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Creating A Signature Brush

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The *TLR Tip* has been updated.

Submitted by mitch on Sat, 01/31/2009 - 05:51.

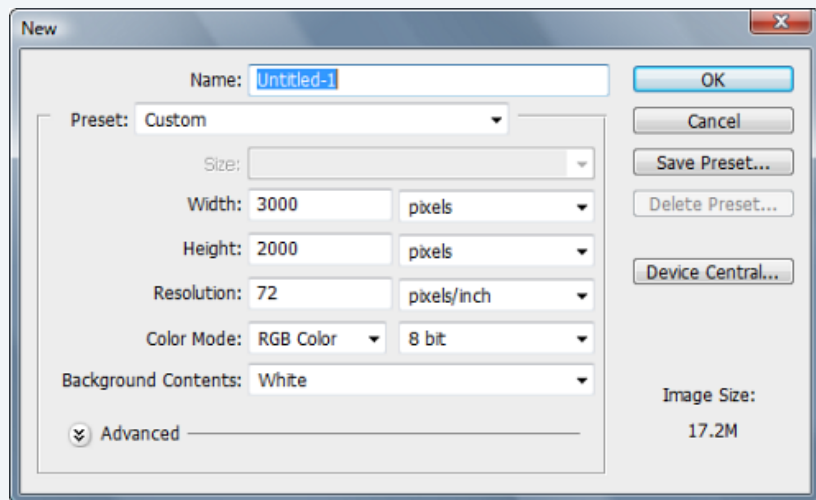


Ever wanted to add your signature as an artist to the corner of a photograph? Well, it's easy to create a Brush Preset in Photoshop for your signature using whatever font you prefer. You can even embellish your signature with some line art, if you like.

(This same technique will work for adding a copyright, a watermark, etc.)

Step 1. Create a new image.

I suggest something like 3000 x 2000 pixels. The idea is to create a high resolution signature to use for a Photoshop Brush Preset.



Step 2. Create a text layer for your signature.

Choose a font and then set the Font Size to something 250 points. I chose a script style to simulate

mitch

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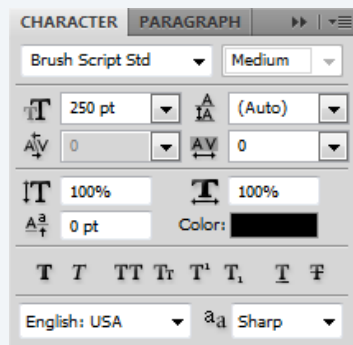


Peachpit TV: Smart Objects in Photoshop CS4

Submitted by mitch on Sun, 01/25/2009 - 02:53.

Video:

handwriting, but you can use your creative judgment to select an appropriate font. You can also adjust Tracking and Kerning to give the signature more of a flowing, handwritten look, if you do choose a script-type font.



Step 3. Make a Rectangular Marquee Selection.

Use the Rectangular Marquee tool to make a selection around the signature. There is a maximum size to a Photoshop Brush preset. Keep the width of the selection (and, therefore, the signature) to less than 2500 pixels. Otherwise the option to Define Brush Preset will gray.

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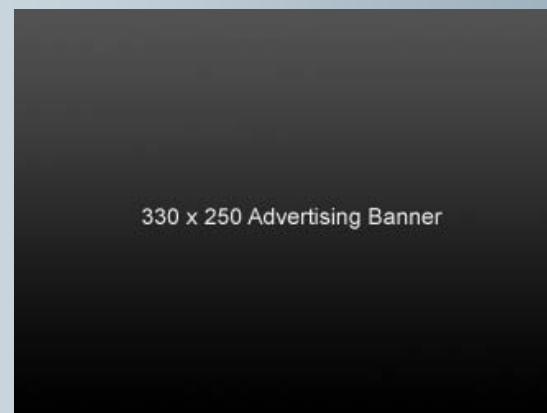


