

How to add Gradients to Objects

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Skill Required: Basic-Intermediate



This tutorial will show you how to add any gradient to text, shapes, or selections. Let's get started by creating a new image in the Photoshop Elements Editor.

Learn:

Create the base image...

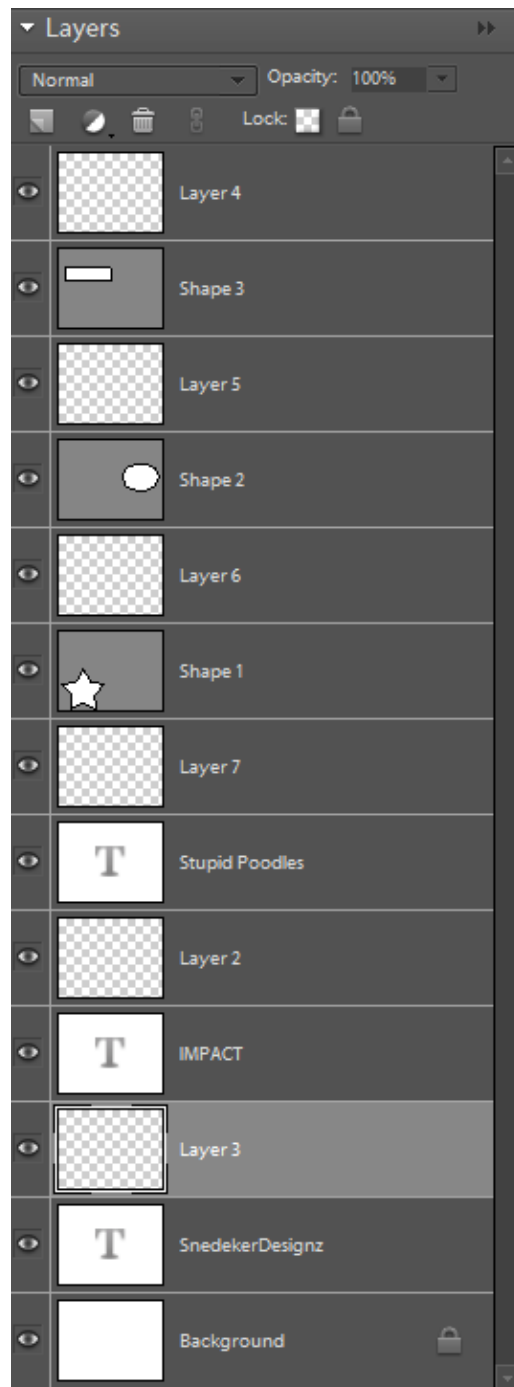
First, let's create some plain text and shapes. Use the *Text Tool*  and *Custom Shape Tool* .





Layers...

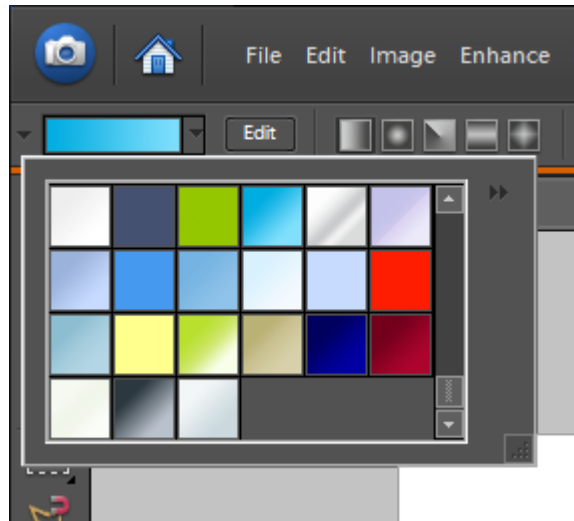
Now that we have our text and shapes it's time to add the gradients, but not the normal way! For every layer of shapes and text add a new layer. In the above image it is using six layers. To create the layers hold down *Shift + Ctrl + N* on your keyboard. Do this as many times as needed.

Drag and drop your new layers into a similar order. The new layers here have been named: Layer 2, Layer 3, Layer 4, Layer 5, Layer 6, and Layer 7. Observe how the new layers have been placed directly above the layers shapes and text.



Let's start with adding a gradient to the SnedekerDesignz text. Make a rectangular selection using the *Rectangular Marquee Tool*  around the text. It doesn't have to be perfect, but make it close. After you have made the selection, you should see a moving outline of a rectangle around the text.

Select the layer that is above the text. In this case, it would be *Layer 3*. Now select the *Gradient Tool* . Now select your favorite gradient!



Next, while holding down the Shift key, drag your cursor from the top of the selection to the bottom or vice versa.

It should now look something like this. Please note that the coloration within the selection will vary depending on which gradient you chose. My gradient just so happens to be mostly a cyan and turquoise color.



Hold down *Ctrl + D* to dispose of the selection. Now the selection's rectangle should no longer be present. Looking more like this:



This is where the fun part comes in! Make sure you still have the layer with the gradient selected! Press *Ctrl + G*, which groups the previous layer with this one. The text should almost act like a mask.

What you have...

SNEDEKER *Designz*

Yeah! Alright! Looks good! Much better than a plain color!

D.I.Y.:

Now it's time to [TRY IT OUT FOR YOURSELF!](#) Try to use a different gradient on different text. This tutorial uses the *Stupid Poodles* text as the alternate.

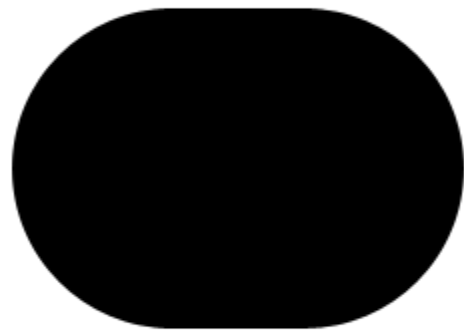
75% Completed!

In this tutorial we have this much of that image completed...

SNEDEKER *Designs*



IMPACT



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Working with Photoshop Shapes:

In this tutorial we have three shapes: a rectangle, a rounded rectangle, and a star. We will use the same method as we did with text except that we put the selection around the shape and not text. Once you have selected a gradient and made a rectangular selection around the shape, just drag the gradient line. Then, release the mouse button. Use your *Ctrl + G* to finish the job!

D.I.Y.:

Give it a try! That's all I have to say!

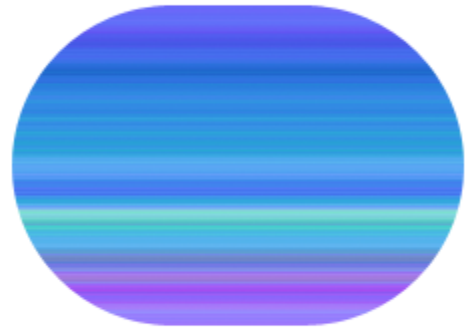
The Final Result:

You may end up with something like this! 😊

SNEDEKER *Designz*



IMPACT



Stupid Poodles

Experiment:

Try adding a different type of gradient or maybe try something totally different! Hey, it's your program! Have fun!

Conclusion:

In this tutorial you learned how to add gradients to text and shapes. This knowledge can be useful till the day you die since in some of my other tutorials you need this knowledge to create amazing images! You may even get a few people that ask *Did you make this with Photoshop CS?* You'll reply *Nope*. Then you'll snicker at what you can do with only a "Hobbyist" version of Photoshop. 😊

Photoshop

Elements

Tutorials for the rest of us.