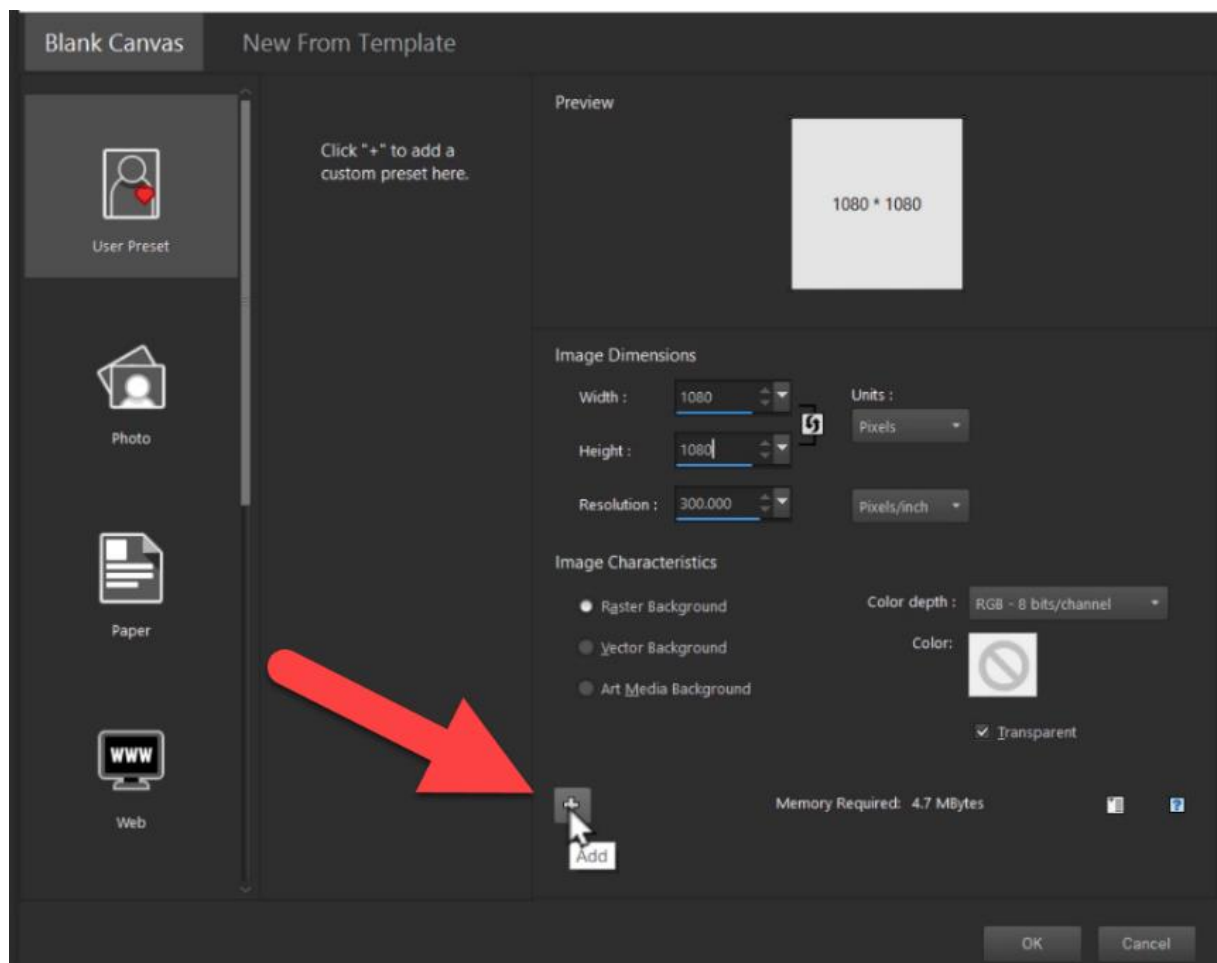# How to Make an Instagram Template

In this tutorial, you'll learn how to make an Instagram template in PaintShop Pro. We'll show you how to create a background, add design elements, custom photo frames, add text, and other creative effects. The example we are using is holiday-themed, but you can use these techniques for any type of template.

Document Setup

Open PaintShop Pro and then go to **File > New** to create a new document. In the **New Image** window:
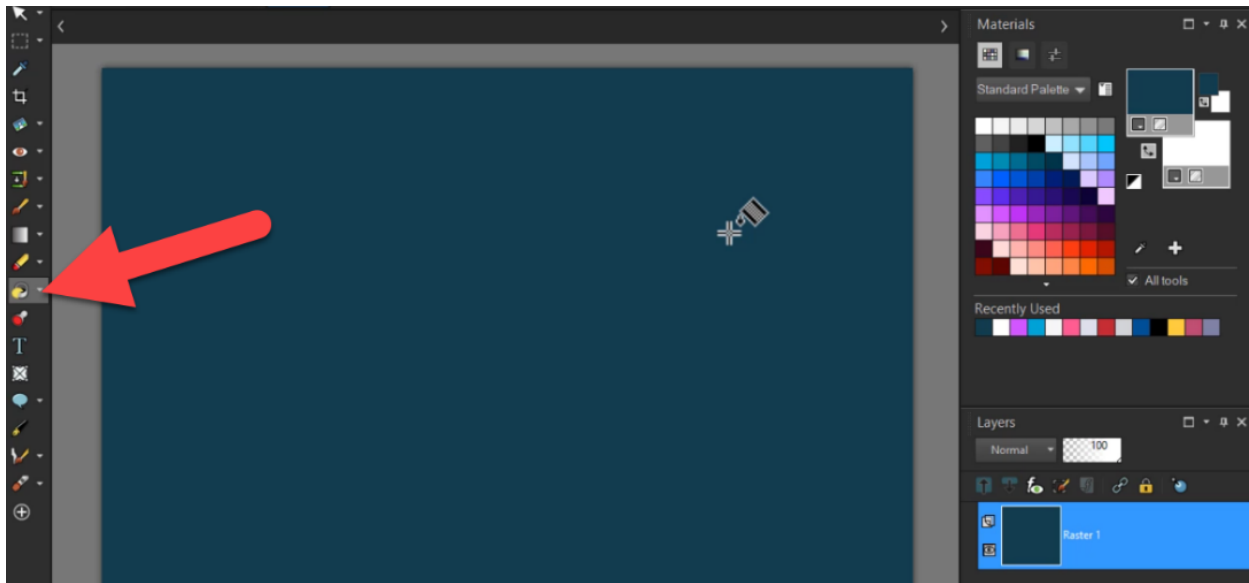
- Set the **Units** to **Pixels**.

