

SCATTERED LEAVES

AND OTHER VARIATIONS

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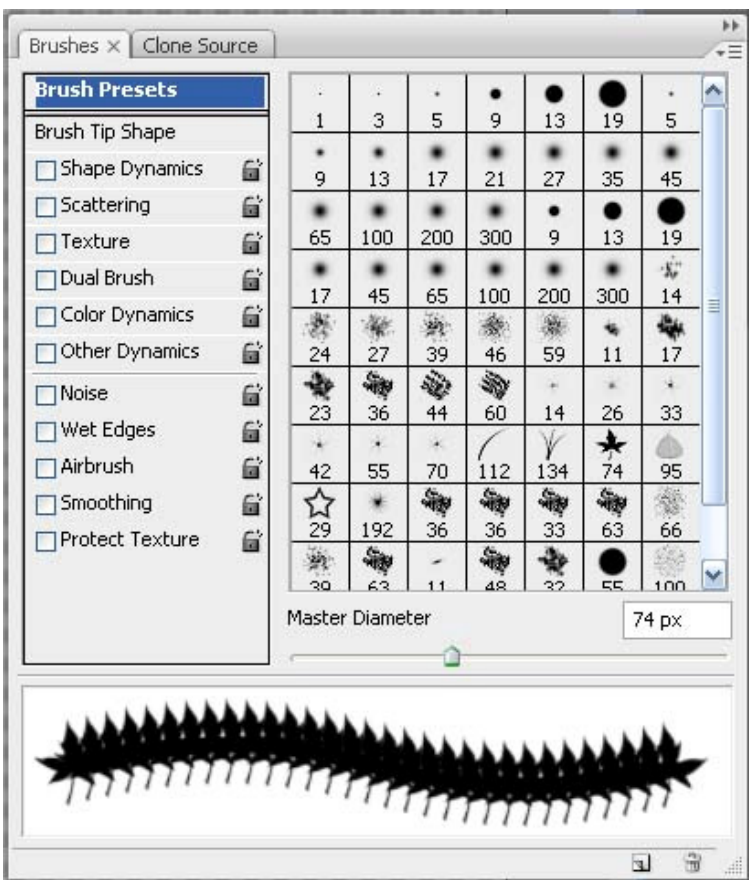
This tutorial is designed for Photoshop CS2/3. It has not been tested in versions below CS2. It will NOT work for Photoshop Elements, please look our PSE specific tuts!

You can achieve many remarkable effects by understanding the brush settings in the Brush Palette. To get to the palette, choose Window>Brushes or pull out the brush palette tab off the side of the palettes bar.

One of the popular uses of these settings are to make artfully strewn designs as on the paper at right.

This tutorial will go over the settings used to get this effect, so that you will have a better idea what all the different parameters are and how you can use them to your advantage!

When you open the Brush Palette, you will see all the setting categories down the left side, and the brush presets that you have loaded to the right. At the bottom is a representation of what the current settings will produce:



The only changes you can make with the Brush Presets category selected are:

Change to a different brush – click on the thumbnail of the brush you'd like to use

Diameter – adjust the Master Diameter slider to set the maximum diameter at which you wish to use the brush. I say 'maximum' because later on we may tell the program to adjust the diameter of the brush, but it will not exceed the diameter you set here.

Next, Click on the Brush Tip Shape category :

You will still see the thumbnails and the diameter, but have several other choices now:

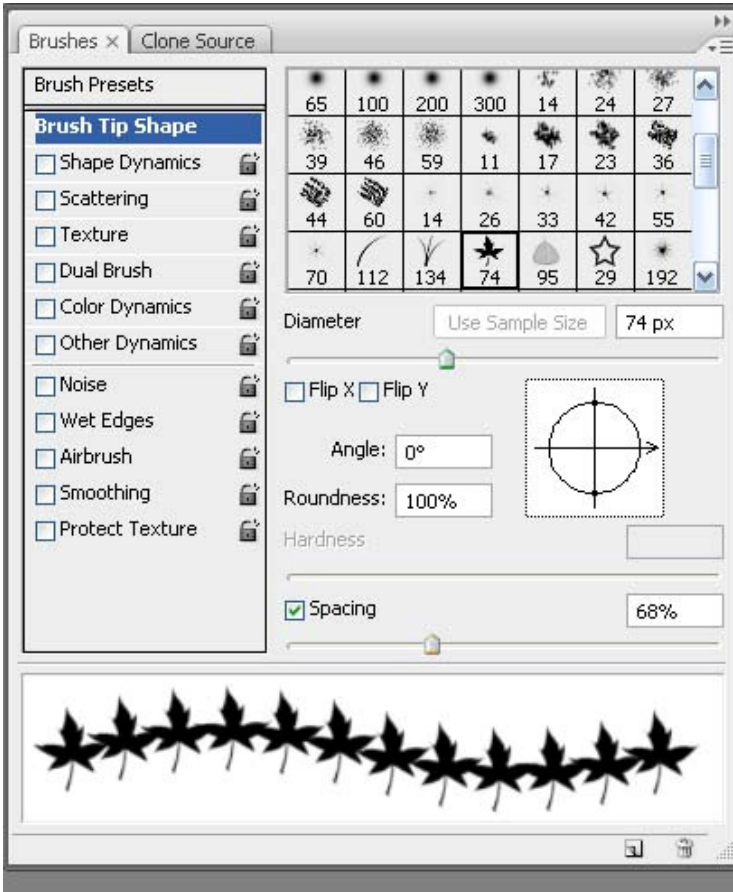
Flip X and Flip Y let you flip the brush shape horizontally or vertically

