WORD ART FRAMES
TUTORIAL FOR CRAFT ARTIST PLATINUM (and DSA2)

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 know what you should be doing.

Welcome to this, my very first video tutorial, using Serif’s Craft Artist Platinum programme. I believe it should work just the same in DSA 2.

I’ve recently become interested in making up my own Word Art Frames, being inspired by the work of Barbara Gray of www.claritystamp.co.uk.

I decided to see if I could translate the concept to digital crafting. And it can be done quite easily.

I would also like to take the opportunity to thank Iris, Truly Tango on the Serif Daisytrail Forum, for helping me a while back to crack the problem of getting some of my own fancier frames to work as intelligent frames in Craft Artist. The knowledge she shared then has proven useful here as well.

So let's get started.

These are examples of some of the Word Art Frames I have come up with.

These two are quite straight forward (Tomnaverie and Yorkshire), having just the one frame aperture.
This one (Scotland) involves slightly more work as it contains two individual frames, as does this (Yorkshire Dales) one. However, they are really quite straightforward as we are about to see.

Words or phrases containing O and D are the best ones to use for frames. You might like to experiment with Ps and Qs as well.

For speed I already had the words I was going to use in my word art frames typed out. Select any font you like, playing around with various fonts and sizes until you get a combination you like.

As you can see, the O and D are in quite a large size, 200 – 250 points. Also note that the letters have not all been typed in one block, as want to be able to move them around a little, and change the font sizes of some of them (the ones that will form the frames).

Working on the Yorkshire Dales, we could leave it as it is, but I like the idea of the letters reflecting the rise and fall of the fells so we will have a little play with them.

Click on the text you want to work on. We can use the “Edit Points” of the block of text until we are happy with the look of it. Then we can group the whole lot together. (You could add effects to the text at this point, but I prefer to leave it plain for now as effects can be added later.)

Move the grouped text across to the left into the Frames Tab.

Remove the one on your workspace and bring back the newly formed frame from the Frame Tab. However, when we bring a photo across to drop into it, it doesn’t work as you expect it to.

This is where Iris’ (Truly Tango’s) work-around comes into play.

Move across to the Layer Tab on the right hand side and locate the frame object. Click on it to expand it and you will see the bitmap of the frame, and beneath that the associated poly-curve in red. It looks like a red squiggle and when you click on it, you can see that it is useless as a frame.
So now we delete this poly-curve, leaving just the frame bitmap.

Move up to the Shapes on the top toolbar and select the rectangle and draw over the frame art.

Give it a bright colour fill, and then move down to the Arrange Tab at the bottom right, and “send back one”. The word frame now shows up on top of your colour background.

Select the text and the box together, and go up to “Arrange” on the top toolbar.

Select “Join”, and the “Subtract”. This turns your frame text image white and allows you to see where your new working poly-curve(s) will be.

Now we need to get rid of the extra areas so move up to the “Erase Tool” on the top toolbar, select a suitable size (or use the zoom in/out facility) and remove all unwanted areas of colour. It is a good idea to work small areas at a time so if you need to undo at any time you are not starting from scratch.

Now you are left with a block (or more) of colour which is going to be your new, working poly-curve.

Go back into the Frames Tab and pull out another copy of the non-working frame and place it carefully over the newly created poly-curves to be.
Go back to the Layers Tab on the right, and click on the frame object to expand it. You can now see the bitmap image, the red non-working poly-curve, and beneath that, your new poly-curve.

Click on your new poly-curve and drag it up so that it lies directly beneath the frame image bitmap, and above the non-working poly-curve.

![Image of frame and poly-curve](image)

Delete the old, useless poly-curve. The colour disappears from the frame on your workspace. Drag this frame back to the Frames Tab to “set” the new poly-curve in place. Delete the older frame from your Frames Tab.

Drag out your new frame back on to the workspace. Drag and drop a photo into place. It should now work properly. End of story if you only have a single frame like the Tomnaverie or Yorkshire pages.

If you have more frames, like the two we have here, the one photo spreads between the two frames and you cannot bring in another as well; it merely replaces what you already have on the workspace.

Sometimes it might be quite OK to have the photo over two frames, but most often it’s unlikely to be the case.

A simple way around this is to select the word text frame, and then go to the “Scissors Tool” on the top toolbar. Cut across to separate your text. Then move each individual piece back into your Frames Tab. When you bring them out again, they now act independently and you can arrange them on your page as you like, or group them, or whatever. (You can see the video from where I got this information from [here](#)).

Of course, I could have made the Yorkshire Dales frame as two individual words, but doing it this way is marginally quicker, and works OK.

It is at this stage that I prefer to add any effects (this has to be done before you group any elements).
Click on the frame you want to work with. This brings up 3 little symbols to the bottom right of the frame. Click on the little symbol on the far right, to select the frame only.

You can then add preset effects, or right click to access the Filter Effects (fx) to play around to make your own.

Please note: if you come up with an effect that you think you might like to keep for future projects you can drag it across to the Frames Tab as before.

However, when you bring it back into play you will find it won't work anymore, so you just go through the same process as earlier to make it back into a working frame.

The Scotland frame I did slightly differently. As the D is at the end, I just grouped the “scOtlan” bit together and put into the Frame Tab, and then followed the process above. The D just goes into the Frame Tab, and because it is a very simple shape, it immediately becomes a proper working frame. Bring the two together, add any effects required to the frame and then group and place where you please.

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

I hope this has all made sense and that you find this little tutorial useful. You can find a pdf copy of this video and more examples of my work on my new crafting blog http://karensraftingnook.blogspot.com. I hope you will pay a visit and perhaps leave a comment, or even sign up as a follower or subscribe via RSS or email.

Thank you very much.

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