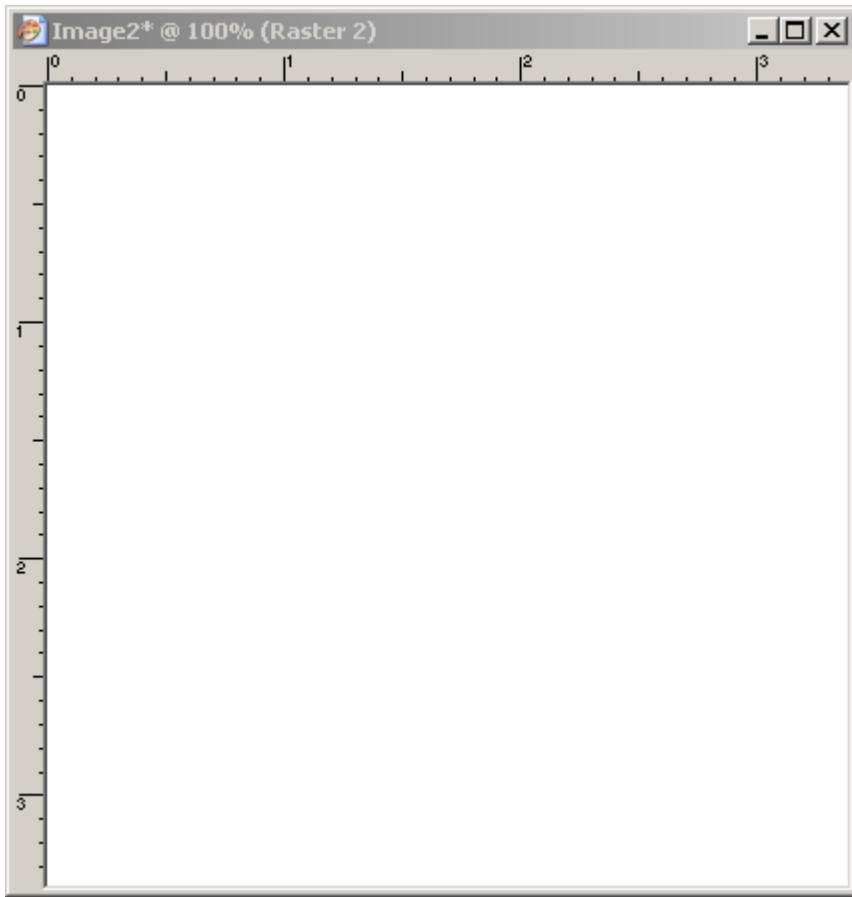




## Tutorial on making holes for stamps using the vector drawing tools in PSP 9

1. Make a new image 400 x 400 pixels and fill with white color

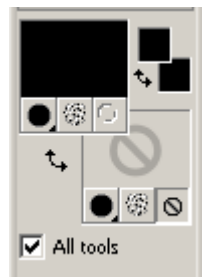


2. Make another layer on top of this layer and select your pen tool  and the straight line mode .

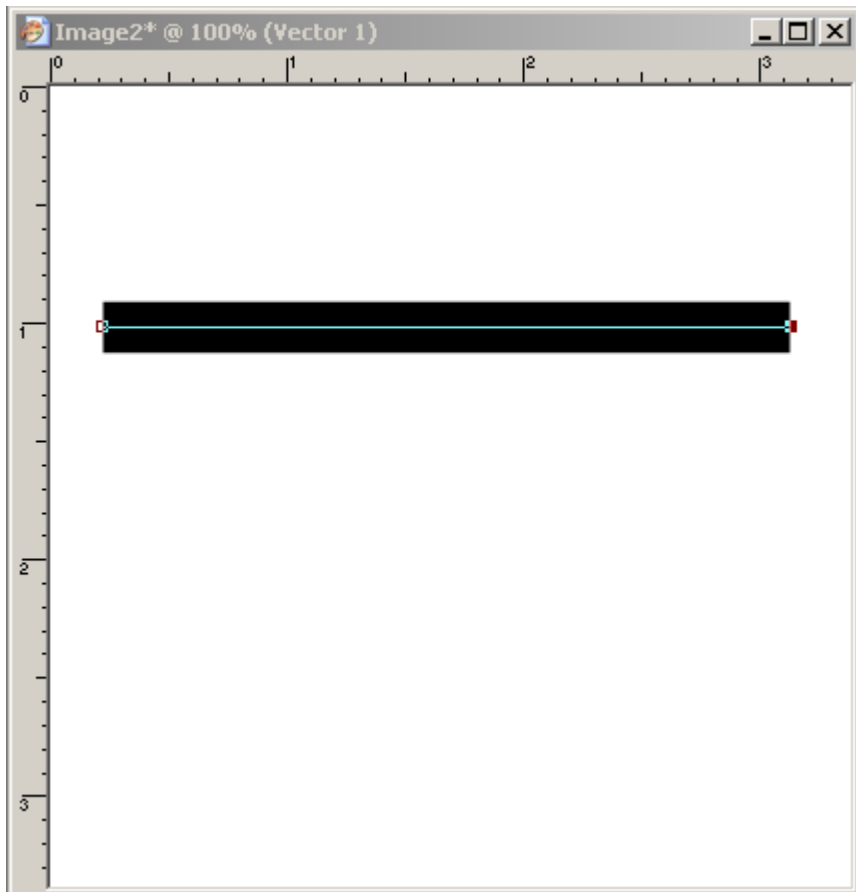
Set your line width to 26 and make sure that Anti-alias is checked



