

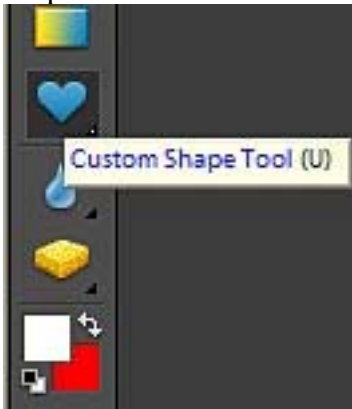
LOADING CUSTOM SHAPES in PS Elements 6

by Kim Hill

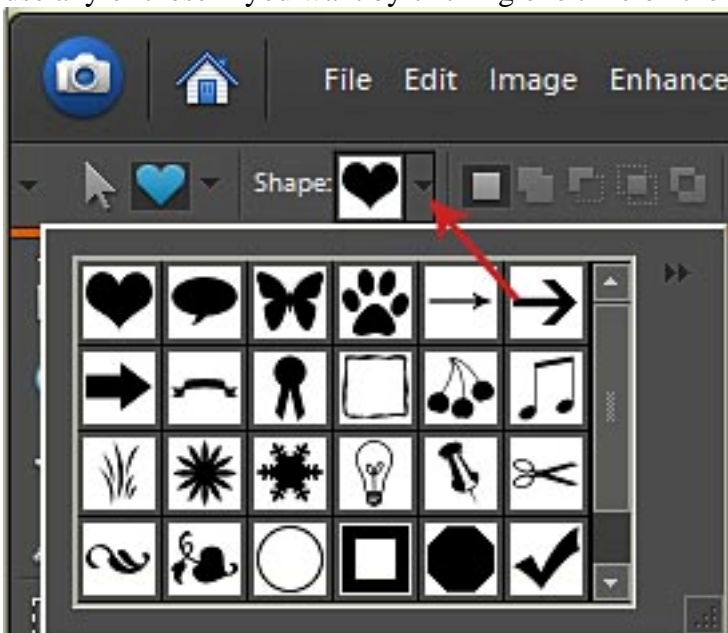
If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at kim@cge essentials.com.

Custom shapes are an easy way to create a simple silhouette shape on your page. The red arrows shown in the images below were made using the custom shape tool. 😊

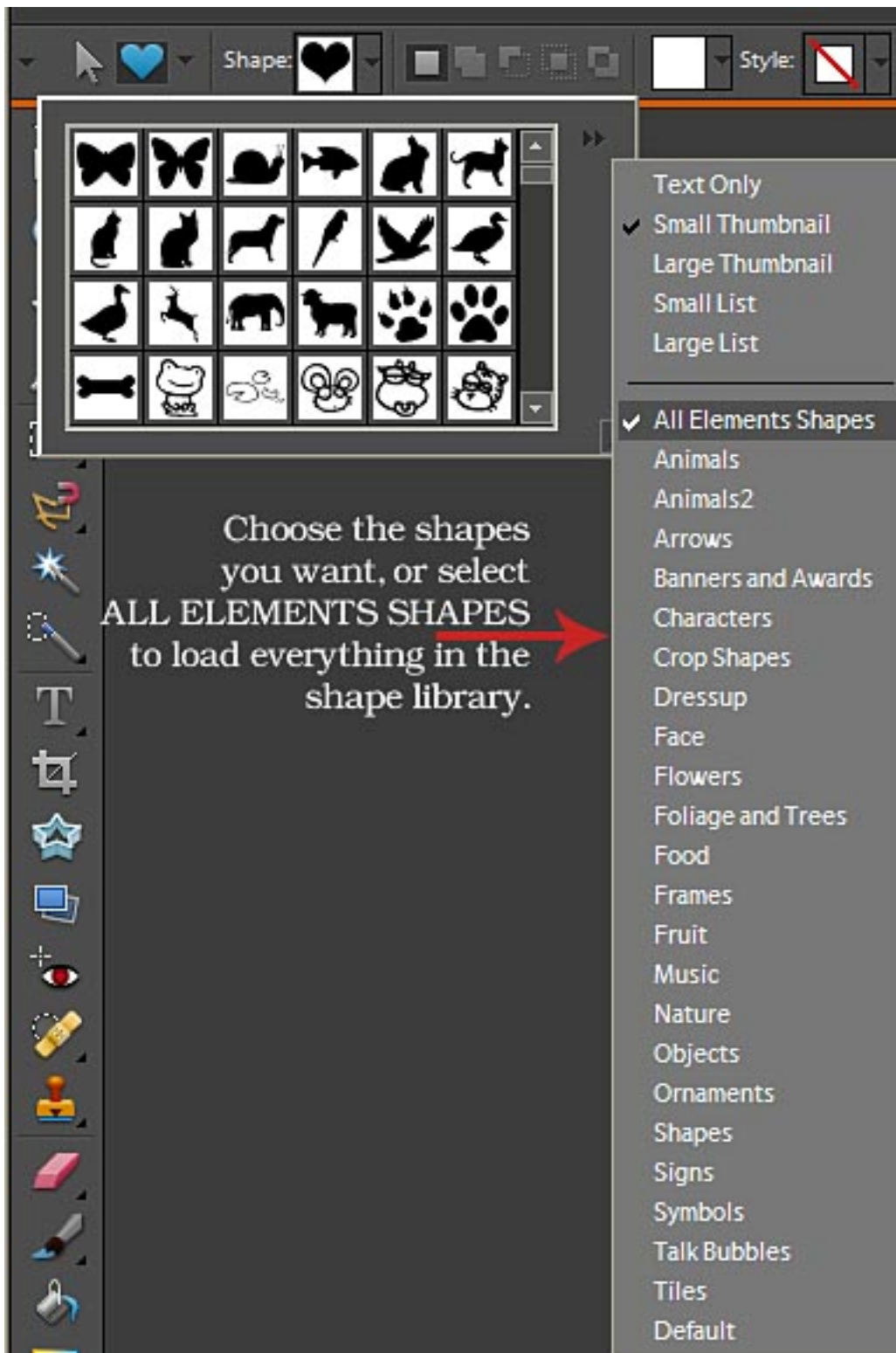
First, click on the custom shape tool in the tool box on left of your screen. You want to select the HEART shaped icon because that is the CUSTOM shape tool.



