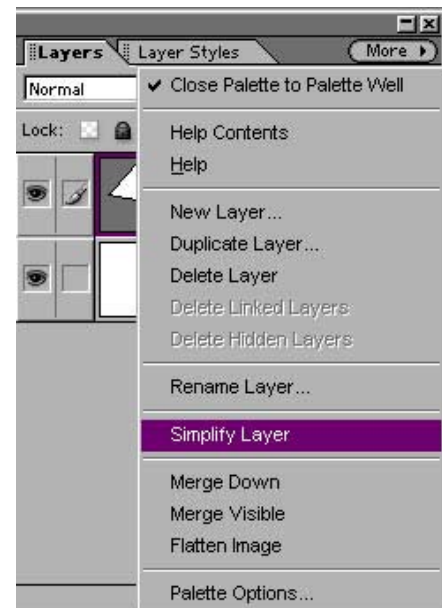


Figure 6

6. Creating a stroke around the triangle.

From the toolbox, select the magic wand tool. Click in the center of the triangle.

From the menu bar, choose Edit > Stroke, and enter 2 px as the Width. Click Color and change the color. Enter Inside as the location. Click OK. A line will appear around the triangle (Figure 7).

7. Drag the layer with the triangle onto the Make New Layer icon in the Layers palette. This is the center icon at the bottom of the palette (Figure 8).
8. Select the new layer. From the toolbox, select the move tool. A selection box will appear around the triangle. Drag the new triangle so it is lined up with the first triangle and the corners are touching. If the outline did not copy, from the menu bar, choose Edit > Stroke, enter 2 px as the Width, click on Color to change the color, enter Inside as the Location, and click OK (Figure 9).