3. In your Materials palette make sure that stroke color is black and fill color is turned off.



4. Draw a black line on your second layer where you want your holes to be

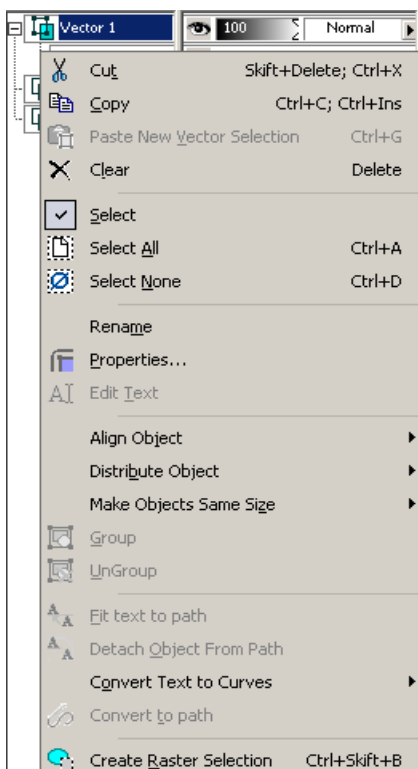


5. Now you can see that the line is not dotted, but we will fix that in a second.

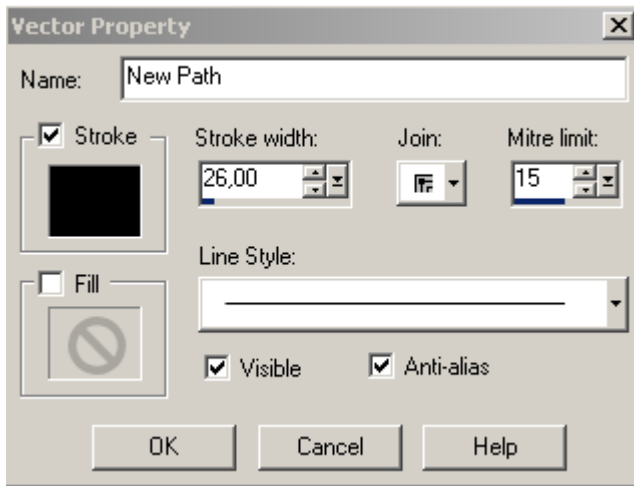


6. Click the little "+" in your layers, and right click on the "New path" line.

