CONVERTING A HEART EMBELLISHMENT TO A FRAME

USING “CONVERT TO CURVES”

A Tutorial for Serif Craft Artist by Karen Lewis
http://karensraftingnook.blogspot.co.uk/
Converting a heart embellishment to a frame using “Convert to Curves”.

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A TUTORIAL FOR CRAFT ARTIST PROFESSIONAL

This is a transcript of the video which can be found on You Tube – watching the video and reading this together make it easier to follow the tutorial.

Watching a recording I had made of Michelle demonstrating Serif Craft Artist on Create & Craft recently, she had an enquiry from a viewer asking if it was possible to make a heart shape embellishment, from the DaisyTrail “Cupid” kit, into a gold frame.

Michelle tried it out on air by using the usual quick and simple way to convert an image to a frame: dragging the embellishment into the Frames Tab, and then back out on to the workspace. Because the heart is slightly more intricate in shape, this didn't work.

Instead, Michelle demonstrated how you can make your own gold heart frame from Quick Shapes, and adding one of the Metallic Effects.

A thread was raised in the DaisyTrail Forum about Michelle’s alternative: Making gold heart frame demo, and one of the responses mentioned that you can indeed convert this embellishment to a frame and linked to the Creating smart photo frames in Digital Scrapbook Artist tutorial, one of the DaisyTrail Video Tutorials.

I knew as well, from making the Word Art Frames tutorial last year, that it should be possible to convert this embellishment into a frame; it follows a similar approach to that mentioned in the tutorial. It just takes a bit more time and fiddling around.

As I started to try this out I realised that there is also another way to do this, which possibly works a little better for this kind of frame, one that is not straight-forward and symmetrical. It is still a little time-consuming but works well.

- Drag your embellishment on to the workspace.

- Drag in to Frames Tab.

- Drag back from Frames Tab on to workspace. We know this is a non-working frame.

- Open the Layers Tab on the right hand side.

- Find the Frames item and expand it by clicking on the +.

You should now see the frames bitmap and the poly-curve. This is what we need to change to make our frame work. So we are going to replace it with a working one.
Converting a heart embellishment to a frame using “Convert to Curves”.

This is where you can use the approaches mentioned in the two tutorials above.

OR you can use the “Convert to Curves” approach.

- With your non-working frame still on your workspace, draw a Quick Shape heart to roughly cover the inside of the heart, where you want your photo to snap into.

  As you can see, you are never going to be able to exactly centre it to ensure no gaps are left.

- Select the QS heart. Add a colour fill, and then reduce the transparency so that you can see where the line of the frame lies.

- While QS heart is still selected, go to Tools > Convert to Curves.

  You now see that the selection box has an “Edit Points” option showing in the lower right corner. Click on this.
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• Place your cursor on the edge of the QS heart and blue nodes should appear.

• Use these nodes to tweak the edges of the QS to fit over the frame, filling the area where you want your photo to go. (It is probably a good idea to zoom in and out to do this so it is clearer to see what you are doing. When the line is fine, it can get very fiddly.)

• Tweak in and out as necessary so your QS edge lies in the middle of the frame line. When finished click on the “back” arrow.

If you get too many blue nodes appearing and it's getting messy, just click on the node(s), and hit the delete key.

Once you are happy with your QS we now need to make it into an intelligent poly-curve for our frame.

• Go back to the Layers Tab.

You should see the newly created Closed Curve item, lying above the frame bitmap and poly-curve.
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• Drag the Closed Curve item down below the frame bitmap, but above the old poly-curve.

• Don't be surprised if your frame seems to disappear on your workspace.

• Click on the poly-curve and then hit the delete key.

• Your new frame should now appear on your workspace.
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- Drag this new frame into the Frames Tab.

- Drag back out to check that it accepts a photo.

So you now have your basic, functioning frame.

You can now add “Effects” to the frame.

- Select the frame, and then click on the “Select Frame Object” icon on the bottom right hand corner.

- Apply any of the effects from the “Effects” Tab. Click “back” arrow.
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- Drag back into the Frames Tab to build up a set of frames.

ALTERNATIVELY, you can add your own effects by selecting the frame object and then Right-Click to access the Filter Effects.

For this exercise I have kept the effects very simple, but it is fun and interesting to play about with the various effects by moving sliders or changing values. It is always easy to undo anything you don't like.

- Tick Bevel and Emboss – leave at default settings.

- Tick 3D Effects – leave at default settings.

- Drag your new frame back into the Frames Tab, and then you can check that it works properly.

You can do this any number of times with a variety of effects to build up your set of frames.

When you have finished save your work as usual, and save the digikit when reminded if you wish to keep it for future projects.
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So there we have it, from embellishment to frame.

From this - an embellishment from the DaisyTrail Kit - “Cupid”

To these ...

... a plain frame ...

... a frame, with gold metallic effect...

... and a frame with embossing and 3D effects applied.

Plain Frame       Gold Metallic Effect Frame

Bevelled & Embossed with 3D Effect Frame
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I hope you have enjoyed this video tutorial; that it has all made sense and that you have found it useful.

You can find a pdf copy of this video and more examples of my work on my crafting blog http://karencraftingnook.blogspot.co.uk. I hope you will pay a visit and perhaps leave a comment, or even subscribe via RSS or email.

Thank you very much.

Karen Lewis

Karen's Crafting Nook Blog