



INTRODUCTION TO GRAPHICS

Christmas Candy Canes in Photoshop

Information Sheet No.

PS670

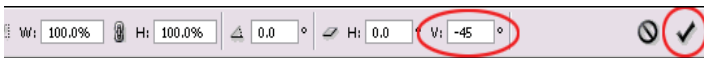
Since the holiday season is upon us once again I thought a festive tutorial was called for.

1. Create a new RGB canvas that is 32 pixels in height and width. Make sure it has a white background. Create a new layer above the background and create a square with the marquee tool that is 16 pixels by 16 pixels. Fill this square with red (R: 255 G: 0 B: 0). Position the square directly in the center of the 32 pixel square canvas.

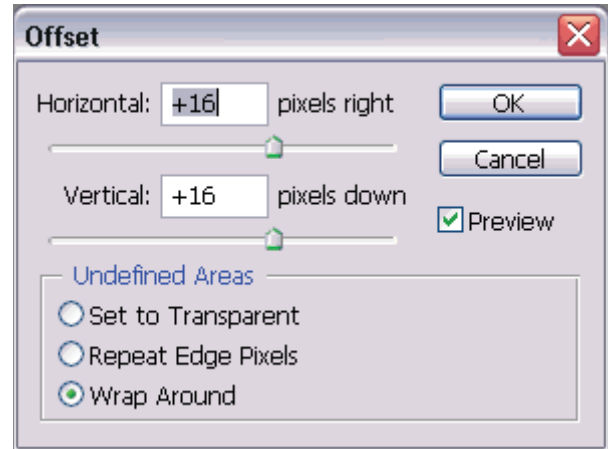
2. Select the red square layer and choose



Edit > Free Transform (Ctrl/Cmd + T). In the options bar set the vertical skew to -45 degrees. Hit the checkmark or Enter to commit the transformation.

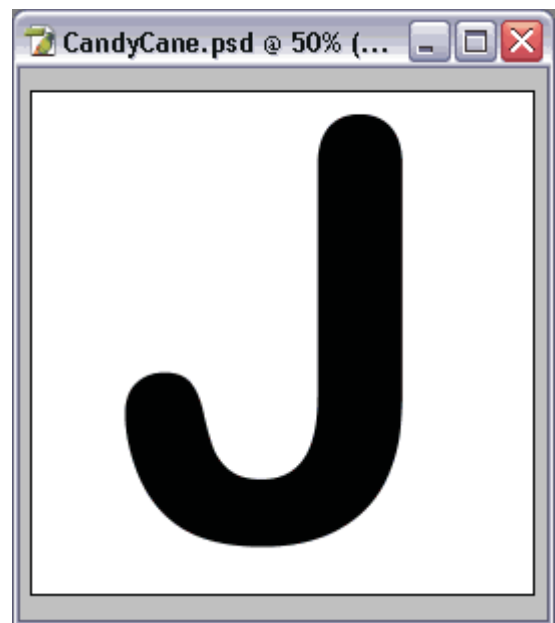


3. Duplicate the red square layer. With the new layer active, Choose Filter > Other > Offset. Enter the following settings.

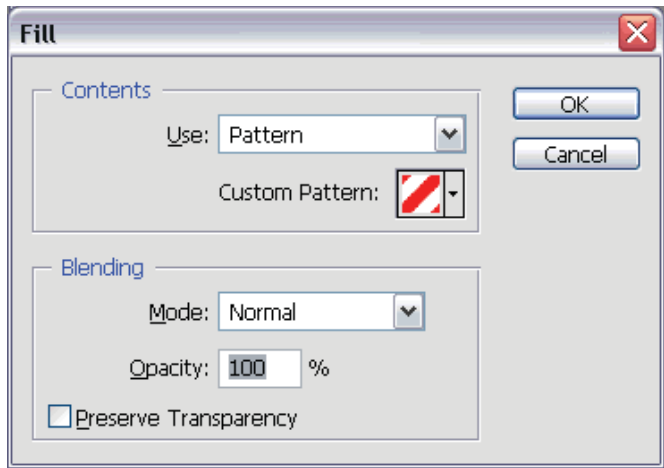
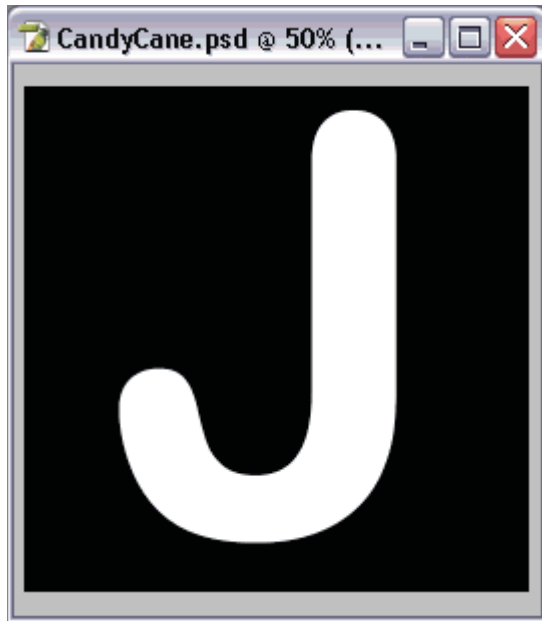