- Set the **Image Dimensions** as the default square size for an Instagram Post at 1080x1080px.

- Optional: to save this as a preset, click on the **Add** icon. Then name your preset and press **OK**. Now this new file preset will be available in the **User Preset** section to use in future projects.

Make sure you have the **Materials** palette and **Layers** palette open. If they are not open, you can enable them from the **Palettes** menu.

Adding a Background and Photo Opening

To add a solid color background, click on the **Flood Fill** tool icon and choose a color from the **Materials** palette. Then click on the document to fill the background with your desired color.
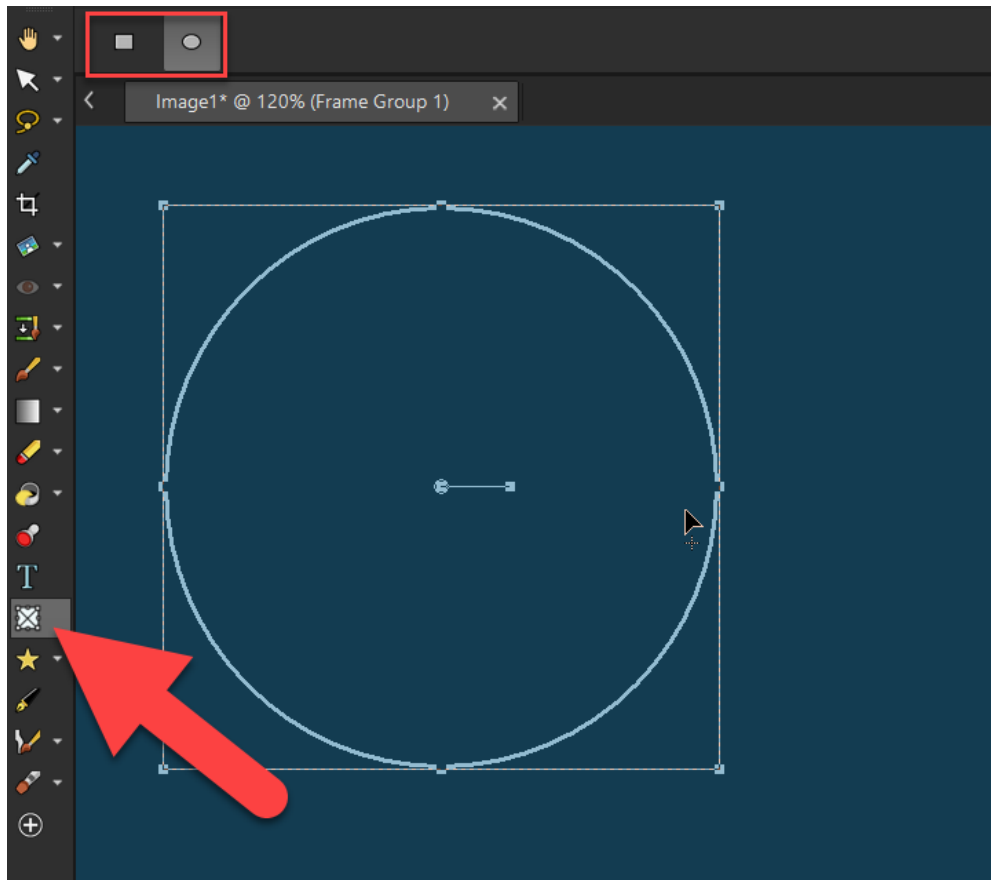

Next, we'll demonstrate two methods to create the photo opening in our template.
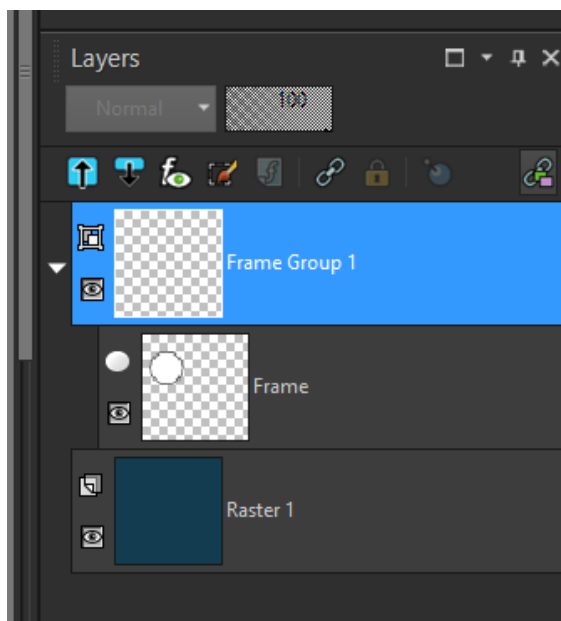
Method 1: Using the Frame Tool

The **Frame** tool, introduced in PaintShop Pro 2022, makes it easy to place your photos into frames.