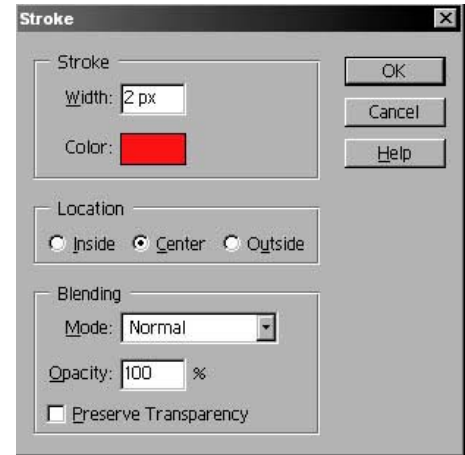


Figure 7

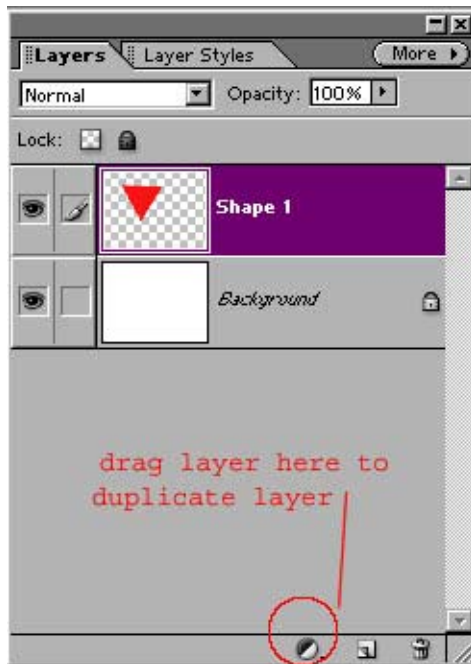


Figure 8

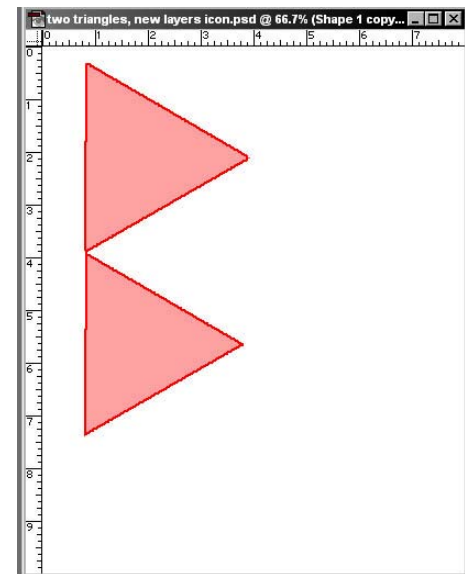


Figure 9

9. Creating the third triangle.

Drag the original triangle layer onto the Make New Layer icon at the bottom of the screen. From the toolbox, select the move tool. Click on the triangle. A selection box will appear around the triangle. From the menu bar, choose Image > Rotate > Flip Horizontal. If the outline did not copy, then from the menu bar, choose Edit > Stroke, enter 2 px as the Width, click on Color to change the color, enter Inside as the Location, and click OK (Figure 10).

10. Position the third triangle between the first two. Notice that it points in the opposite direction. Be sure that all three triangles are touching.

11. Creating a fourth triangle.

Drag the new triangle layer onto the Make New Layer icon at the bottom of the screen (figure 8). Align the fourth triangle at the bottom of the stack. If the outline did not copy, then from the menu bar, choose Edit > Stroke, enter 2 px as the Width, click on Color to change the color, enter Inside as the Location, and click OK (Figure 11).

12. Merge the layers.

From the menu bar, choose Layer > Flatten Image. From the toolbox, select the rectangular marquee tool and select all the triangles. From the menu bar, choose Edit > Cut, Edit > Paste. Select the move tool. Click on the triangles and move them to the middle of the page. From the menu bar, choose Layer > Flatten Image.

13. Creating the connecting tabs.

From the menu bar, choose Layers > Make New Layer to create a new, empty layer. From the toolbox, select the rectangular marquee tool. Drag a narrow rectangle along the left side of the top triangle. This will create a "tab" on the left edge of that triangle (Figure 12).

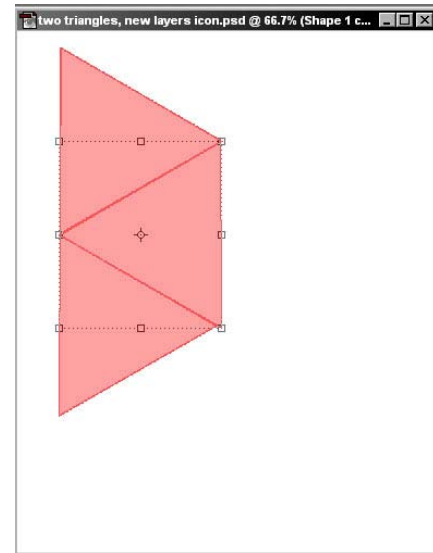


Figure 10

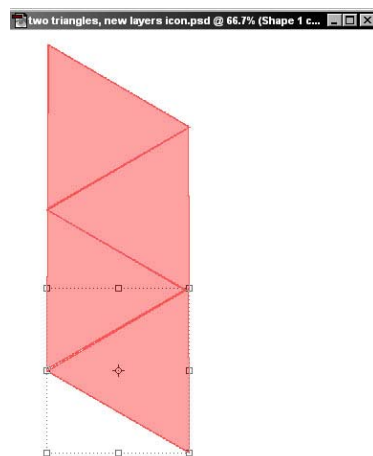


Figure 11

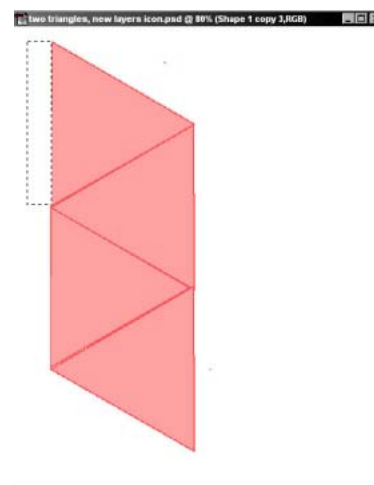


Figure 12

14. Coloring the tab.

From the palette well choose Swatches. Select a color. From the toolbox, select the paint bucket tool. Click inside the rectangle to fill it with the selected color (Figure 13).