4. Choose Select > All. Then choose Edit > Define Pattern to make this selection a pattern.

5. Next, create a new document that is 500 by 500 pixels in size. Using the type tool, create a large J on the canvas. Use a large round font for this. I used Arial Rounded set around 500 pt. for this example.



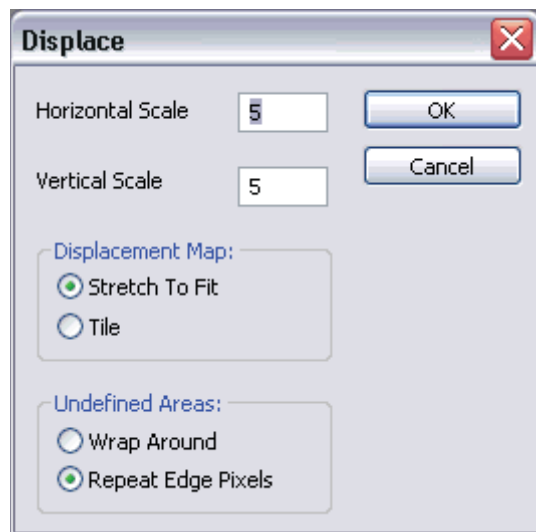
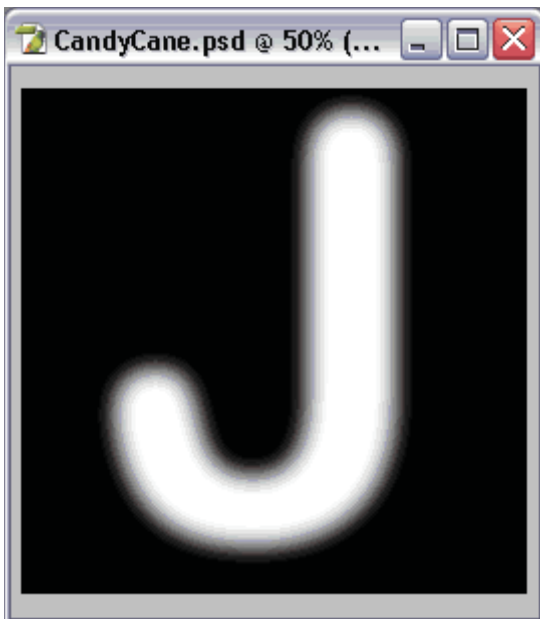
6. Ctrl + Click on the J layer to put a selection around it. Move over to the Channels palette and create a new channel. Fill this channel with white. Deselect the J (Ctrl/Cmd + D).



7. Choose Filter > Blur > Gaussian Blur. Enter 10 for the radius setting. Choose Select > All once again. Copy (Ctrl/Cmd + C) this selection. Hit Ctrl/Cmd + N to create a new file. Paste this selection in to the new file, however, do not close the file with the original J yet. Save it as CandyCaneMap.psd on your U:/ drive.



9. Choose Filter > Distort > Displace. Enter the following settings and click OK. You will then be prompted to select a displacement map file. Choose the file we saved in step 7.



8. Go back to the file with the original J. Hide the J layer. Create a new layer on top. Choose Edit > Fill. Select Pattern for the Use option and pick your red and white striped pattern from the list. Click OK to fill the new layer with this pattern.

