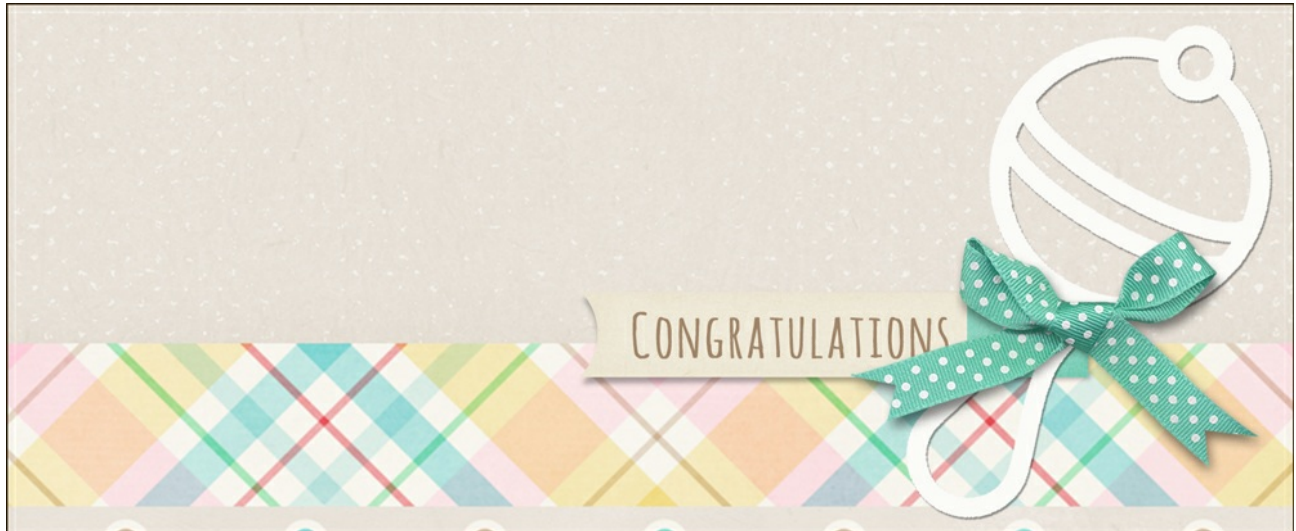


# Outlined Doodle Element

 [digitalscrapper.com/blog/qt-outlined-doodles](http://digitalscrapper.com/blog/qt-outlined-doodles)

Jen White



## Outlined Doodle Element

by Jen White

Repurpose the doodles in your stash into trendy outlined elements.

### Important Design Concept:

Doodles should never be given a drop shadow. They are meant to be used as if they were drawn onto a paper, just as in real life.

For this tutorial you will need:

a digital doodle element.

### What is a digital doodle element?

A digital doodle element is a black-line drawing, often freehand, saved as a PNG file with a transparent background. See several examples provided below.

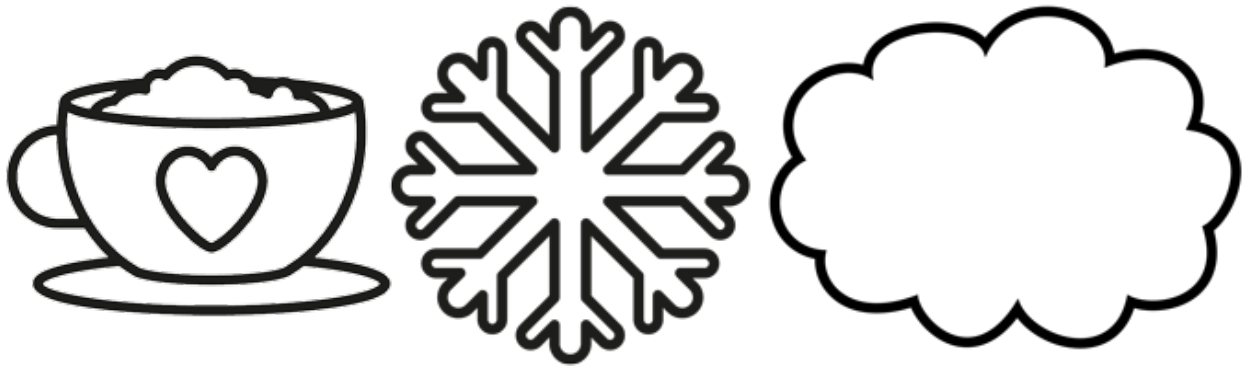
## Step One: Open a Doodle

Open a doodle (File > Open) of your choice. I will be using the coffee mug below.