29 reads

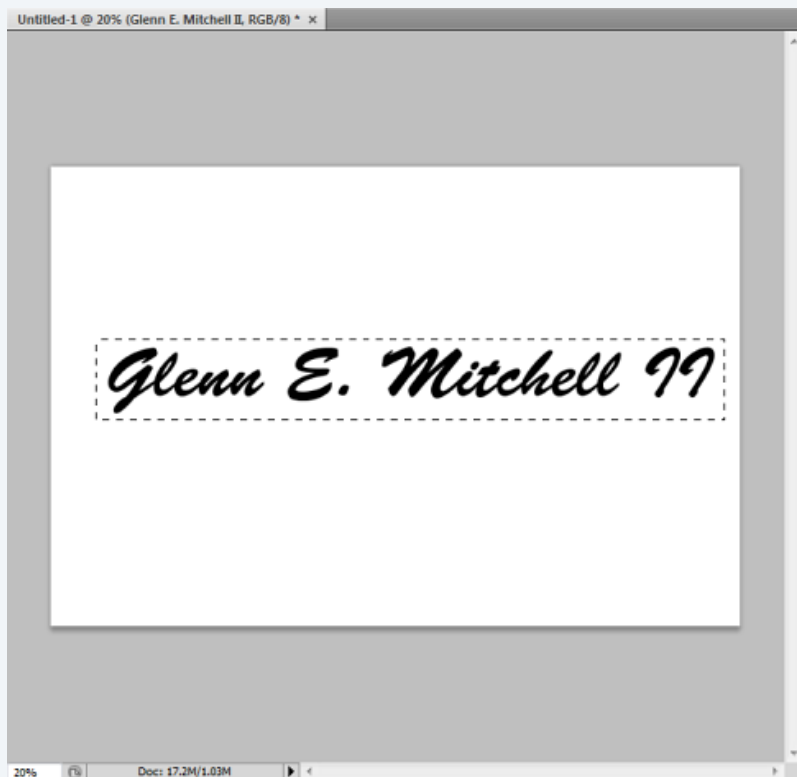
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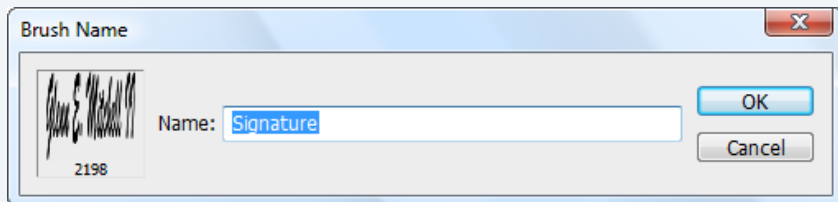


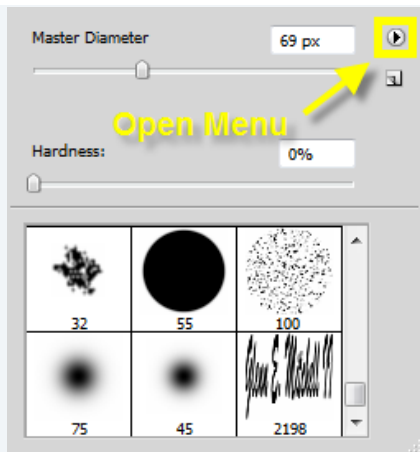
330 x 660 Advertising Banner

Step 4. Define Brush Preset.

The menu item for this is Edit | Define Brush Preset. The preset will be added at the end of the current set of loaded brushes. If the option is grayed, make sure your selection is less than 2500 pixels wide.

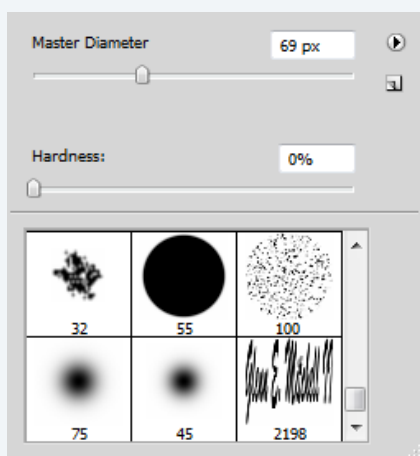
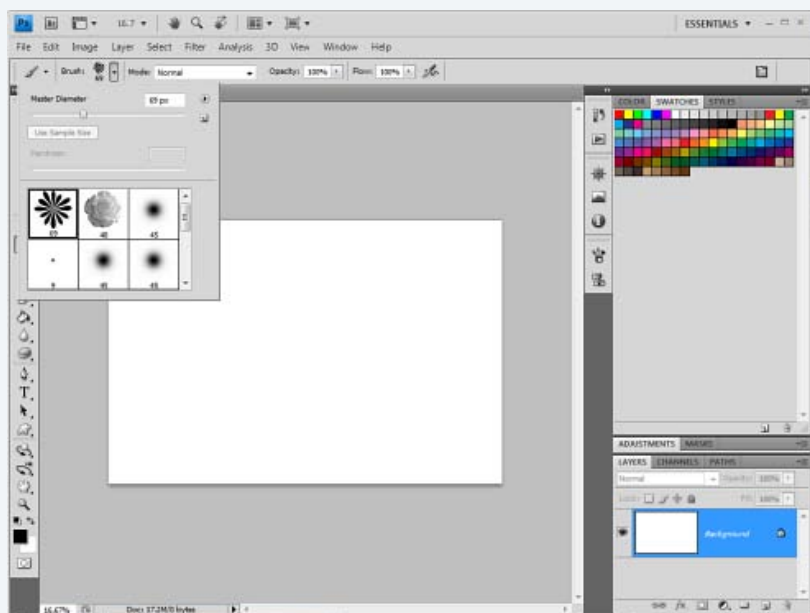
Be warned! Brushes are stored in the Preferences file until they are saved as part of a Brush Preset Library. If the Preferences file becomes corrupt, you will lose any unsaved brushes. So it is a good idea to save your brushes from the flyout menu for the Brush Preset panel.





Step 5. Add Your Signature to a Photograph.