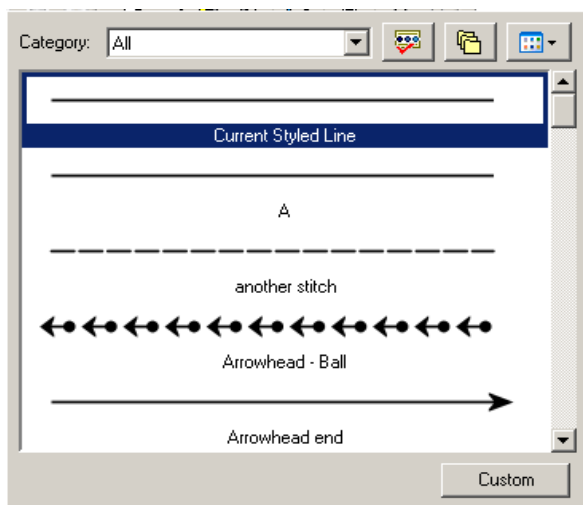
7. From the drop down menu select "Properties"



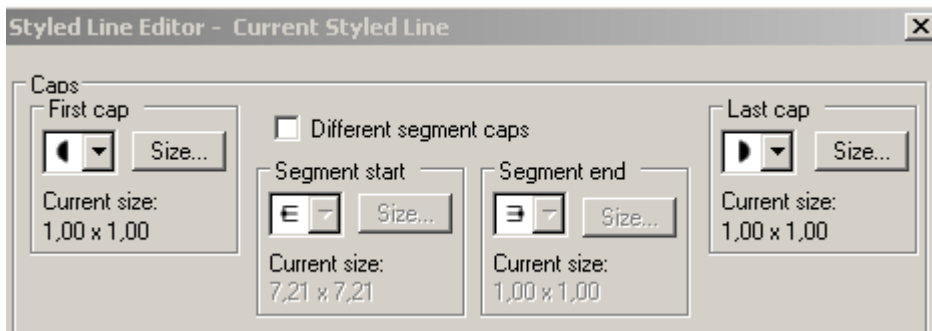
8. On the new "Vector Property" box click the small arrow to the right of the line style



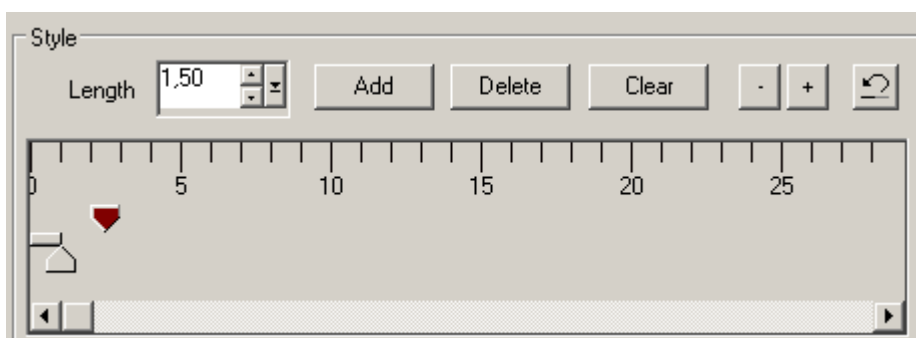
9. Now click the "Custom" button



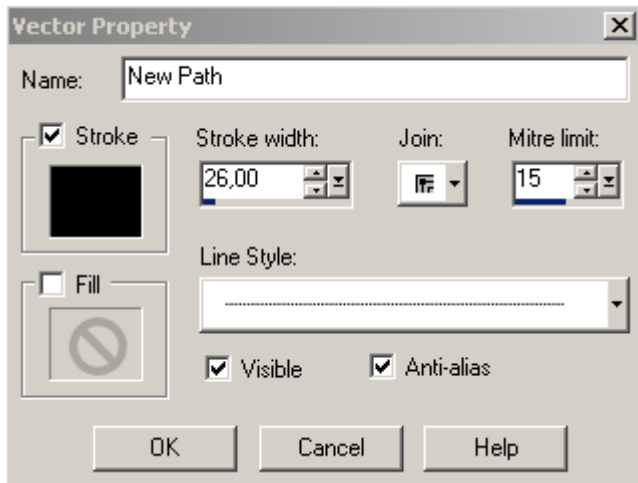
10. On the "First cap" and "Last cap" chose a half circle and change size to 1,00 x 1,00