**Not all doodles are good for this technique.** Here is what to look for:

- transparent background
- single, well-spaced lines
- smooth, non-pixelated edges

Here are some good examples: (Click on the image below to download these three doodles.)



Here are some bad examples. These doodles are more filled in and sketchy. They will not work well for this technique.

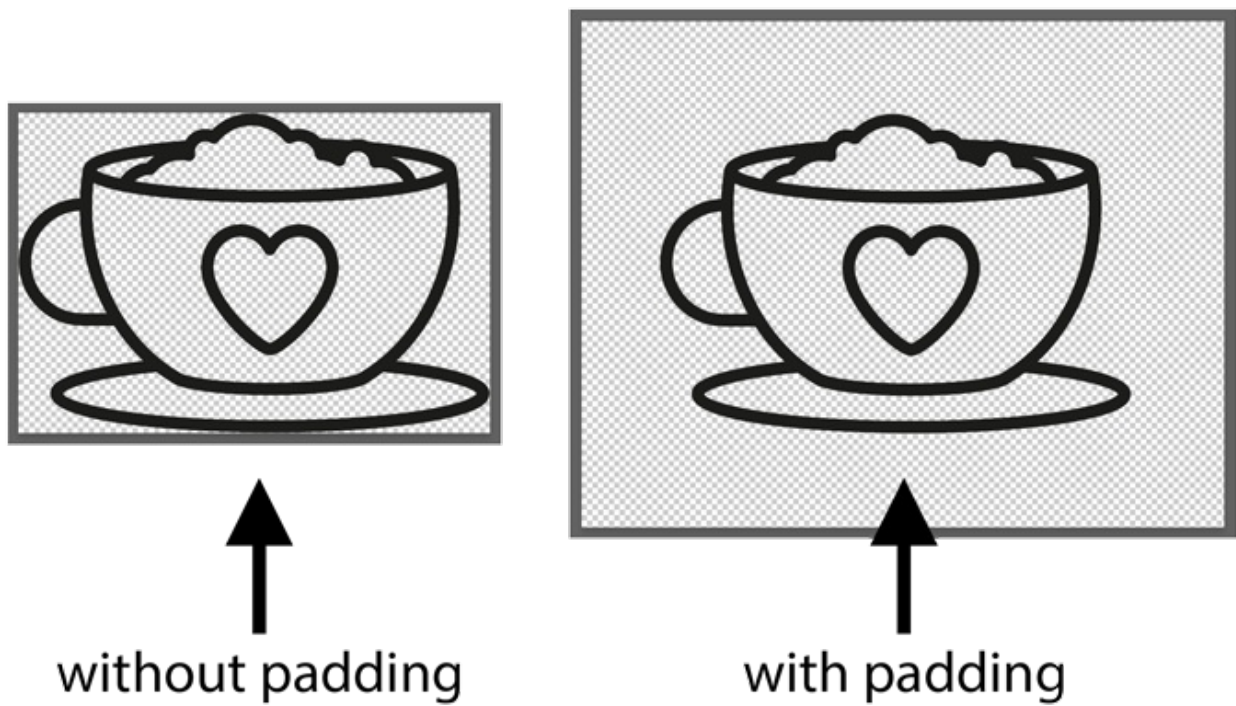


- In the Menu Bar, choose File > Duplicate. (PS: Choose Image > Duplicate.)
- In the dialog box, click OK.
- Close the original.
- Press the letter D to reset the Color Chips to the default of black over white.

## Step Two: Add Extra Padding

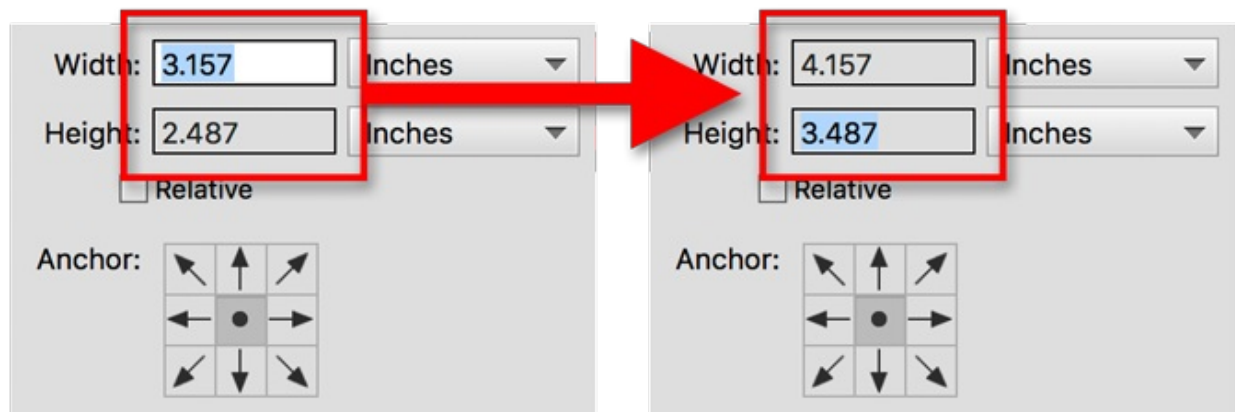
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You will need extra space (padding) around the doodle in order to complete this tutorial. If your doodle already has extra padding, you can skip this step.



To add padding to a doodle:

- In the Menu Bar, choose Image > Resize > Canvas Size. (PS: Choose Image > Canvas Size.)
- In the dialog box, adjust both the Width and the Height to be 1 inch larger. Uncheck Relative and set the Anchor to the center. Click OK.