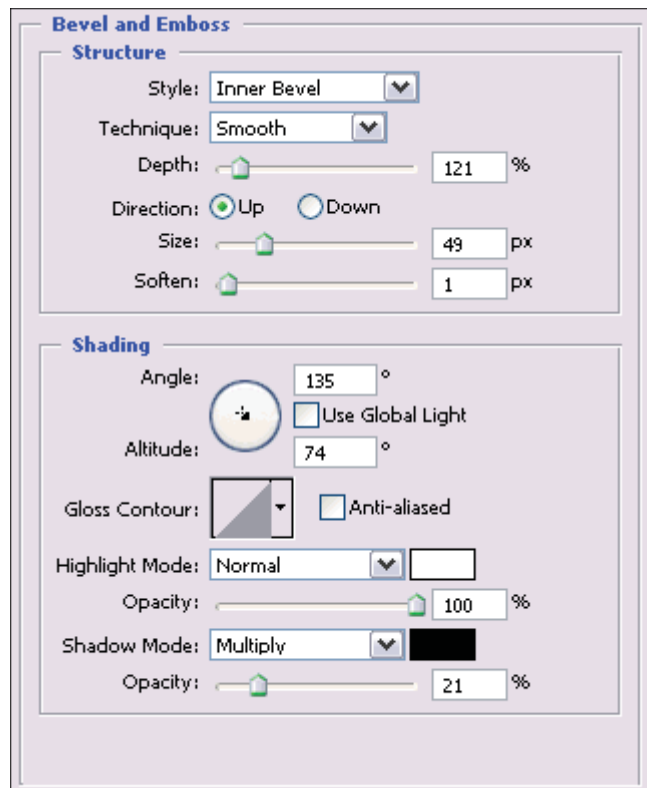
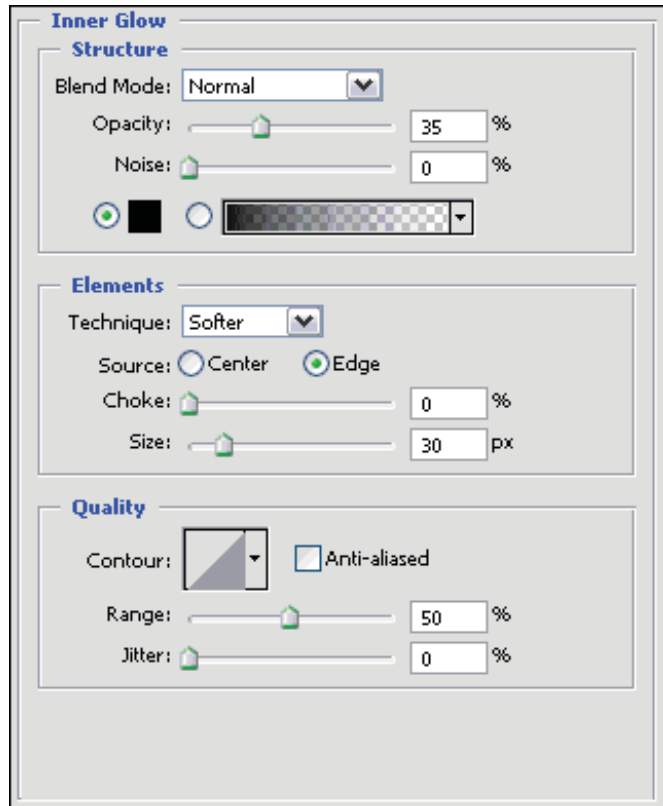
10. You should now have something similar to this reference image.



11. Next, Ctrl/Cmd + Click on the hidden J text layer to put a selection around it. Hit Ctrl/Cmd + Shift + I to select the Inverse. Be sure the striped pattern layer is active and hit delete. You should be left with this:



12. Choose Edit > Transform > Flip Vertical. Then double click the layer to bring up the layer styles dialog box. Add an Inner Shadow and a Bevel and Emboss layer style to this layer with the following settings.



13. That's it. Looks yummy doesn't it. You can add a few extra elements to add to the holiday cheer. Also, this effect is not limited to a candy cane. You can use the same steps to create candy cane text.

Using your imagination, this is possible:

