# Custom Grip Tape for your Board
## by u/lightswitchgirl28

This is a template to create custom grip tape for any longboard. It uses an Adobe Photoshop file, but can also be edited in Gimp, a free and open source photo editor. For more info and where to download Gimp, check the section at the end. These templates are intended to be used with Splattergoat's custom grip tape, although as long as the grip sheet is the same size, any manufacturer should work.

Made by Reddit user u/lightswitchgirl28. I do not work for SplatterGoat. If you have questions for them, contact them directly at: https://splattergoat.com/pages/contact-us. Additionally, if these instructions have gone out of date please DM me on Reddit.

## The following pre-made templates are included for popular boards:

- **Boosted Board V3 Stealth & Plus**
- **Boosted Mini**
- **Boosted V2/V1 (Loaded Vanguard)**
- **Exway Flex**
- **Exway X1**
- **Evolve Bamboo GTR**
- **Backfire G3/G3+/Zealot**
- **Wowgo 3X**
- **Meepo V3**
- **Meepo NLS Pro**
- **Ownboard Bamboo AT 39"**

If your board is not on this list, don't worry! Skip to the below to the section titled '**Creating your Custom Grip from Scratch**'.

# Creating Your Custom Grip from a Pre-made Template

Creating from a pre-made template takes the logistical work out of making a custom grip. If you're using Gimp, be sure to check the section at the end for extra advice.

1. Navigate to the template for your board; open

2. **Make a new layer (⇧⌘M)** and create your design. It's important to be sure you don't accidentally create your design on the '**DISABLE ME**' or '**REFERENCE TIC**' layers as they will be removed later. Within the outline, keep in mind that your print will probably have a margin of error around 1/2 inch. Extremely precise designs that interact with the edges of the deck may be difficult. **It's recommended all text/essential graphics stay within a ~1/2 inch 'safe area' around the edge of the deck.**

3. Disable the layer titled '**DISABLE ME**'

4. Navigate to **File>Save As**

5. Under '**Format**', select **JPEG**. Save in full quality.

6. Read Splattergoat's design guide, specifically step five: https://splattergoat.com/pages/how-to-upload-a-design-software-file

7. Navigate to: https://splattergoat.com/collections/custom-grip-tape-products/products/custom-longboard-grip-tape-11x44

8. Upload your template and span it to fill the work area in the browser. Note that pixilation in the work area is normal.

9. Order

10. Remove your old grip tape with a hairdryer. Apply you new grip tape with this guide video: https://youtu.be/zjmLDFizLos

11. Post it online, and link people back to this guide! **These templates are made by the community, for the community. Spread the love!**

## Please Keep in Mind:

Nearly all of these templates were created without physical access to any of these boards - therefore they rely on measurements from manufacturers and third party sources. **Due to this, there is a margin for error.** If you encounter especially incorrect sizing issues, please DM me on Reddit. While these templates aren't perfect, they're very likely better than an eyeballed guess.

# Creating your Custom Grip from Scratch

Creating a template is actually relatively simple. These templates are simply an accurately sized .psd file containing the outline of each board; you'll need to create the outline you'll use as a guide from scratch.

## Step One - Measure your Deck

First, you'll need to know the measurements of your deck in order to know what size of grip sheet you'll be ordering, and to accurately scale your deck in Photoshop/Gimp. It's often easier and more accurate to simply find your deck length via your manufacture's website. If you cannot, simply measure your deck with a tape measure.