15. Creating a second rectangle.

Drag the rectangle layer onto the Make New Layer icon at the bottom of the Layers palette. This will make a copy of the tab on a new layer. Move the new rectangle to the upper right side of the top triangle. Click on a corner handle of the selection box. When a curved, double-headed arrow appears, drag the box to rotate the rectangle, then move it to fit snugly at the top of the top triangle.

16. Creating a third rectangle.

Repeat step 15. From the toolbox, select the move tool. Move the third rectangle to the right side of the bottom triangle (Figure 14).

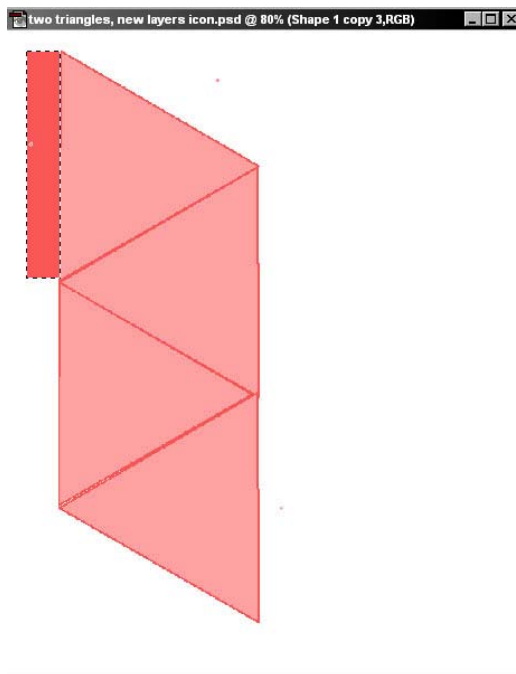


Figure 13

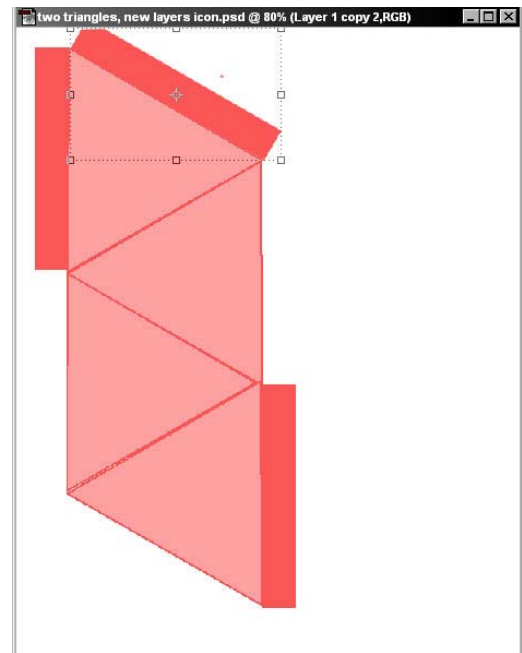


Figure 14

17. Decorating the box.

There are many ways to create designs and use filters to modify them. The following example is only one method. After trying this method, experiment with new ideas.

From the toolbox, select the custom shape tool. This tool is located in the same location in the toolbox as the polygon tool (Figure 15).

18. Click the Shape icon to view a default selection of shapes (Figure 16). To see additional shapes, click the right arrow next to the default shapes menu, then select the menu(s) you want.
19. Click the image area of the shape you want. Use the move tool to reposition and rotate the shape. Select new colors from the Swatches palette. Select the paint bucket tool and click the shape to change its color. The example shows two red hearts and two white cats (cats are located in the Animals menu) (Figure 17).

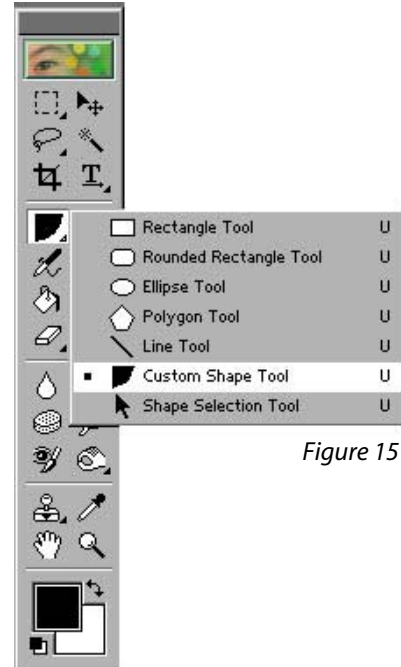


Figure 15

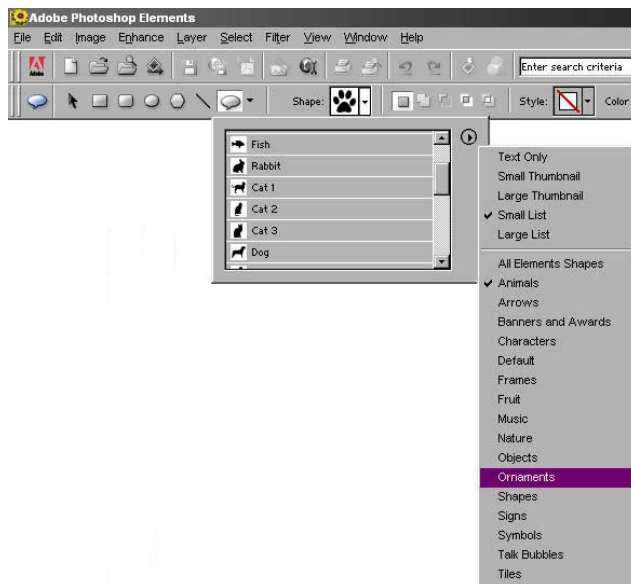


Figure 16

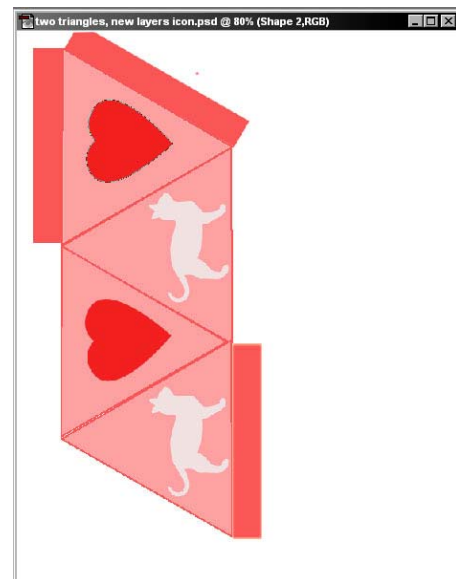


Figure 17

20. To modify the shapes more dramatically, select the Filters palette. Click any filter and then click Apply to test it. If you do not like the effect, from the menu bar, choose Edit > Undo. In the example, the Pointillize filter was used (Figure 18).
21. Creating additional effects.

Click the Layer Styles tab in the palette well. Try applying these styles to selected shapes. The example uses Glass Button and Drop Shadow for the Custom Shape elements, and Glass Button for the triangles (Figure 19).