Now go up to the options bar at the top of your screen and click on the little arrow that is next to the heart shape. A drop-down menu will open up showing you all the shapes currently loaded in your library. You can use any of these if you want by clicking one time on the shape of your choice.



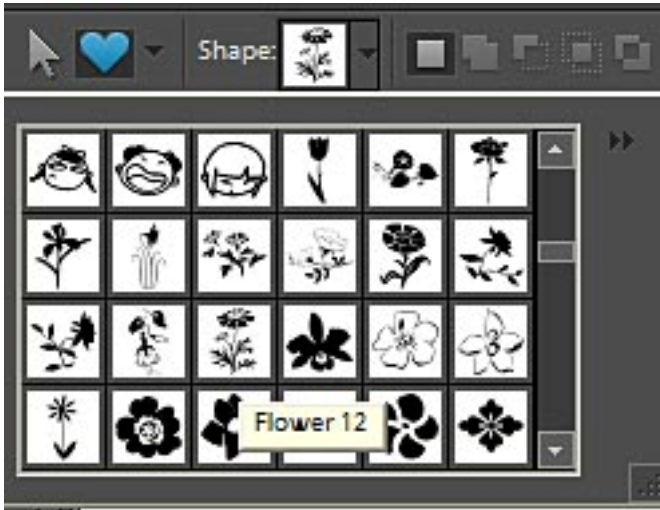
If you want a different shape that isn't shown in the library, then you need to load the shape. To do that, click on the double-arrow to the right of the shape library.



