



# INTRODUCTION TO GRAPHICS

## Christmas Wreath in Photoshop

Information Sheet No.

PS678

Welcome to another Christmas tutorial . This Information Sheet will teach you how to create a Christmas wreath using that tool using the brush tools.

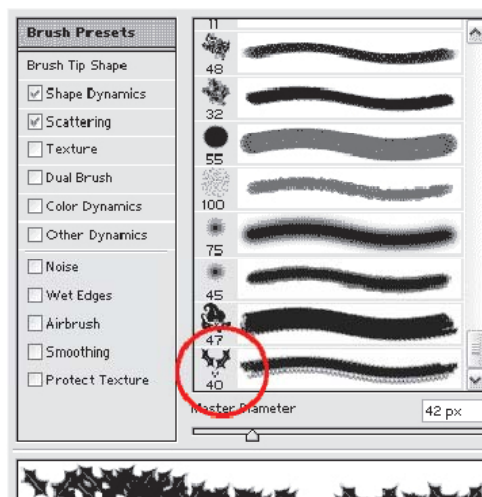
Create a new document 500 by 500 pixels in size. Start off by creating acustom brush. Go to the custom shapes selection list and find the holly leaf shape - it looks like this :



Make sure your foreground color is black and drag one onto the stage. Size really doesn't matter but make it around the size shown in the sample image. Now if its not already, go ahead an Rasterize this layer. Next, grab the rectangular marquee tool, hold Shift and drag a square marquee around the Shape. It should look something like this now.



Then go to Edit->Define Brush and click OK. Now you have a custom brush to use - it will be available in the brushes palette (probably at the bottom).

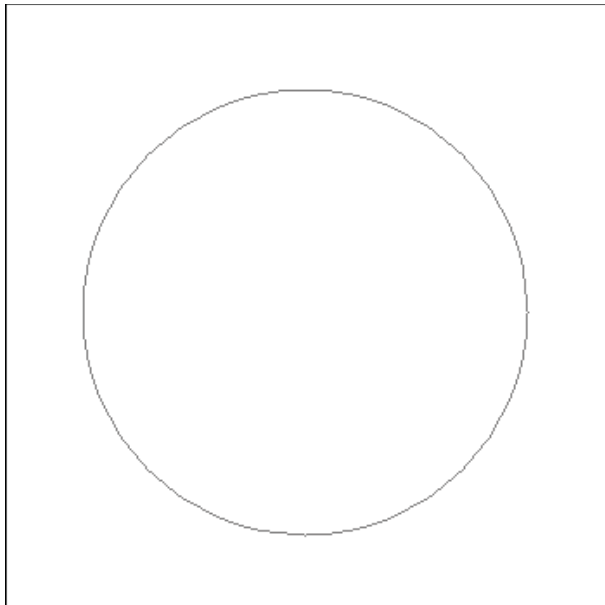


Next, create a new layer. Make the ellipse custom shape tool active and select the 'paths' option in the tool palette at the top.