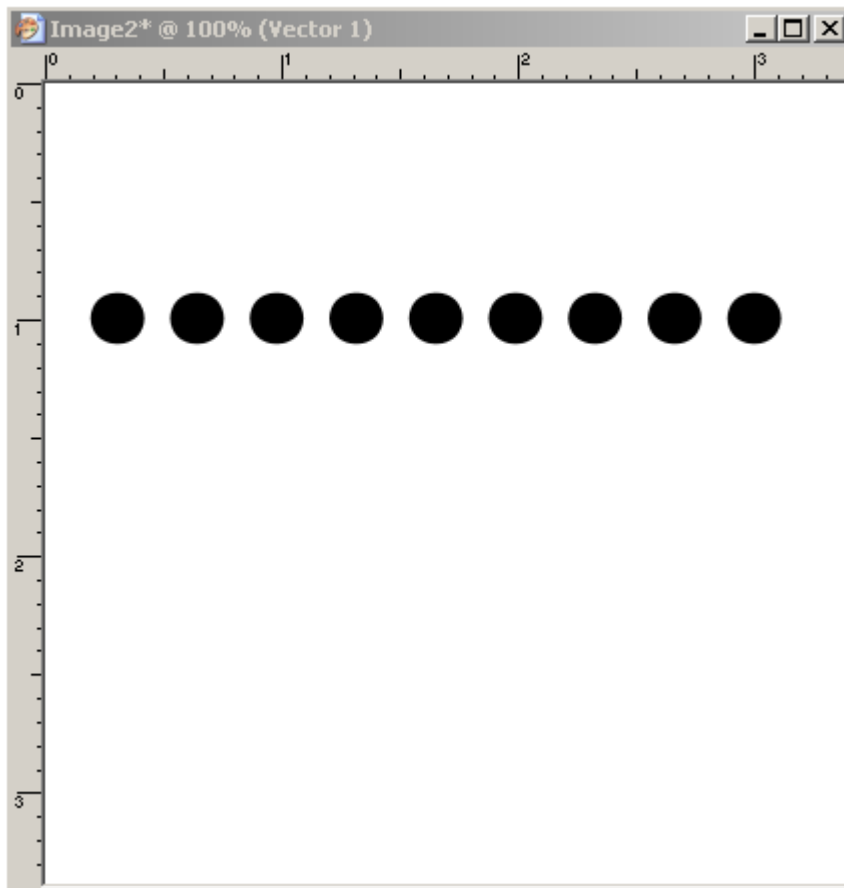
12. Press "Add" to make a line gap and adjust the length of the gap to 1,5.