## Step Two - Open your Template

Splattergoat offers two skateboard sheet sizes - **9in x 33**, and **11in x 44**. Select the size appropriate to your deck, then open the '**DIY_Template**' folder and open the correspondingly named **.psd**.
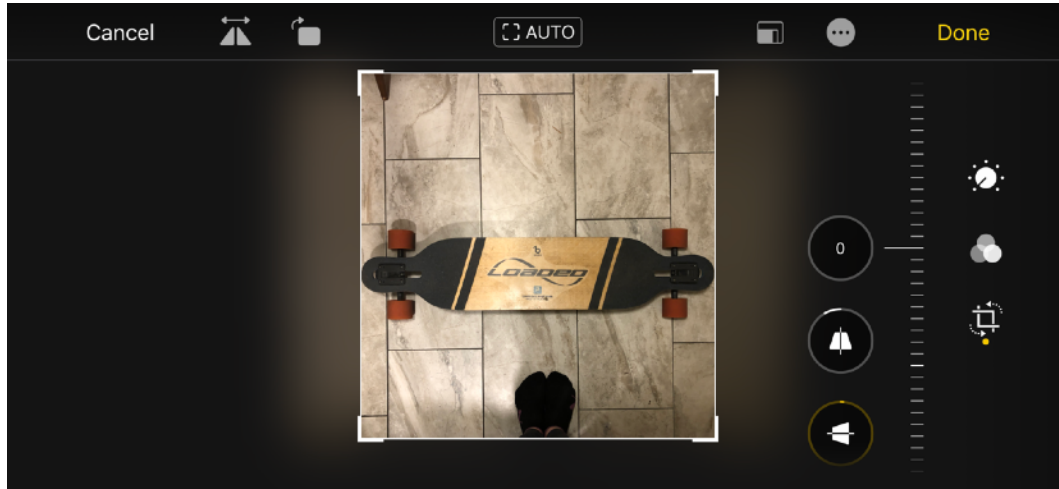
## Step Three - Use a Photograph of your Board

In order to create the template, you'll need a photo that is a bird's eye view of your deck. As with measuring, it's often easier and more accurate to simply find a straight on, undistorted bird's eye view of you deck via your manufacture's website. It's extremely important that the photo is taken directly above the center of the deck and is undistorted by angle. Professional product photos often achieve this.

**If you are unable to obtain a photo of your deck online, you'll have to take one yourself.** Hold your camera as high as possible directly over the center of your deck. Don't worry if your deck does not fill the entire frame side to side; the priority is to be far enough away from the deck as to eliminate distortion many wide angle smartphone cameras create at short distances.

## Step Four - Crop Your Photo

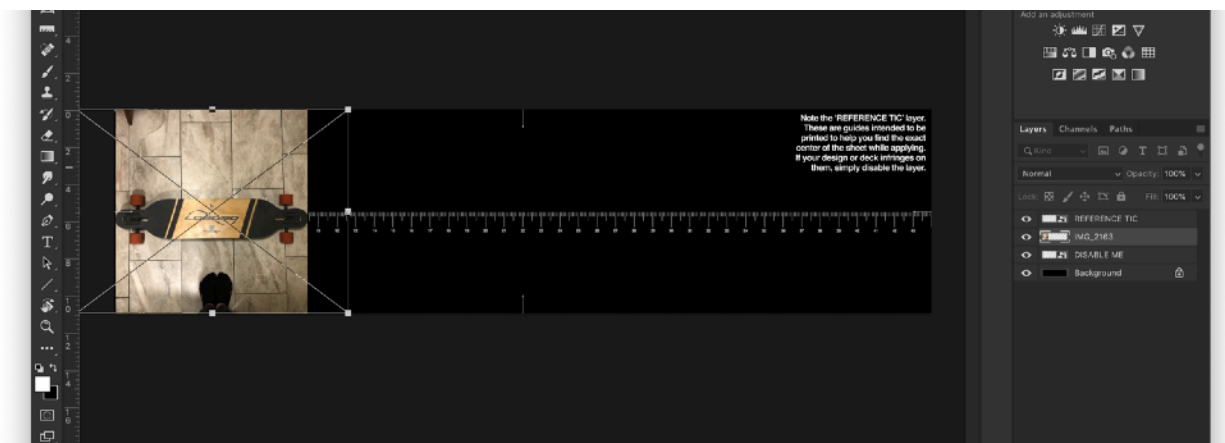Before sending the reference photo to your computer, crop it to each end of the board exactly.