Angle lets you tilt the brush shape in another direction

Roundness lets you compress the brush shape so that it looks angled.

BOTH of these are controlled by the circle with the cross through it. Click and drag on the arrow to rotate the brush to a new angle, click on the circle where the lines intersect it and drag to compress the shape and adjust the roundness. OR you can just type values into the boxes.

Spacing lets you change how far apart the brush impressions are. You will want to adjust this fairly high to get a nice look on your scattered leaves.

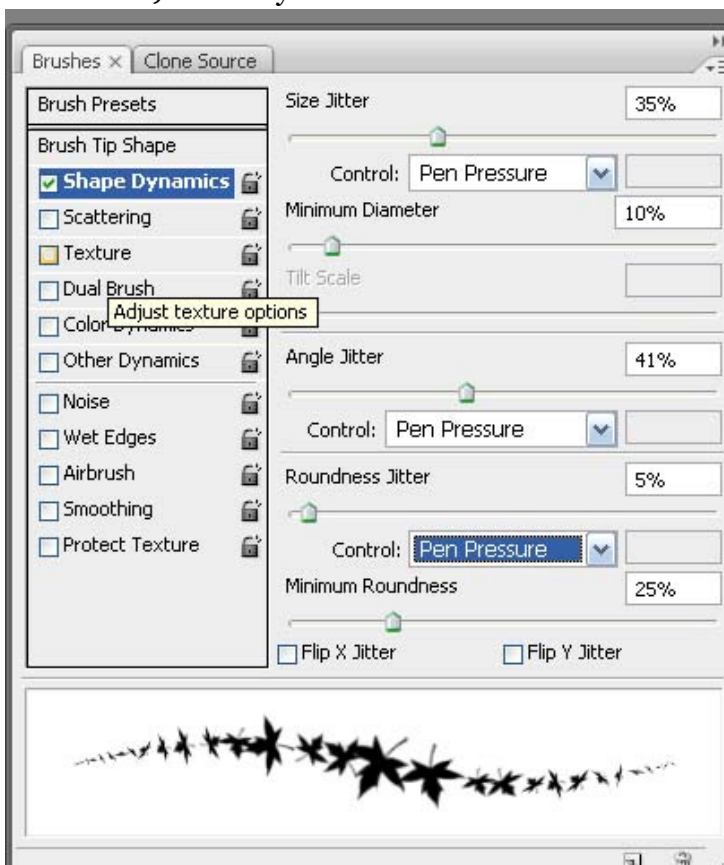


The next category we will work with is the **Shape Dynamics** category. Click on the words (not the check box) so that you can see the sliders. The check boxes are used to let you know you have active settings in that category, and allow you to turn them on and off quickly. To see the settings, you need to click on the word.

Size Jitter – this will make the SIZE of the brush shape vary. If using a tablet, choose Pen Pressure so that when you press harder you get a larger brush shape.