13. Now click "Save" and "OK"



14. Now your picture should look like this:

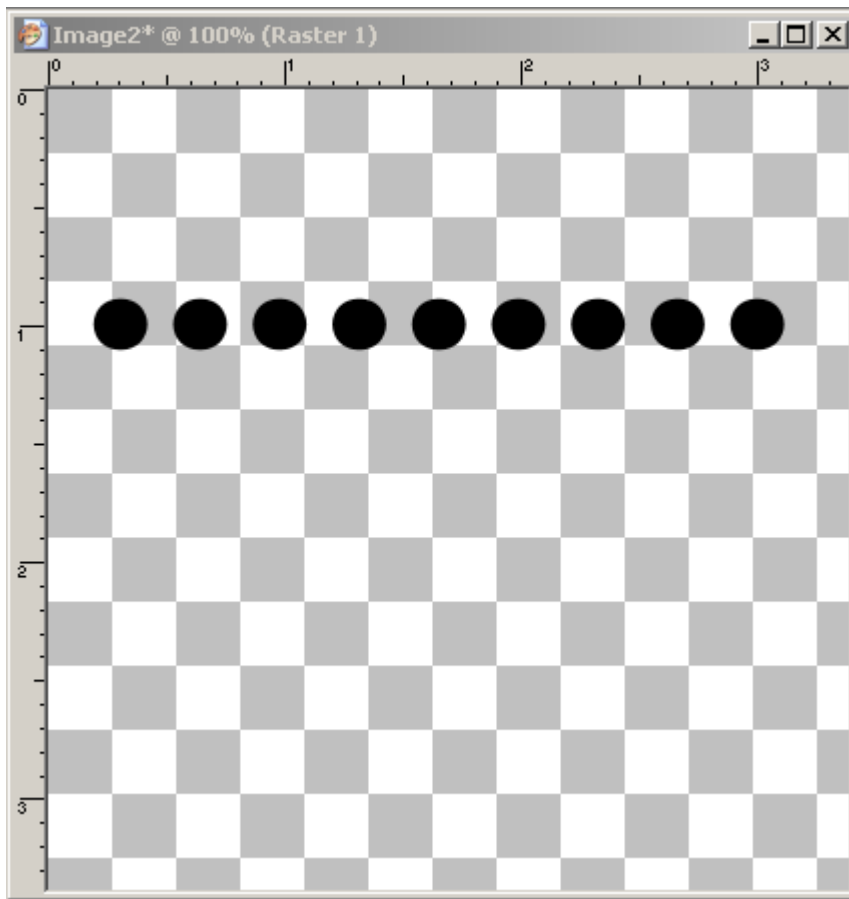


15. Convert your vector layer with the black dots to raster (chose "Layers", "Convert to raster layer")

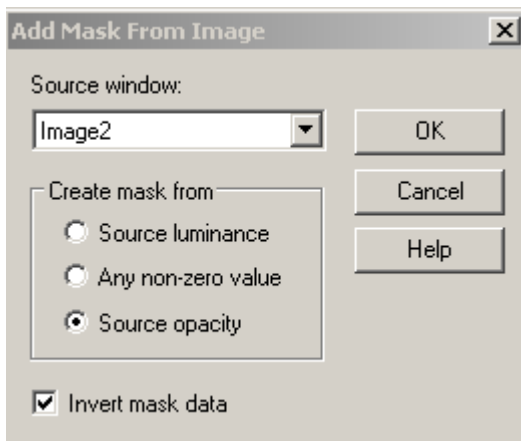
16. Turn off the visibility on your white layer by clicking the small eye



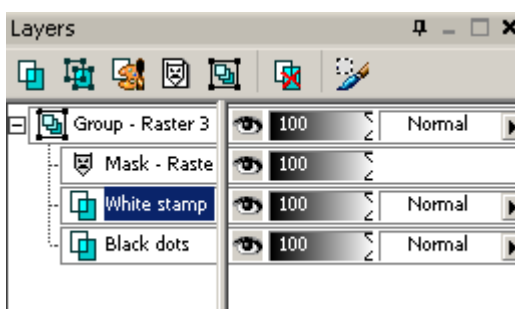
Your image should now look like this:



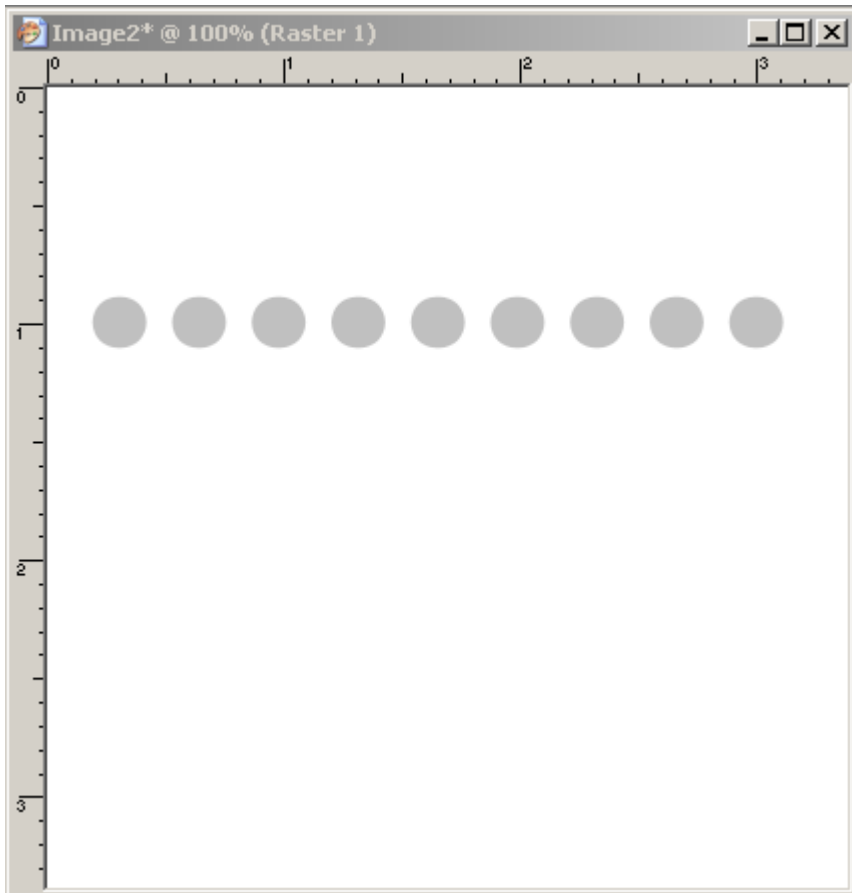
17. Go to your black dot layer and chose "Layers", "New mask layer" and "From image", and apply the following settings (tick "Source opacity" and "Invert mask data"). Click OK.



18. Now turn on the visibility on your white stamp layer (the little eye again) and move this layer up, so that it is just above the black dots and below the mask layer.

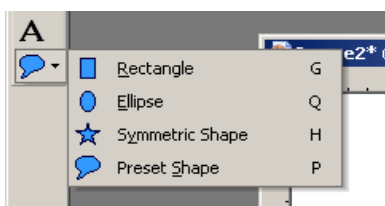


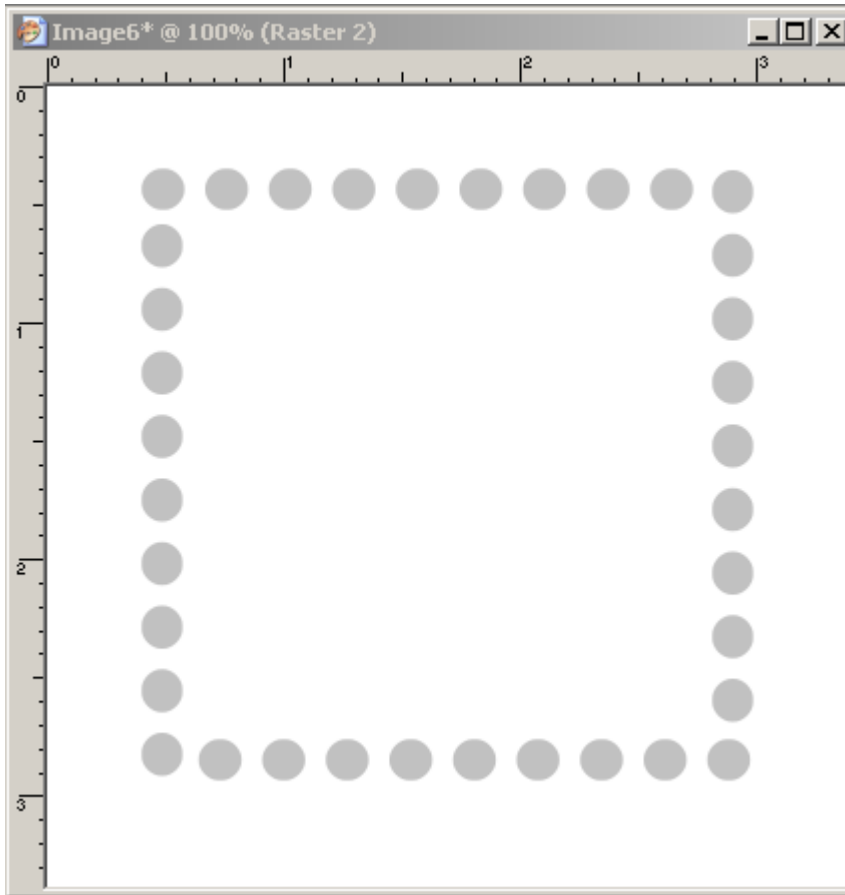
19. Your image should now look like this with a perfect line of dots with smooth edges and a transparent background. (I made the background grey here, just to show you the holes)