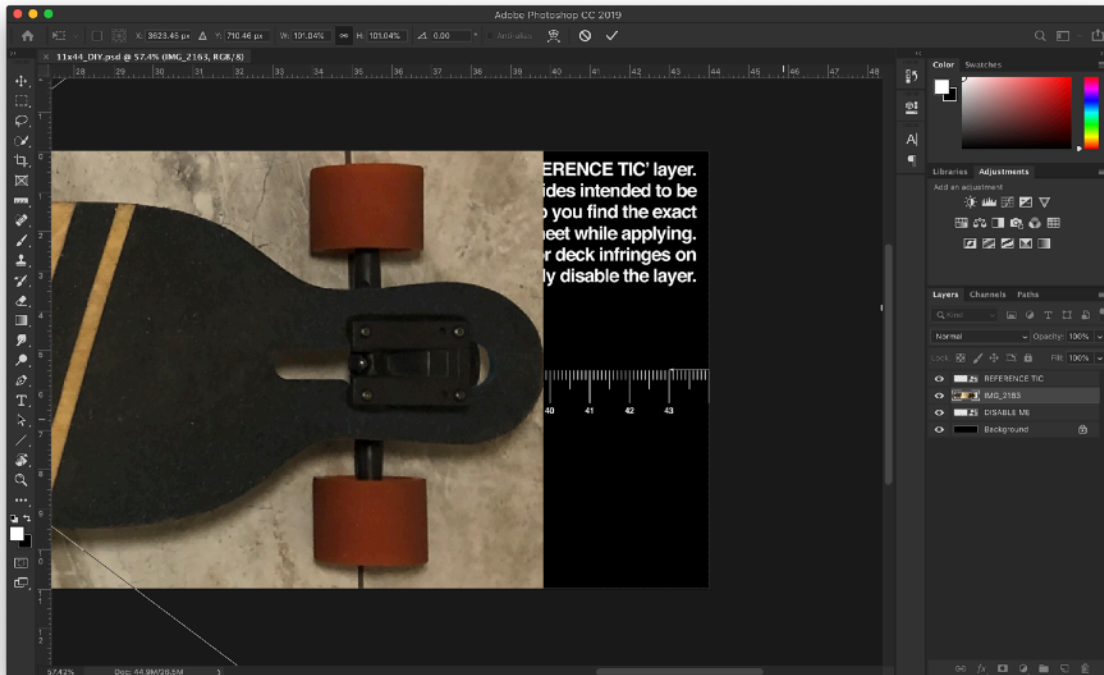## Step Five - Importing Your Photo

Now that you have your reference photo, you'll need to drop it into the template on your computer. Both Photoshop and Gimp support drag and drop. If you're using Gimp, now is a good time to check the Gimp notes at the end.
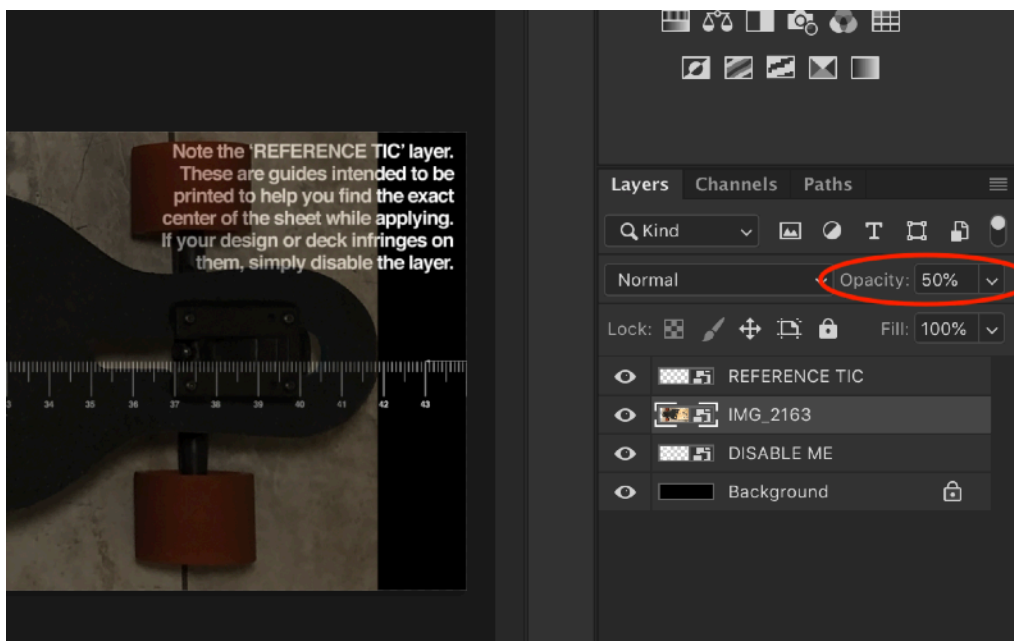
## Step Six - Scaling your photo

Drop your image into your photo editor. Then, align it to the left side of the canvas. In Gimp, use the **Move Tool (M)**.