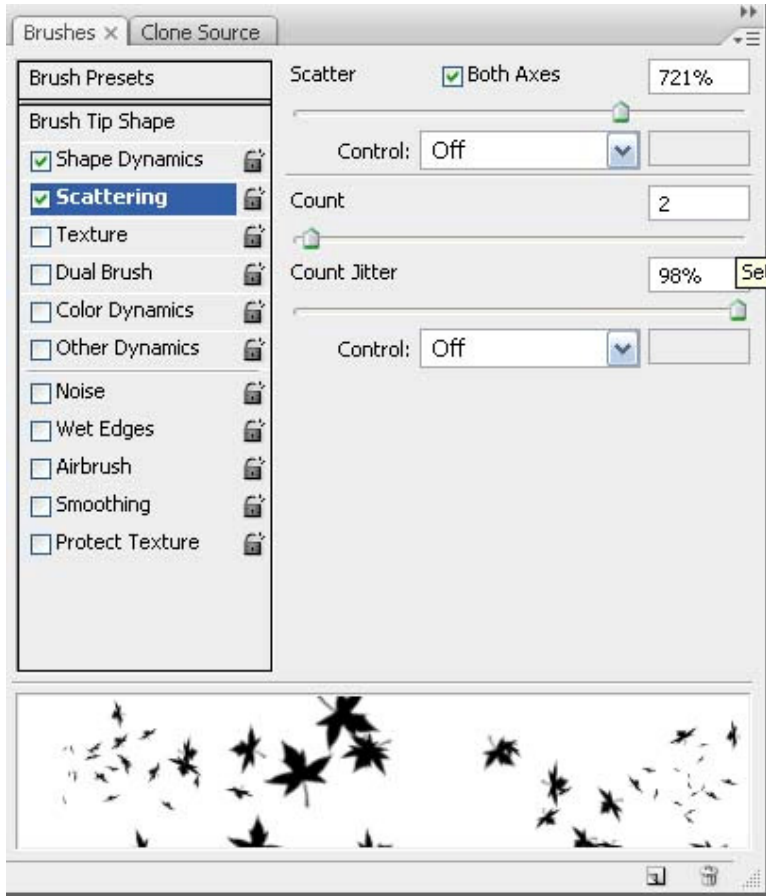
Minimum Diameter – this tells the program you don't want it to adjust the size any smaller than this setting. Remember, we set the maximum size on the Brush Presets box.

Roundness Jitter – this will make the roundness vary. Again, you can set the minimum roundness with the slider – the maximum is set on the Brush Tip Shape box.



Flip X and Flip Y Jitters – by checking these boxes you are telling the program to occasionally flip the brush shape as you stroke the brush.

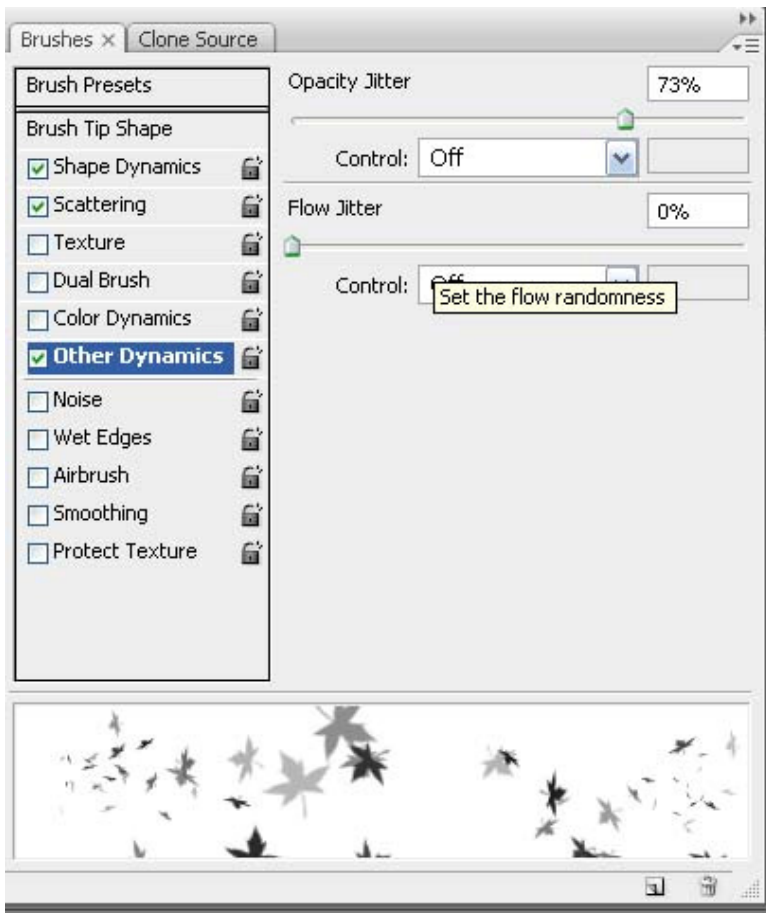
The next parameter we need to change is to get the brush OFF the straight line! We do this under the **Scattering** Category:



Adjust the Scatter slider to control how WIDE an area the shapes will be scattered over – if you are NOT using a tablet, you can leave the control set to Off.