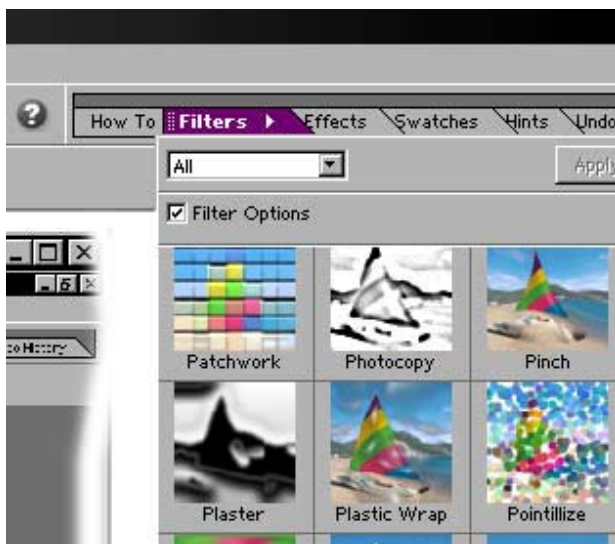


Figure 18



Figure 19

22. Printing.

From the menu bar, choose File > Page Setup > Properties. Set up your printer for legal paper size and landscape orientation. Select File > Print and print the box on stiff paper.

23. Cut out the box template and crease along the fold lines between the triangles, and along the tabs with the color side facing out. At this point, the pyramid shape will become obvious.

24. Glue along the tabs, leaving one flap open so you can fill the box with a small gift or treats. Let the glue dry before filling.

25. After filling, secure the open side with double-stick tape or a sticker (Figure 20).

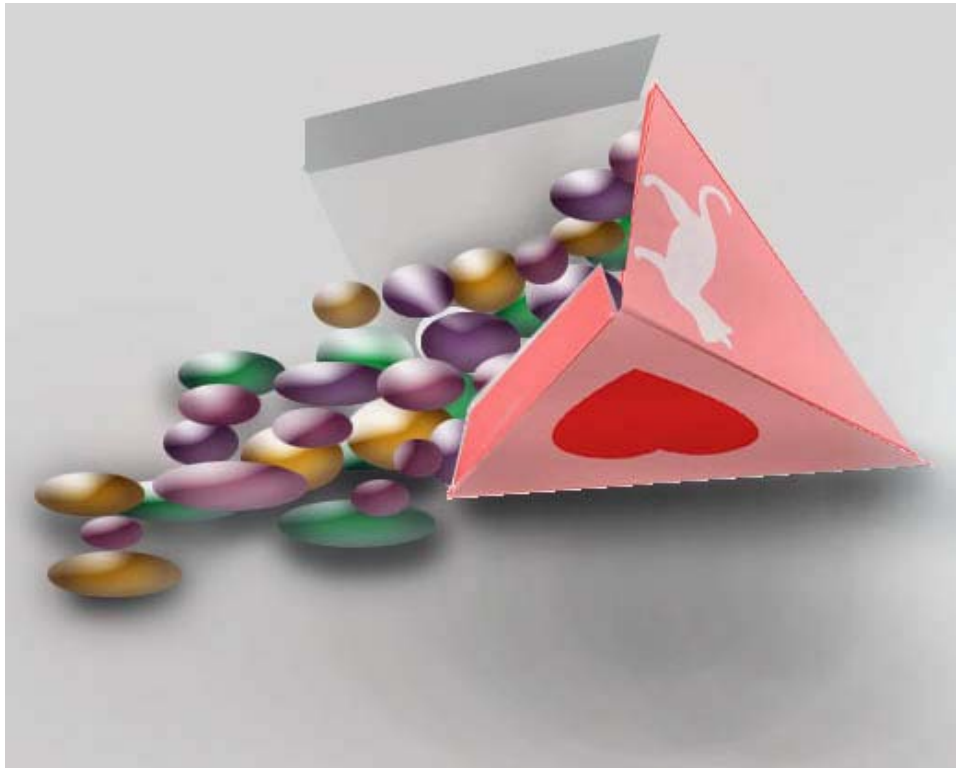


Figure 20

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