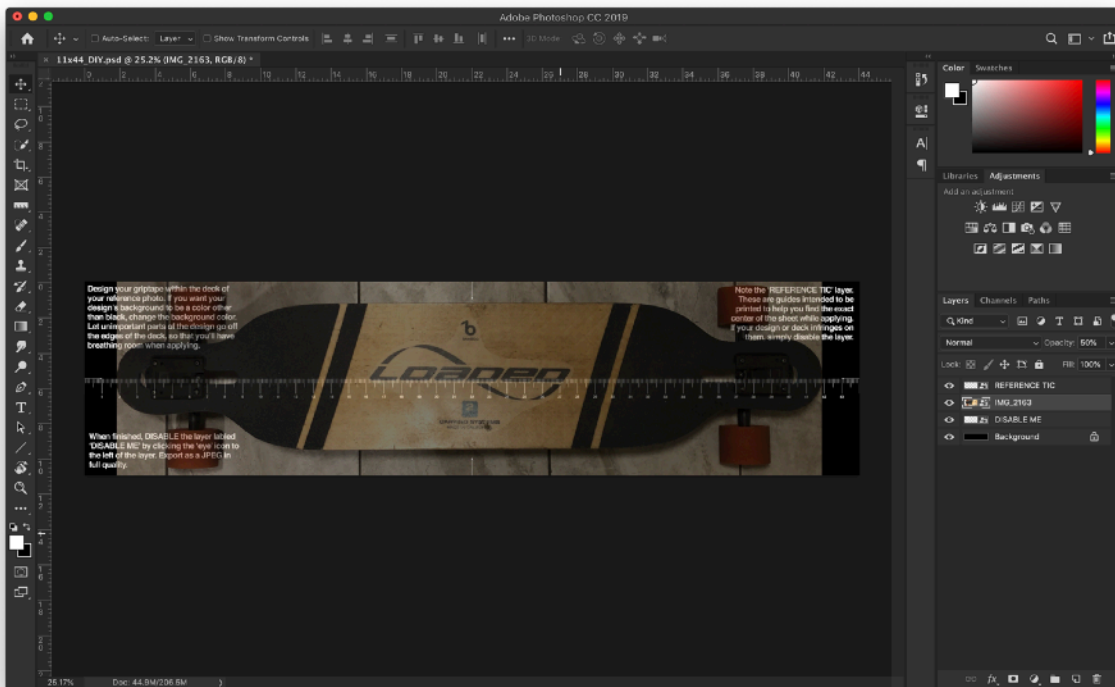
Next, grab the right side handle of your image and start pulling it to the right. As the image gets bigger, extend it to the real life length of your board using the ruler. In Gimp, this can be achieved by switching between the **Move (M)** and **Scale (⇧S)** tools. As you expand, the left end of the image may shift from zero on the ruler; ensure you have an accurate measurement before moving forward.