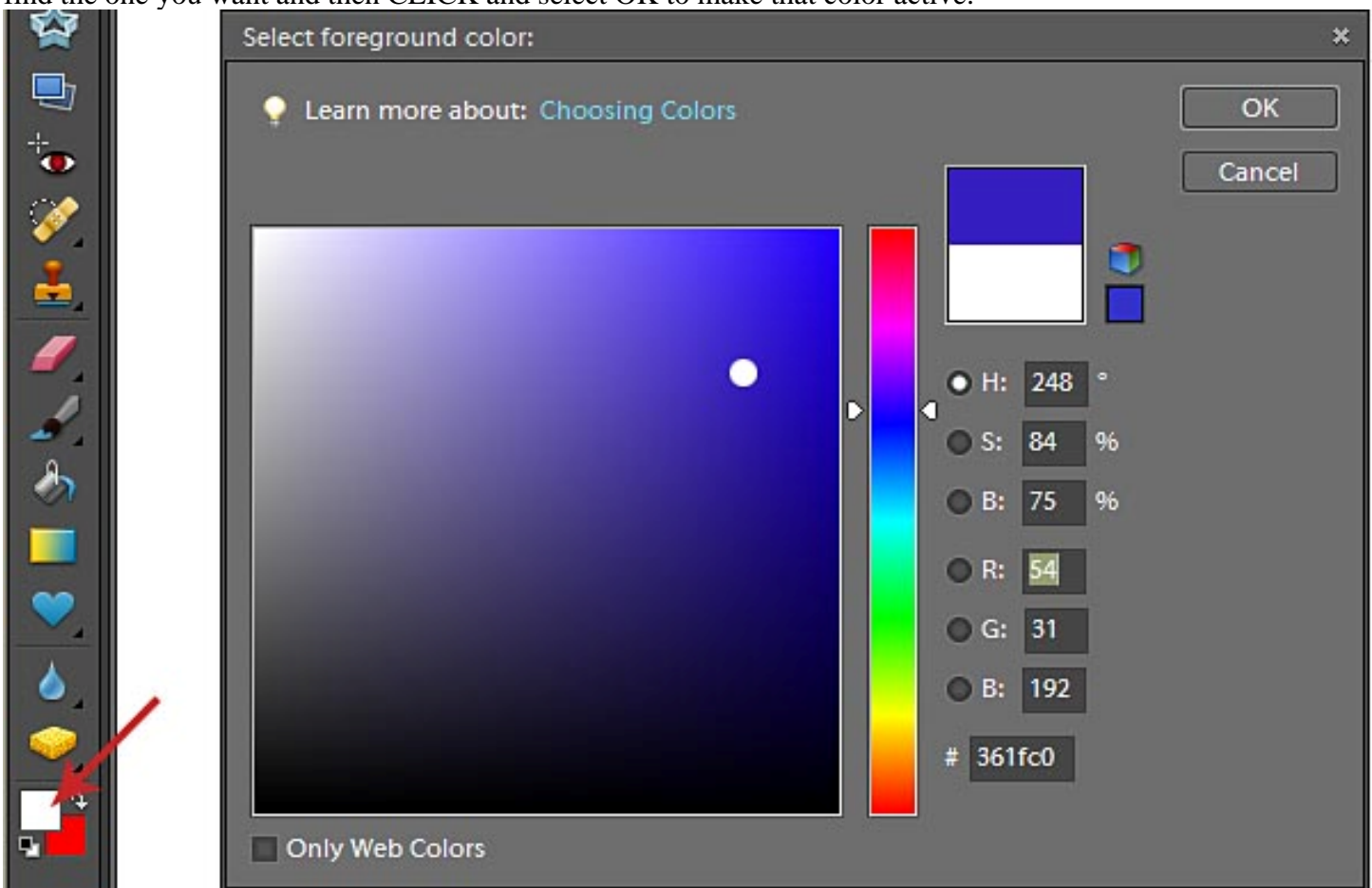
A fly-out menu will open showing you all the choices of shapes you can select from. Choose the shape collection you would like by clicking on it. The shapes library will rebuild and display all the shapes you have loaded. I like to load ALL ELEMENT SHAPES so that I can see everything that is available to me. Keep in mind, though, that the more shapes you load, the slower your computer will run.

Okay, so now you've selected a shape. To use the shape, first open up a new canvas by clicking on FILE>NEW>BLANK FILE. Set the canvas size to whatever you need it to be.

Now, go back up to the options bar and click on your shape library and then choose the shape you want to make.



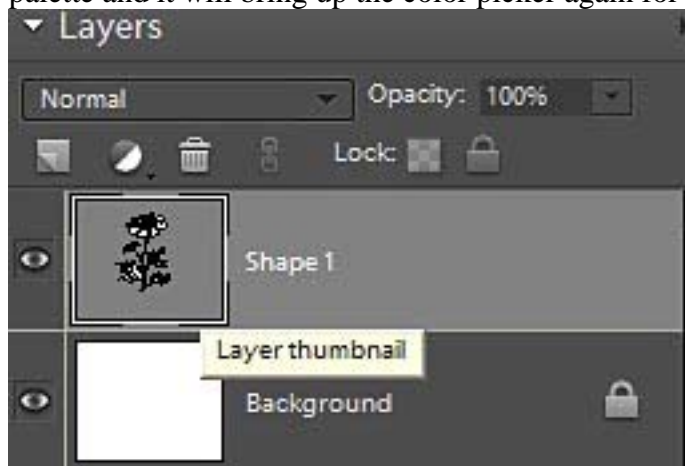
Next, choose the color you would like your shape to be. To do this, go to your color picker. Click on the foreground color and a window will open displaying all the colors. Slide your mouse over the colors until you find the one you want and then CLICK and select OK to make that color active.



Your mouse cursor will be a plus sign. Position it on your canvas in the upper left area of your screen. Now hold down the SHIFT key and, while holding the shift key, click your mouse and drag it to the lower right of

your canvas until it is the size you want it to be. By holding the shift key, you are keeping the shape proportionate.

Now, if you decide you don't like the color that your shape is, you can double-click on the image in the layers palette and it will bring up the color picker again for you to choose from.



If you find that the shape is not the correct size you need, you can adjust that too. Go up to the options bar at the top of the screen and click on IMAGE>TRANSFORM SHAPE>FREE TRANSFORM SHAPE (or press Control-T). Hold the shift key again and resize the shape with your mouse while continuing to hold the shift key. When you are satisfied with the new size, click on the green checkmark to apply the effect.