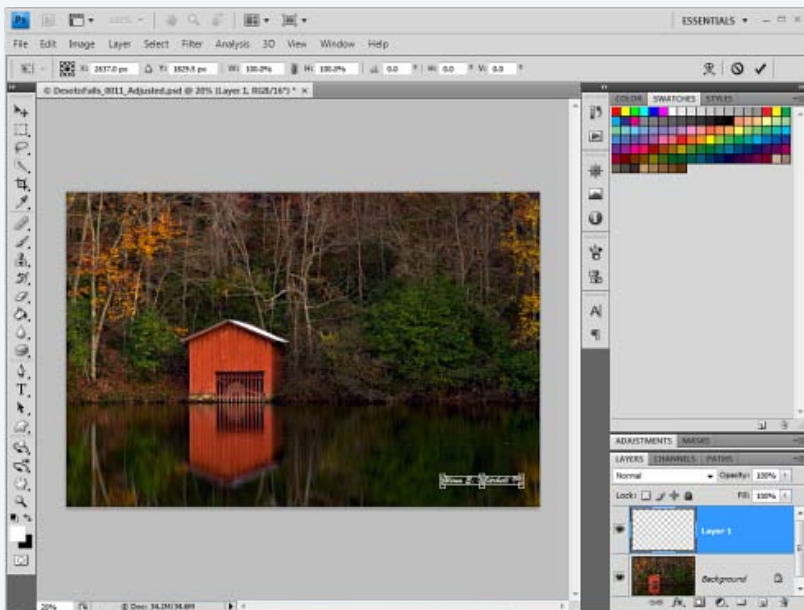
Add a new, empty layer. Select the Brush tool. Set the Brush size. Set the foreground to an appropriate color. In the example here, I used White. I simply pressed the "d" key to restore the defaults of White and Black and then the "x" key to switch them and make White the foreground color. To add your signature, just click. Don't drag.

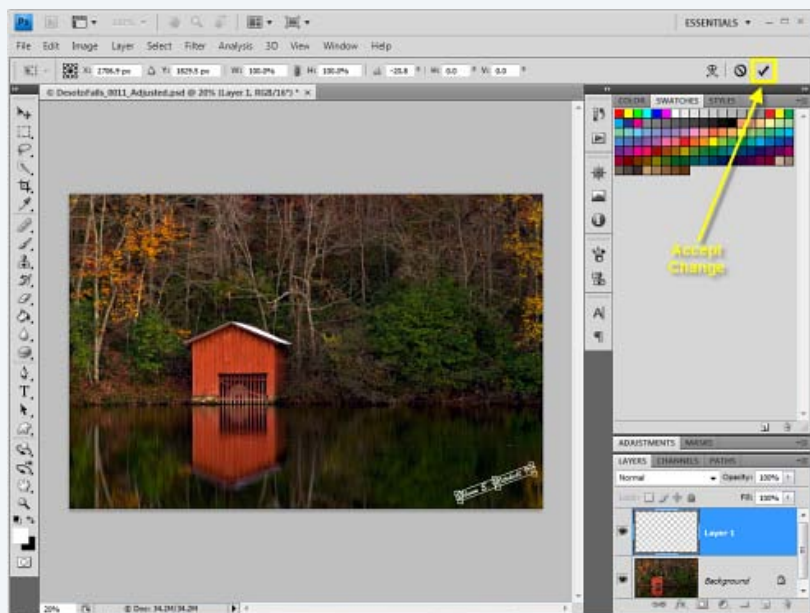




Step 6. Add Artistic Flair.

A common embellishment is to rotate the signature so that it runs along a diagonal instead of a horizontal line. Go to Edit | Transform | Rotate. You can rotate the text and even move it. Just remember to click the checkmark to finish the transformation.





You also have all of the options of the Layer Style panel available to you. I decided to use the Bevel and Emboss and the Stroke options for my signature. I also lowered the layer's Opacity setting.

Here's the result . . .



A .PDF version of this "tip" is available from this URL:

<http://www.thelightsright.com/files/tips/CreatingASignatureBrush/CreatingASignatureBrush.pdf>

Author information

Author Bio:

Glenn Mitchell is an avid digital photographer, technical writer, and university administrator. He is an author with a long list of publications in trade magazines, peer-reviewed academic journals, and co-authored books. He is creative force behind The Light's Right. His photography can be seen at his gallery site: www.thelightsrightstudio.com.

Author: Glenn E. Mitchell II, Ph.D.

 Technorati Tags: photoshop photo editing special effects

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Signature tutorial

Submitted by beedee on Sat, 01/31/2009 - 06:38.



Hi Glenn I have just tried your signature tutorial and found it excellent. It was so easy to follow with very clear instructions plus the end result was great.

Thank you so much for this tutorial and for your time in making it

Beedee

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If You Make The Preset Too Big . . .

Submitted by mitch on Sat, 01/31/2009 - 16:23.

If you make the preset itself too wide (i.e., the rectangular marquee) then you can run up against a limit in Photoshop for defining a brush preset and the option will gray.

Just reduce the size of the marquee (or the signature) and all will work as described.

Just keep the width of the rectangular selection under 2500 pixels. That's the maximum.

Cheers,

Mitch

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