Now that your board is scaled accurately, move the image to be centered. Then, lower the opacity of your reference photo so that it isn't too distracting.

## Step Seven - Designing your Grip

Now that you've scaled and lowered the opacity of your photo, the template should be a relatively accurate reference to the end product. Create your design in a new layer on top of the shape of your deck. **Be sure to use a new layer (⇧⌘M), as you'll be removing the reference photo and measuring guide layers when you're finished.** You can toggle the visibility of your reference photo and the measuring guide as you work by clicking the 'eye' icon to the left of the layer.

Let unimportant parts of your design spill off the edges so you'll have breathing room in the final product. **It's recommended all text/essential graphics stay within a ~1/2 inch 'safe area' around the edge of the deck.**

## Step Eight - Disabling Unused layers

Now that your design is finished, disable the layer titled '**DISABLE ME**' by clicking the 'eye' icon to the left of the layer. Disable your reference photo as well; you will now be left with only the design itself, all references to the outline of the deck should now be gone.

Note the '**REFERENCE TIC**' layer. These are guides intended to be printed to help you find the exact center of the sheet while applying. If your design or deck infringes on them, simply disable the layer.
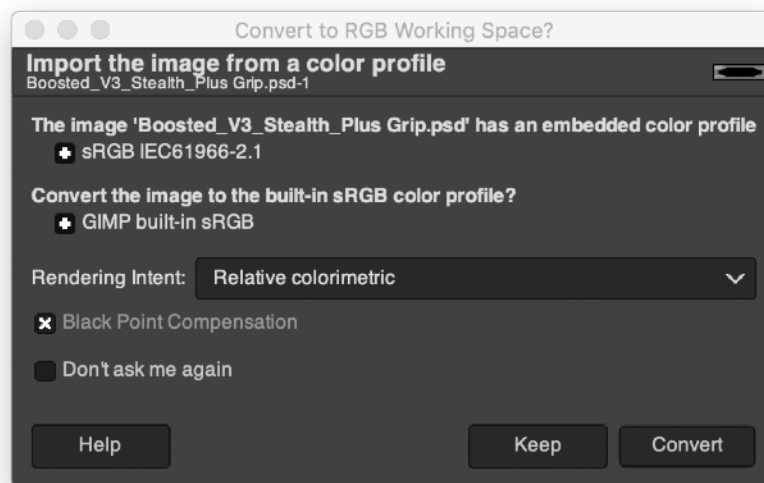
## Step Nine - Export

You're now ready to export, yay! Proceed to the directions for pre-made templates and start at number #4. If possible, upload your **.psd** to this Reddit thread to help others with your deck in the future:

# Using Gimp Instead of Photoshop

Gimp is an open source photo editor that has the ability to open **.psd** files. It's pretty straight forward, but it does divulge from the above directions in a few minor ways. Gimp is available for free download here: https://www.gimp.org/downloads/

## Opening PSD's and Other Images

When opening the template in Gimp, you may be asked to convert the color space to sRGB. Since the template is monochromatic and will be removed anyway, you can click '**Convert**'.



## Disabling the 'DISABLE ME' Layer

I've found that on occasion the 'eye' icon to the left of the '**DISABLE ME**' layer is unresponsive. If this is the case, you can simply delete the '**DISABLE ME**' layer instead.

## Saving & Exporting

While it's recommended that you save your **.psd** file in case you want to change and reprint in the future, you'll need to export your design as a **JPEG** to upload. To do so, go to '**File>Export As**'. Click to expand the section labeled '**Select File Type (By Extension**'. Select **JPEG** and export in full quality. All done!