- Click the **Frame** tool icon on the **Tools** toolbar.
- Select either the **Rectangle** or **Ellipse** shape on the **Tool Options** palette.
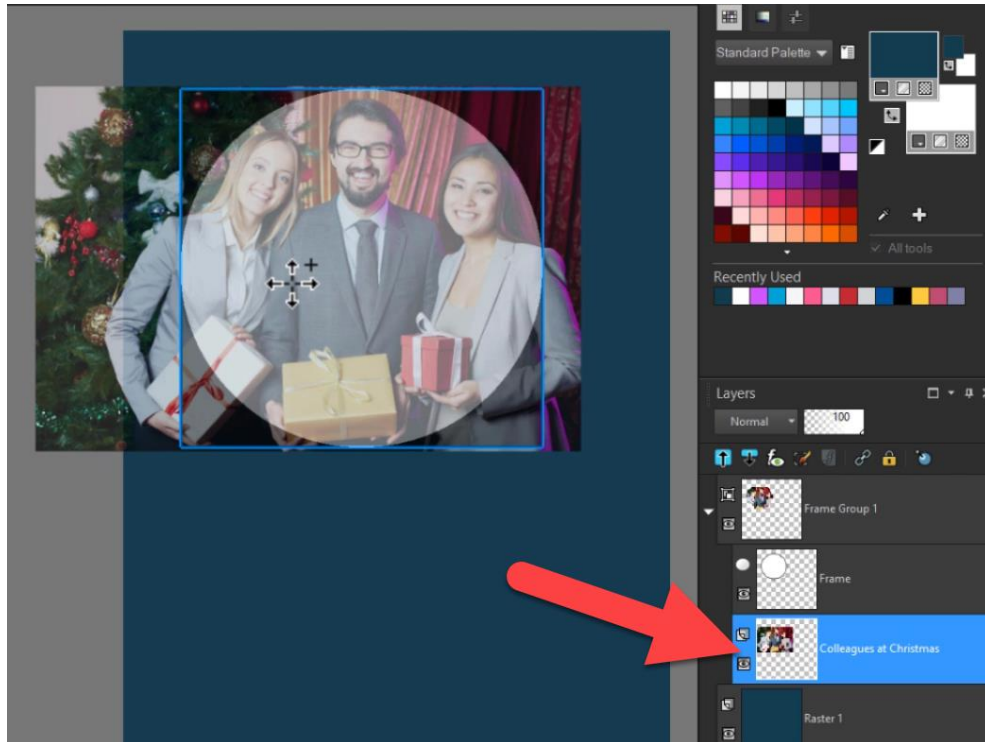- Draw your frame wherever you'd like to place an image.

If you look in the **Layers** palette, you will see that the **Frame** tool has created a **Frame Group** layer, which holds a layer for the frame itself, and for your image once you place one inside the frame.

To place an image in the frame, you can go to **File > Embed Image** and locate your desired image or drag one in directly from Windows File Explorer. The image will automatically scale to fit your frame.

To adjust the image within the frame, make sure the *image layer* is selected in the **Layers** palette. Then use the nodes on the bounding box to adjust the size, position, or rotation.
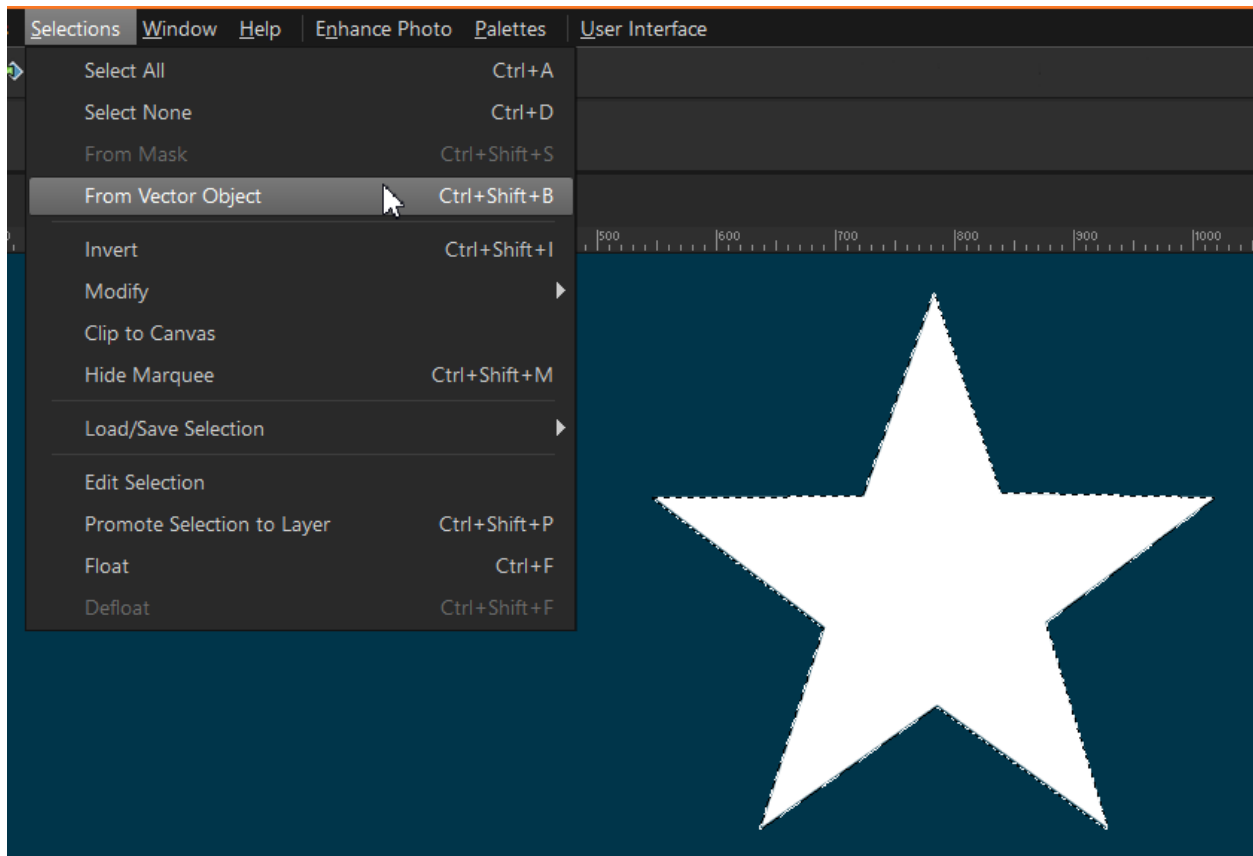