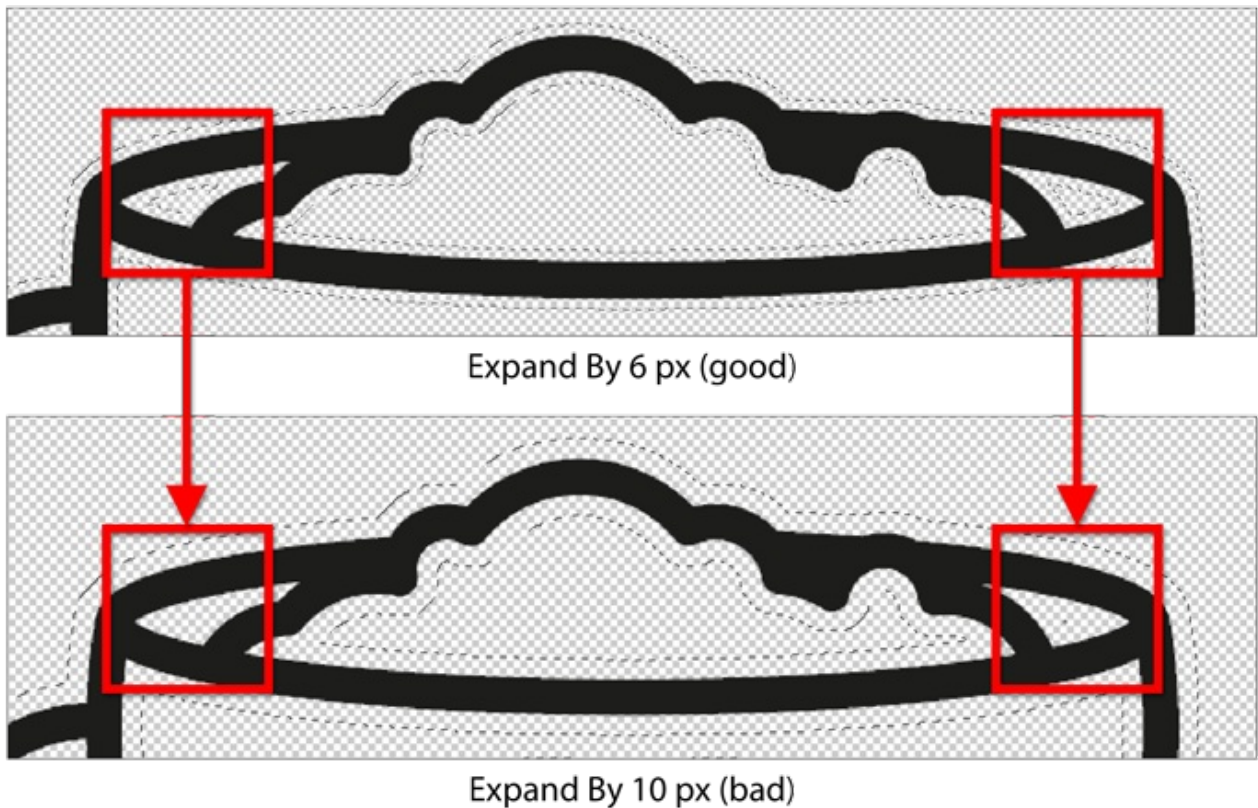


### Step Three: Select and Expand the Doodle

- In the Layers panel, Ctrl click (Mac: Cmd click) on the thumbnail of the doodle layer to get a selection outline.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Select > Modify > Expand.
- In the dialog box, set the Expand By to 6 px and click OK.

NOTE: The number of expansion pixels will vary per doodle. Before clicking OK, check to make sure your doodle is not losing definition. See the illustration below.

In the first image, I expanded my selection by 6 px. The second image shows my selection expanded by 10 px, which was too much. The over-expanding caused me to loose the area between the whipped cream and the edge of the cup.



#### Step Four: Create the Outlined Doodle

- Press Ctrl Backspace (Mac: Cmd Delete) to fill the selection with white.
- Press Ctrl D (Mac: Cmd D) to deselect.





### Step Five: Add a Drop Shadow

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As mentioned above, you should never apply a drop shadow to a doodle. However, by using this technique to turn a doodle into an outlined element, a drop shadow is now necessary.

- In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Layer Style > Style Settings. (PS: Choose Layer > Layer Style > Drop Shadow.)
- In the dialog box, set the Lighting Angle to 120°. Click Drop Shadow to open it. Set the Size to 9, the Distance to 5, and the Opacity to 50%. Click OK. (PS: Set the Blend Mode to Multiply, the Opacity to 50%, the Angle to 120°, the Distance to 5, and the Size to 9.)



### **Step Six: Clip a Paper to the Outline (Optional)**

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Most times I see these elements being used in their white form, but clipping a paper to them can be equally impressive.

- Open a plain background paper (File > Open).
- Get the Move tool.
- Holding down the Shift key, click and drag the paper onto the doodle document.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Create Clipping Mask.



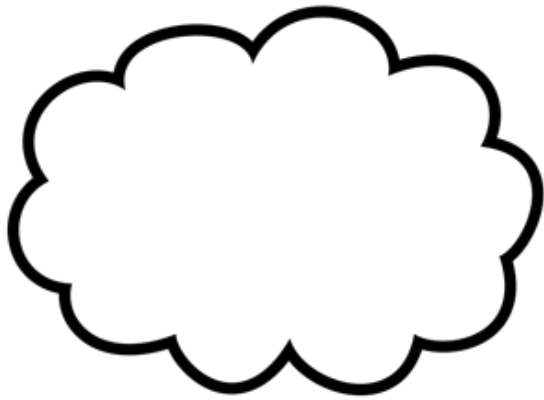
### Step Seven: Use and Save the Outlined Doodle Element

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- To use the element on a digital project:
  - In the Layers panel, click on the top layer (paper) to activate it, then Shift click on the doodle layer. Now both layers should be active.
  - Get the Move tool.
  - In the Tool Options, uncheck Auto-Select.
  - On the document, click and drag the element onto another document.
- To save the element for later:
  - In the Layers panel, click on the doodle layer to activate it.
  - In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Layer Style > Clear Layer Style.
  - Save the element (File > Save) as a PNG file with a unique name.
  - Close the working file without saving.

Here are two more before and after images using the additional doodles from the download (above).





Credits: Heart of Gold by KimB Designs, All About A Boy by Shawna Clingerman

Here is how I used this technique on a greeting card.





Credits:

Card: Congratulations by Jen White

Kit: Beautiful Morning by Amber Shaw

Font: Amatic SC



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