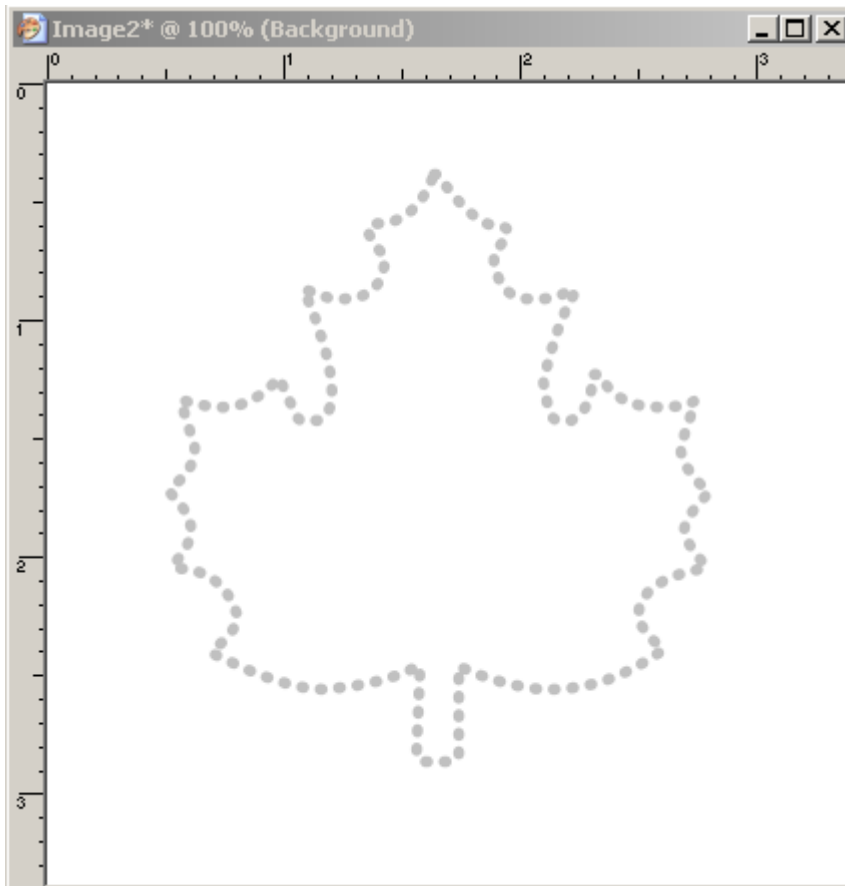
20. Merge visible layers and your stamp is ready.

21. Now the really cool thing is that you can use exactly the same technique, when you use your vector text tool or your preset shape tool. So if you want to make stamps, it is very easy to use the preset rectangle tool to make perfect holes.






22. Draw any preset shape or letter with a black dotted outline and turn it into a mask like described above. Here I tried to chose a leaf.



23. If you draw letters make sure to select "Create as Vector" and then chose stroke width 26 pixels (or whatever size of holes you want). Here I made a letter using the font "Verdana".

Create as: Vector    Direction:     Font: Verdana    Size: 300    Stroke width (pixels): 26,0