To move or adjust the frame and the image together, make sure the *Frame Group layer* is selected first.
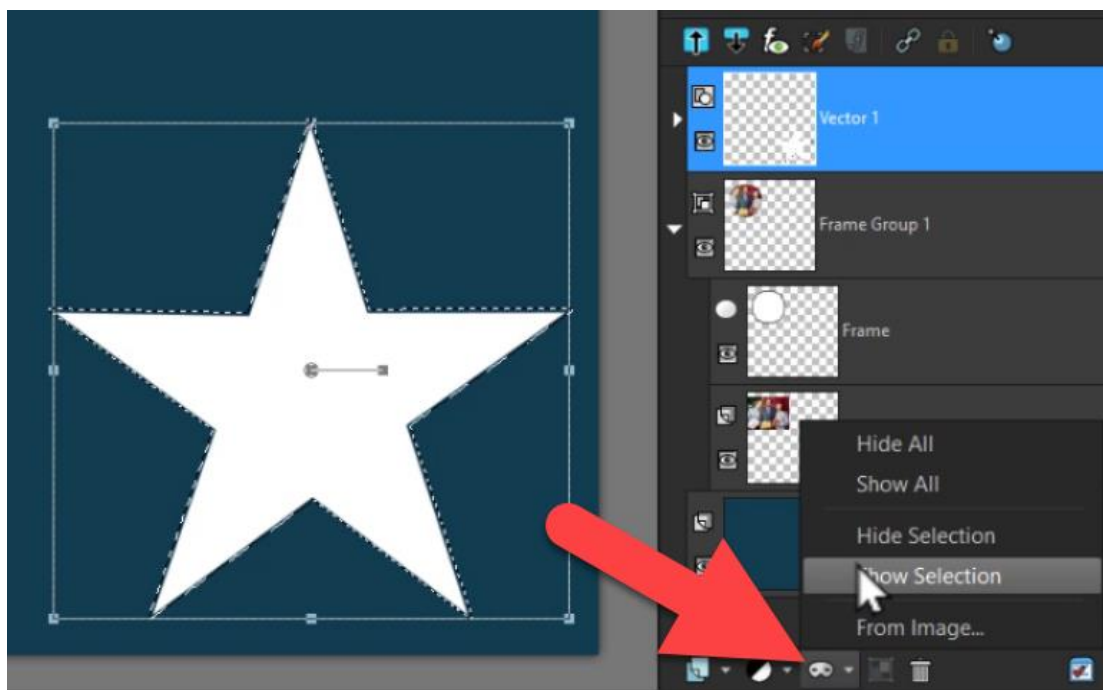
Method 2: Using a Mask

If you're using PaintShop Pro 2021 or lower, and don't have the **Frame** tool, you can use a mask to create the photo opening. This produces the same results but with a few more steps.
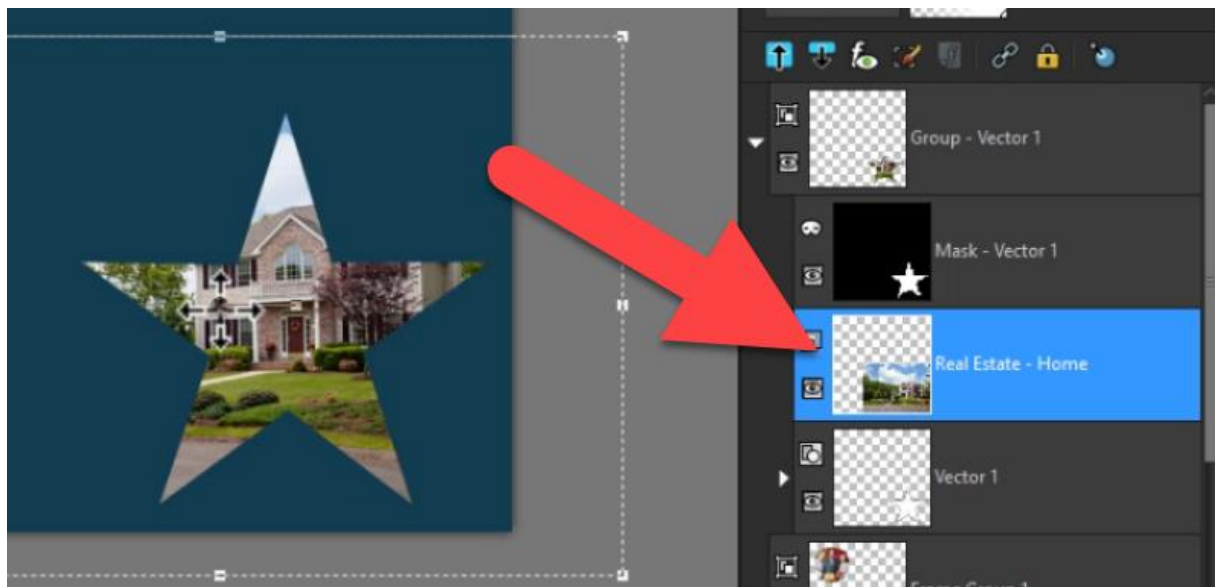
- From the **Shape** tool flyout on the **Tools** toolbar, select a **Shape** tool and use it to draw your desired shape. Then use the **Pick** tool or alignment commands to place it where you want.
- Create a selection. Since the shape is a vector object, go to **Selections > From Vector Object** (alternatively, you could use the **Magic Wand** tool to select the shape).

