

# WORKING WITH FLAIR

## – HOW TO MAKE THOSE CUTE BUTTONS!

©2010 Stan and Jennifer White/ScrappersWorkshop.com All Rights Reserved- Do not Reproduce in any method, digital or otherwise without express written permission of the authors.

*This tutorial includes instructions/screen shots for PSCS3 and PSE8, if you have other versions of PS or PSE it should work for you too. If you use another program, read carefully and you should be able to figure out which tools do the same thing in your program!*

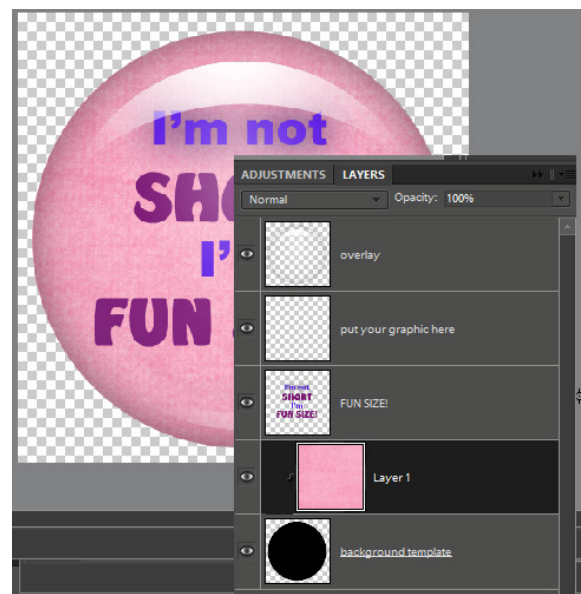


One of the fun new elements we're seeing a lot of in kits are "flair" or those little plastic buttons like the ones we used to pin on in the 70s. These are easy and fun to make, and you'll find lots of uses for them from embellishments to alphas!

### START WITH A TEMPLATE

The quick and easy way to make flair is to start with a template! You can grab our template at: <http://www.scrappersworkshop.com/hosted/SWKSHPlairtemp1.zip>

1. Choose a background. You can use a photo, a paper, or just fill with color or a gradient.
2. Drag your background image onto the template, and move it so it is just above the bottom layer.
3. Clip it to the bottom layer by holding your ALT key, and moving your cursor over the line between the two layers, then when you see the cursor change to two circles with a little arrow, click. This will constrain the background to the shape of the circle.



4. Choose your Type tool and add any type you'd like on your button. You want this layer right above the background layer. Be certain not to get too close to the edges, or it will keep the button from looking too 3D.
5. Save As a new name and a .png file. Now you can drag your new flair onto a layout, add it into an email, or post it as part of your signature!

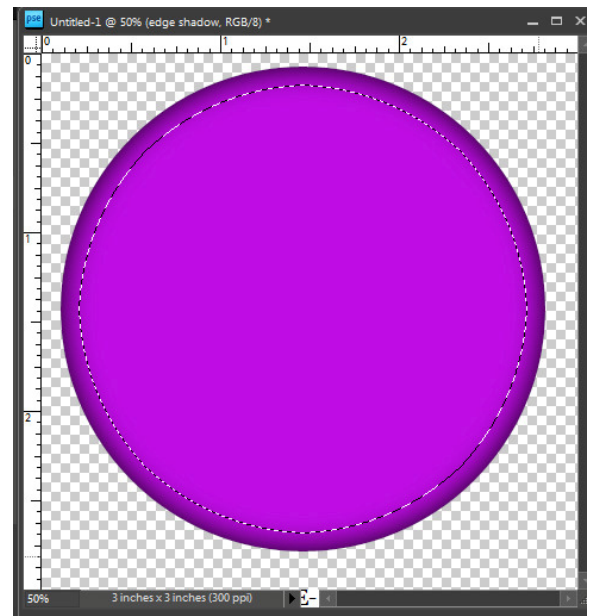
## MAKING IT YOURSELF:

You might want a flair of a different size, or even a different shape! Here's how to make your own template! For our example, we'll start with a 3 inch document. This is a little large for most flair, but you can always resize down.

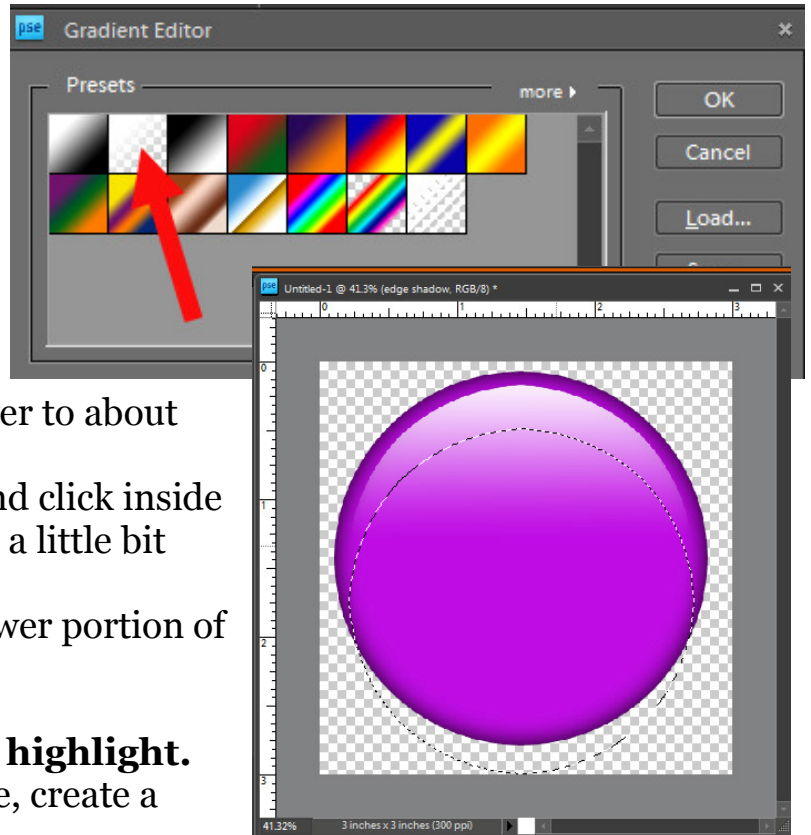
### BASE:

1. **Create your shape.** I recommend you use a color other than black for this. Keep in mind you want to round over any corners, sharp edges do not work well for these. You can use the polygon shape tool to get some fun shapes, just be sure to check the "smooth corners" box. (\*\* if the "smooth corners" setting makes your corners disappear, try this: turn off the smooth, and draw your shape. CTRL click on the layer thumbnail to select the shape, then create a new layer. Go to **SELECT> Modify> Smooth** and enter a value of around 30 points, this will round over your corners. Then fill the selection with your foreground color by holding **ALT** and pressing the Backspace key.)
2. **Create the edge shadows.**
  - a. CTRL click on the layer thumbnail of the shape to create a selection
  - b. Create a new layer by clicking on the new layer icon in the layers palette (looks like a little piece of paper with the corner folded over).
  - c. Click on that layer to make it active, and fill it with black (Hold the ALT key and press Backspace to fill with your foreground color if it's set at black).
  - d. Click on the Marquee tool to choose it.
  - e. Right Click inside the selection and choose Feather. Type in a setting of 25 pixels.
  - f. Press Delete. You should now have a small area of black around your edges.
  - g. Lower the opacity of this layer until you like the look.
  - h. Press CTRL D to get rid of your marching ants.

### 3. PSE- Create the Main Highlight.

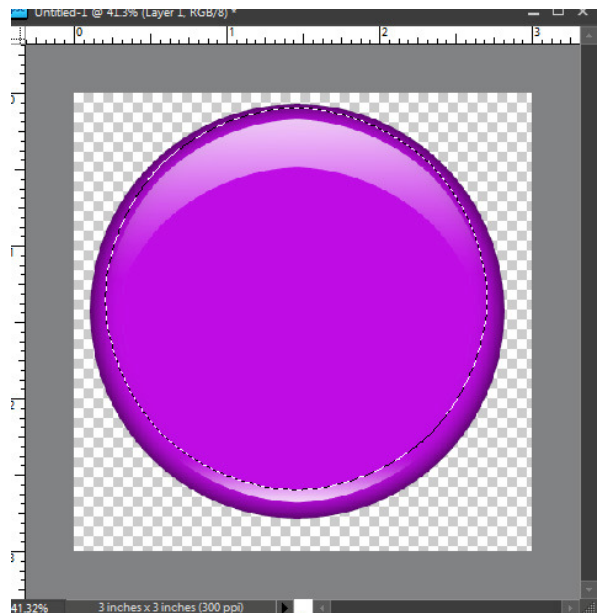


- CTRL click on the layer thumbnail of the shape to create a selection again.
- Go to **SELECT > Modify > Contract** and enter 30 pixels. Your selection will move inward like this:
- Create a new layer by clicking on the new layer icon in the layers palette (looks like a little piece of paper with the corner folded over).
- Click on that layer to make it active, and choose your Gradient tool.
- Press **D** to change your colors to the default Black and White, then press **X** to swap the colors, making white the foreground color.
- Click on the Gradient at the top of the page in the tool options bar. Choose the second option – white with transparent background.
- Click just outside the top of the selection and drag  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{3}$  the way down your shape.
- Lower the opacity of this layer to about 70%.
- Choose the Marquee tool, and click inside the selection and drag down a little bit like this:
- Press **Delete** to delete the lower portion of the highlight.



#### 4. PSE- Create reflected bottom highlight.

- With the selection still active, create a new layer.
- Click inside the selection and drag upward just until you are back where you started. You'll know because the top edge of the selection will line up with your highlight.
- Change back to the Gradient tool.
- Click at the bottom of your shape and drag just a little inward. This is the light reflecting onto the bottom curve of your shape.
- Choose the Marquee tool, and click inside the selection and drag up a little bit like this:
- Press **Delete** to delete the upper portion of the highlight.



- g. Lower the opacity of this layer even lower – to 50% or less.

There you go! To save this as an easy to use template, merge the shadow and highlights layers into one layer. (Hold your CTRL key and click on the shadow and highlight layers in the layers palette to select them, then press CTRL E.)

Now you have a template! You can save this file as is, and use it according to the instructions above for making flair with templates.

#### TIPS AND TRICKS:

- You may need to adjust the opacity of your shadows/highlights layers depending on the background you use. Some darker papers will need a less harsh highlight; lighter papers will need a stronger one.
- Don't be afraid to experiment with where your light is coming from! You can put your top highlight at the top left and the bottom one at the bottom right. Just remember they should always be opposite each other.
- The pixel setting numbers I give here are based on a 3 inch circle. If you are using another shape or smaller or larger circle, you may need to adjust those numbers accordingly. Experiment and do what looks good for you!

Don't forget to show us what you've done in our gallery! If you'd like to share a flair with the group, you can post a link in our crop forum:

<http://www.scrappersworkshop.com/forum/forumdisplay.php?f=15>

Happy Scrapping! *Jenn*