The Count control controls how densely the brush marks are set, the Count Jitter controls how evenly they are scattered. Watch the sample below as you adjust the sliders and you will see what they do.

Already, we are getting close to the look we want!

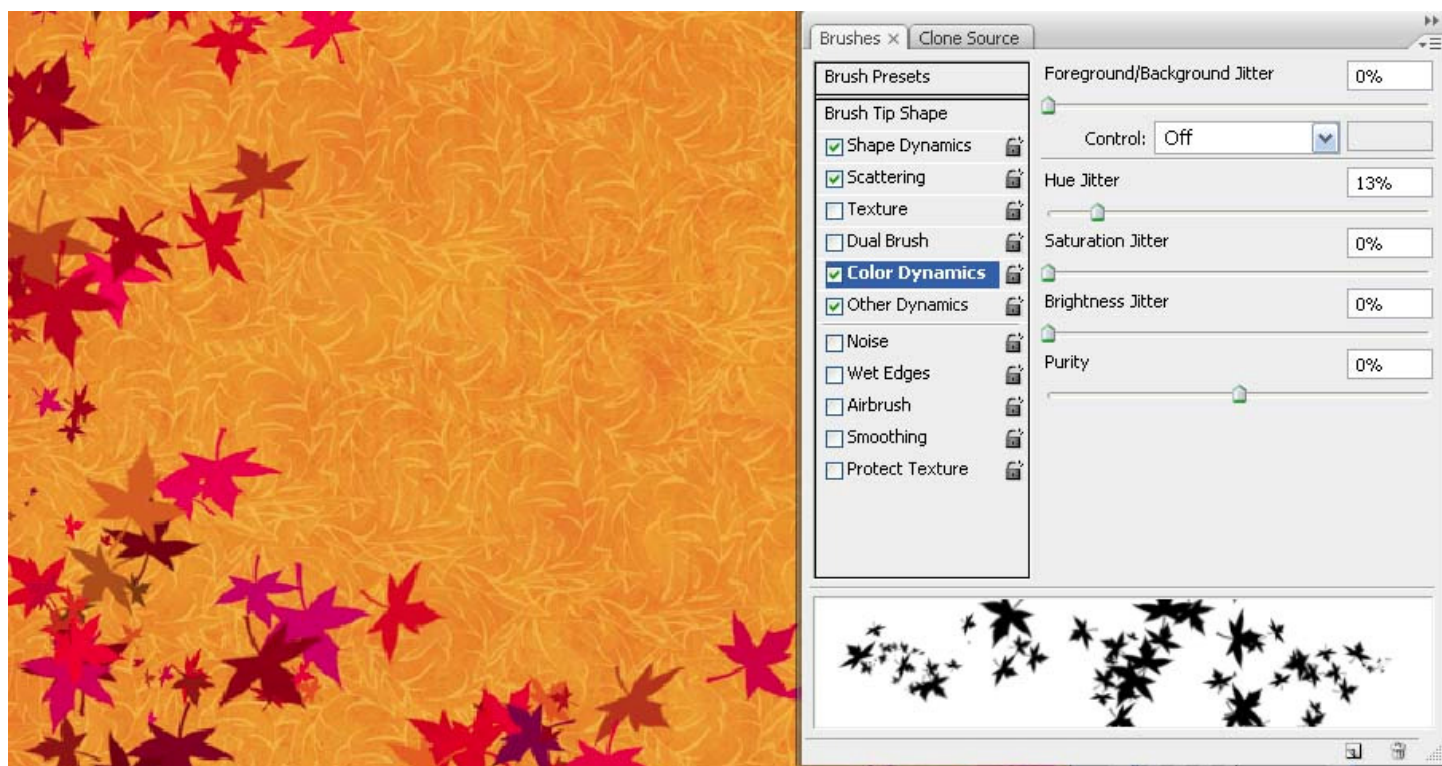


Next, we will look at the **Other Dynamics** category.

Here we can change the **Opacity Jitter – this slider will make some of the brush shapes more transparent than others.**

The Flow jitter adjusts the flow of 'paint' off the brush – we do not use that here.

Next, we will go up one step to Color Dynamics:



By adjusting the Foreground/Background Jitter, you can have the brush range randomly between the colors you have set in your toolbar as foreground and background. If you want a more varied color as I have here, use the Hue Jitter. This will adjust the hue in both directions from the foreground color you start with.

Play with the other sliders and see how it changes. You will notice that the preview window does NOT show color, so you will have to try stroking the brush on your page until you get it set how you like it.

Now go get SCATTERING!! Strew some flowers about with abandon! Drop rose petals along the garden path! Enjoy!

Jenn White