At the bottom of the **Layers** palette, click **New Mask Layer > Show Selection**. This will create a mask group and you can drag your photo right into the **Layers** palette under the mask layer.
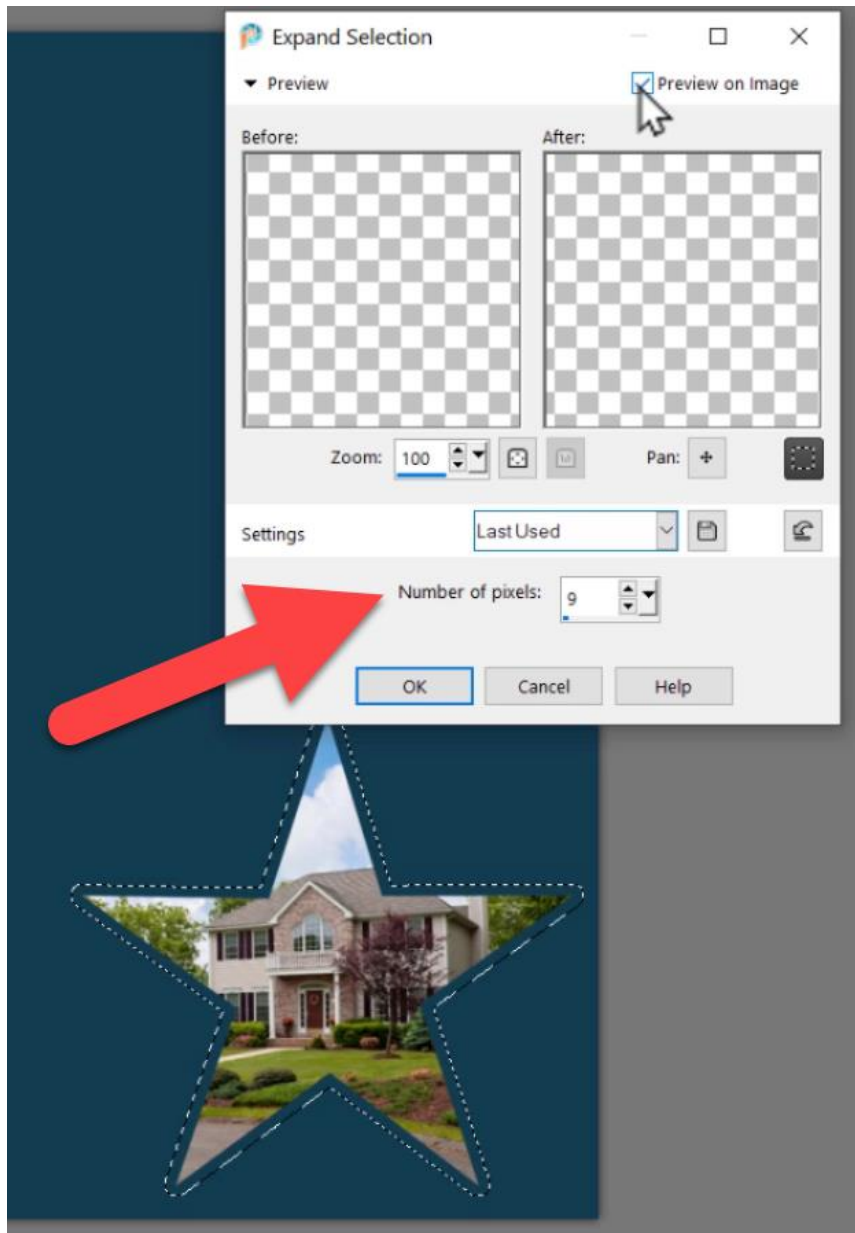
If you need to adjust the size or position of your image within the mask, first press **Ctrl** + **D** to remove the selection marquee. Then, with the image layer selected in the **Layers** palette, you can use the **Pick** tool to adjust the size and position of the image under the mask layer.
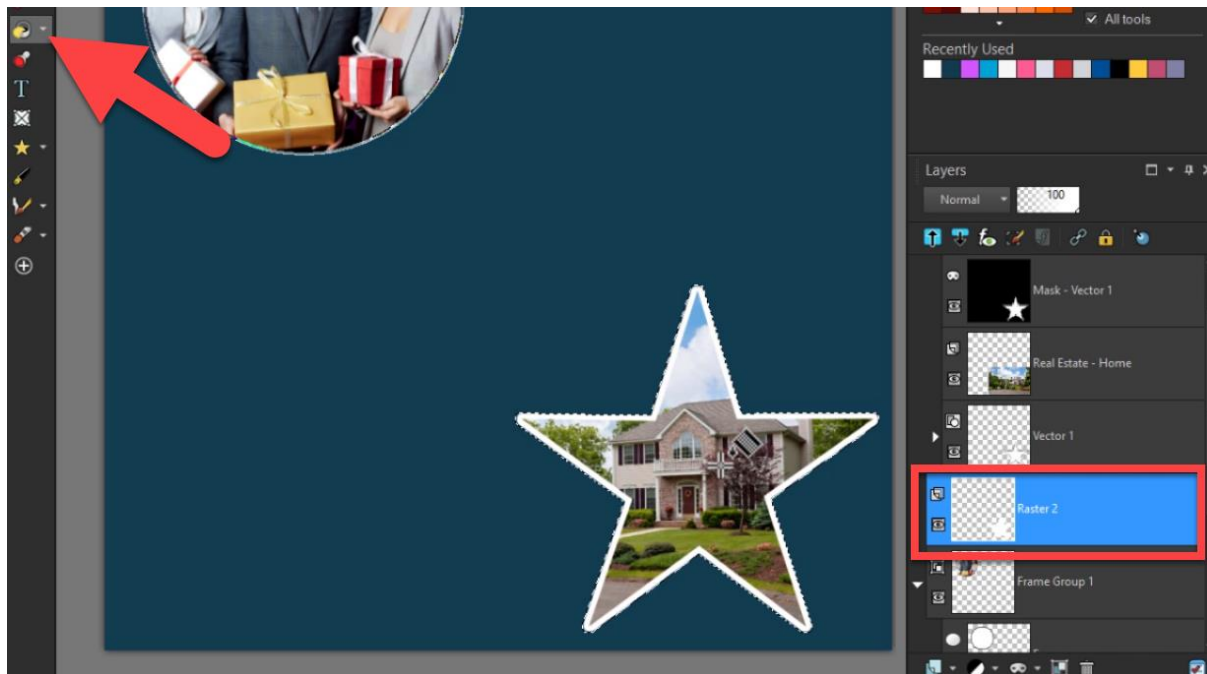

Adding a Border

To make your photo stand out, you can choose to add a border around the photo opening.

- In the **Layers** palette, select the vector layer that has your shape then go to **Selections** > **From Vector Object** to create the selection again.

- With the selection still active, click on **New Raster Layer** at the bottom of the **Layers** palette and press **OK**.

- In the **Layers** palette, drag the new raster layer down and out, so it is under the mask group and on its own layer.

- Then go to **Selections > Modify > Expand** and set the **Number of pixels** to create the width of frame that you want. Enable **Preview on Image** to see the border width as it will be applied to your shape and press **OK** when you're happy with it.

- With the selection still active, click on the **Flood Fill** tool, select a color in the **Materials** palette, and click inside the selection marquee to fill the border with your chosen color.

- Then press **Ctrl + D** to remove the selection marquee.

Adding Design and Decorative Elements

Now we are going to add some design elements. These files are available to download from the **Download Resources** tab at the top of the tutorial page. They were provided by our friends at VectorStock.

There are a number of different file formats included in the download file. We have extracted each item and saved as an individual PNG file with transparent background. To use a transparent PNG, open it in PaintShop Pro, copy and paste onto your Instagram template, and use the **Pick** tool to resize and reposition.
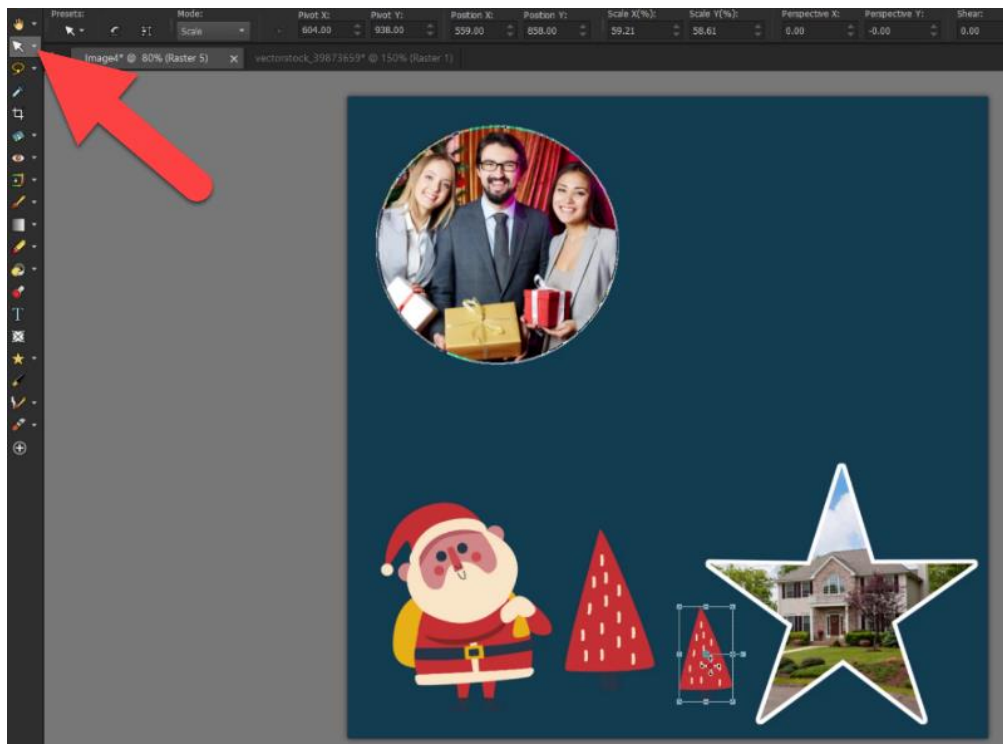
VectorStock has many other royalty-free designs that you can use, however these files usually only have one PNG file with all the elements on it. So here is how you can extract individual design elements if necessary:

- Open the PNG file in PaintShop Pro.

- Choose one of the **Selection** tools from the **Tools** toolbar, such as the **Freehand Selection** tool.

- On the **Tool Options** palette, set the **Selection Type** to either **Freehand** or **Point-to-Point**, then draw or click multiple points around the design element to select it.

- Then go to **Edit > Copy** (or **Ctrl + C**), switch to your template and go to **Edit > Paste as New Layer** (or **Ctrl** + **V**).

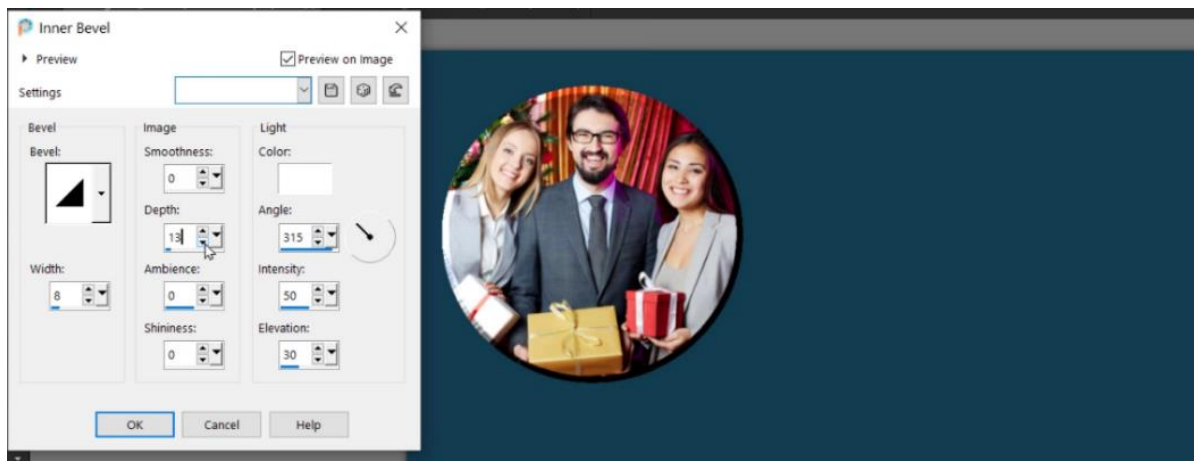- Use the **Pick** tool to adjust the size and positioning of the design element.

Adding Effects

This is an optional step but here are some ideas to apply effects that will make your template look more professional.

3D Effects

- To add a drop shadow to some of the elements, click on the element and then go to **Effects > 3D Effects > Drop Shadow**. Adjust the settings to your liking and then press **OK**.

- Experiment with other 3D effects like **Effects > 3D Effects > Inner Bevel** to make the elements pop out even more.
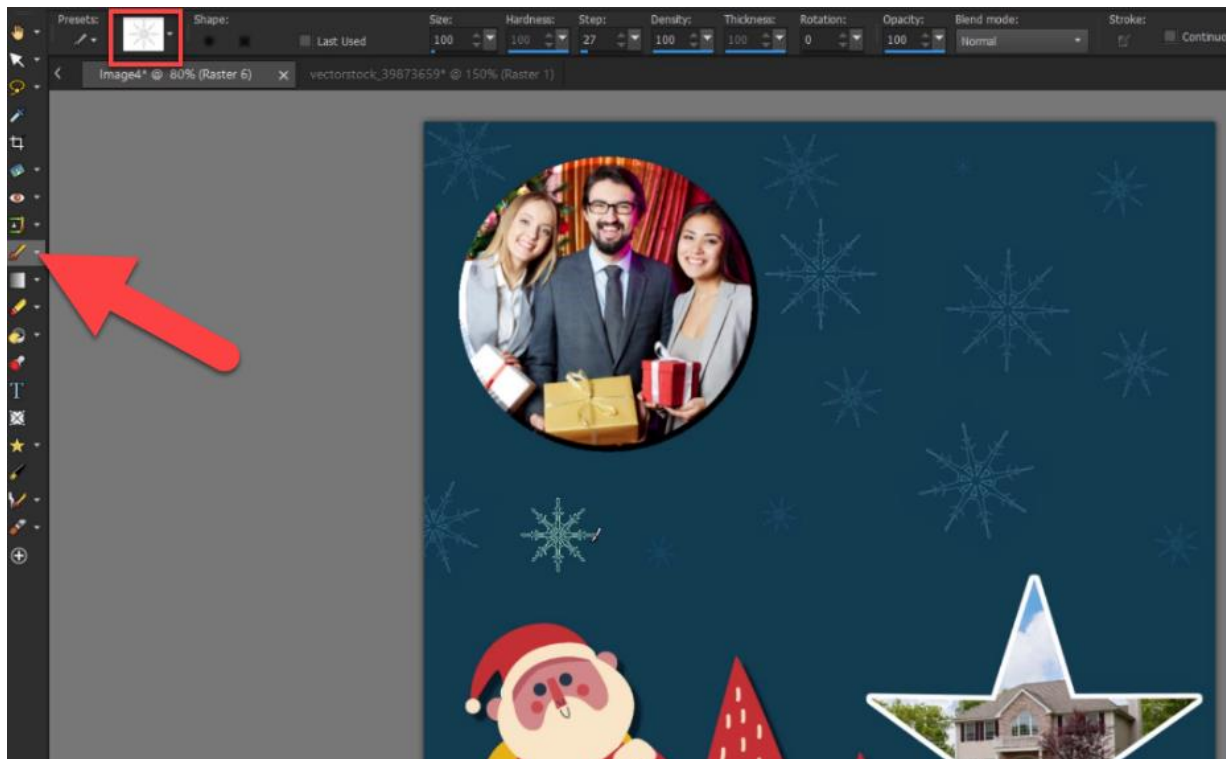
Artistic Effects

There are many possibilities when adding artistic effects. In this example we will use the **Paint Brush** tool to add snowflakes to the solid color background, and the **Oil Brush** tool to add a layer of snow.

First, go to **Layers > New Raster Layer** to create a new layer for your artistic effects.
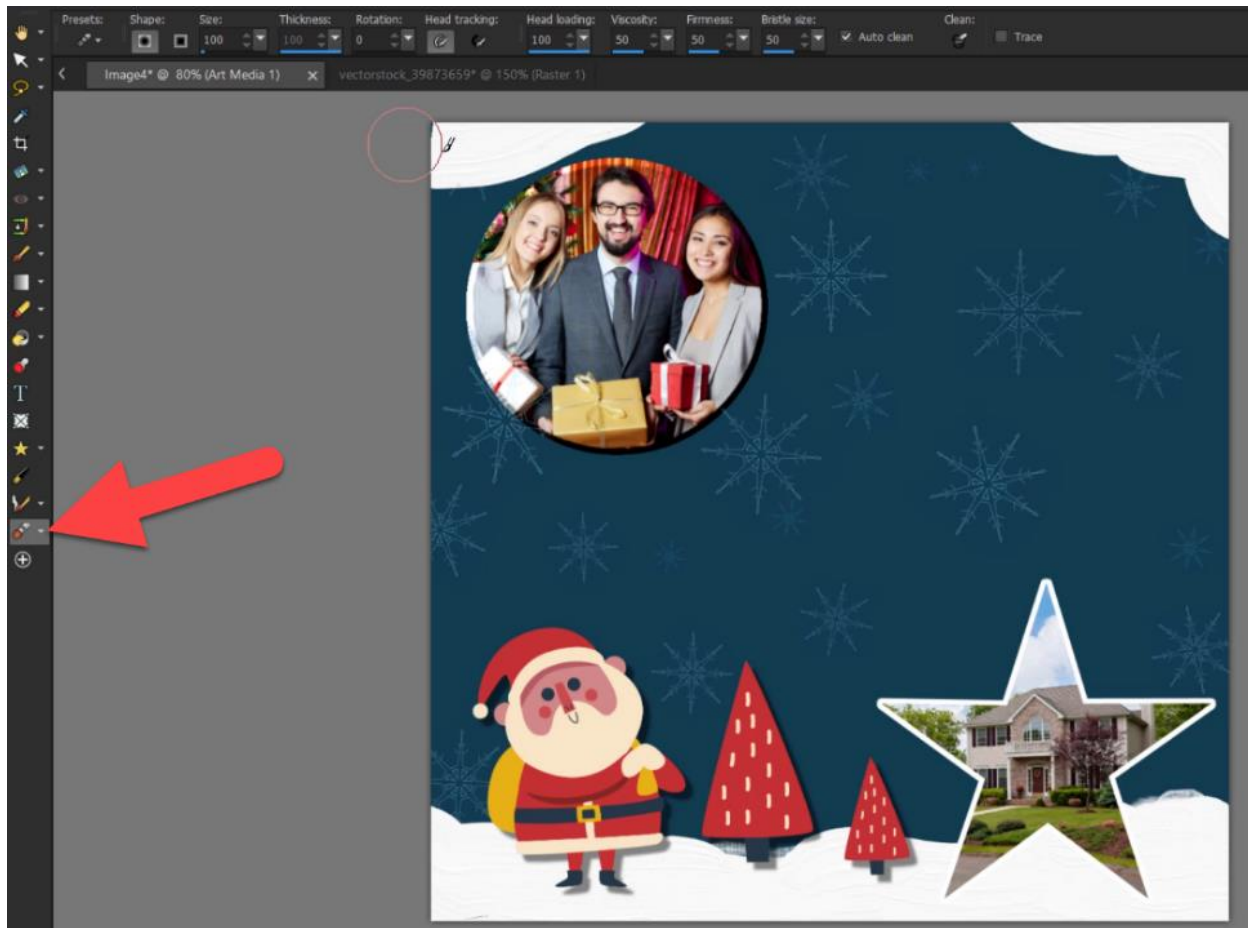
- Select the **Paint Brush** tool on the **Tools** toolbar.

- On the **Tool Options** palette, select a brush tip such as Snow in the **Brush Tip** drop-list and click **OK**.

- On the **Tool Options** palette, you can also adjust the **Size**, **Opacity** and other brush settings if you wish.

- Choose a color in the **Materials** palette and click around the image to sprinkle snowflakes as part of the background.

To add a bed of snow, we will use one of the **Art Media** tools such as the **Oil Brush**. When you use an **Art Media** tool, a new **Art Media** layer will automatically be created in the **Layers** palette.

- Select the **Oil Brush** from the **Art Media** tool group on the **Tools** toolbar.

- On the **Tool Options** palette you can set the **Shape**, **Size**, and other brush options.

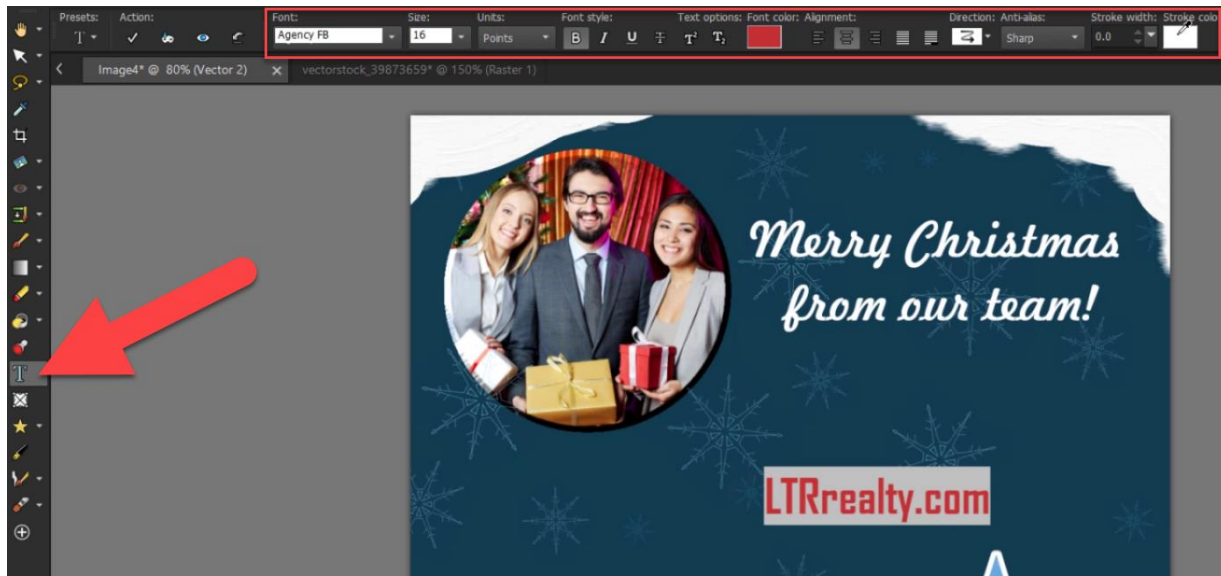- Choose a color in the **Materials** palette.

- Use the brush to add a bed of snow along the borders, or wherever you want on your template.

- Since this effect is on its own **Art Media** layer, you can adjust it with the **Pick** tool, reduce the **Layer Opacity**, change the **Layer Blend Mode**, or even convert it to a raster layer to make further changes.

Adding Text

- Click on the **Text** tool on the **Tools** toolbar and then click on your image and type out your desired text.

- On the **Tool Options** palette, use the settings to adjust the Font, Size, Style, and Color. You can even add a text border by adjusting the Stroke width and color.

- Use the **Pick** tool to reposition your text if necessary.

TIP: You may need to drag your text layer up or down in the layer order in the **Layers** palette to ensure your text is visible above the other images and design elements, for example the snowflakes on the background.

Once your template is complete, we suggest you save a copy in PSPIMAGE format. This will preserve all the layers for your design elements, text, and photo opening so you can make changes or swap out the photo. Then save a copy in JPG or PNG format for posting online. These are a few of the many ways you can have fun designing and creating your own holiday projects in PaintShop Pro!