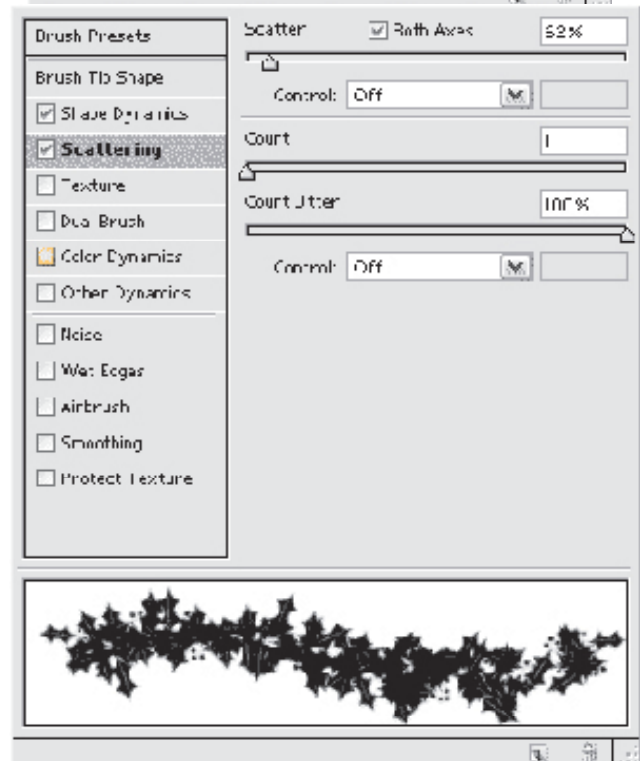
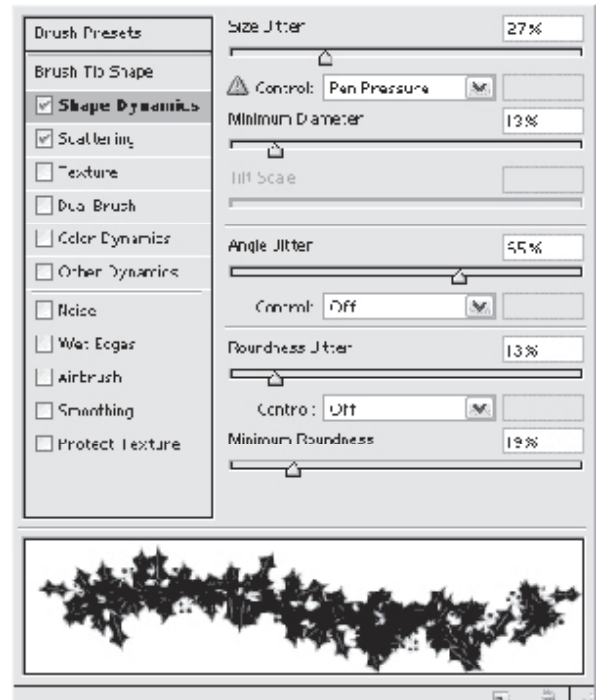
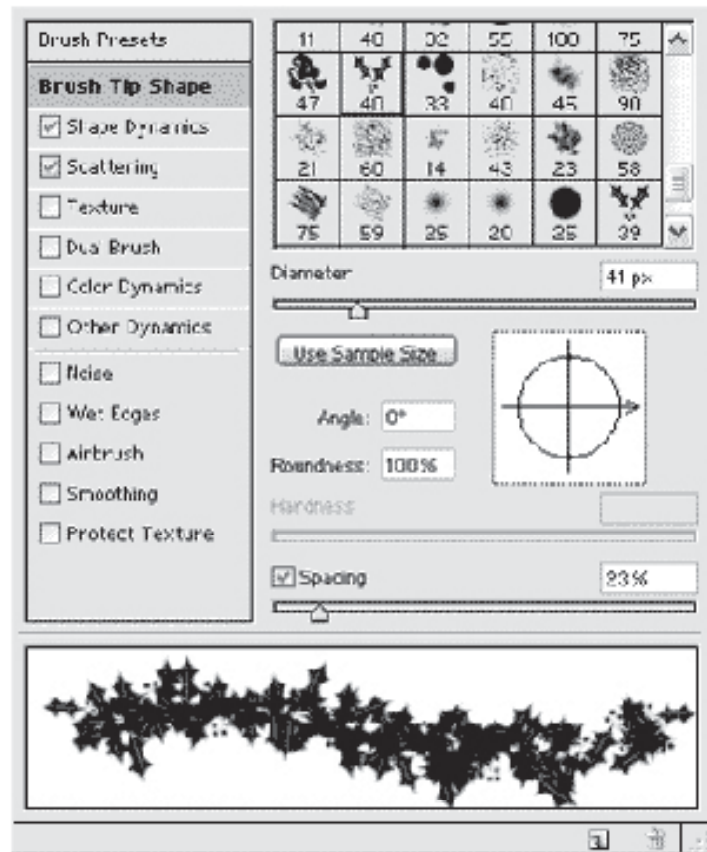


Now go to your Paths palette - before you freak out about the Paths palette, its really not that hard so just follow along. Create a new path by clicking on the icon at the bottom of the palette. Then while holding down Shift, drag out a circle and position it shown. (**Tip:** Create another new path and click on it if you ever want to hide the annoying path selection outline that you see).





Now select the brush tool. Then open the brush palette. Not the little one that just allows you to pick a brush but the one with all of the options (Go to Window->Brushes if you can't find it). Find the holly brush that you created (it should be at the bottom). Select that brush and then change the brush settings to be like the screenshots shown here.

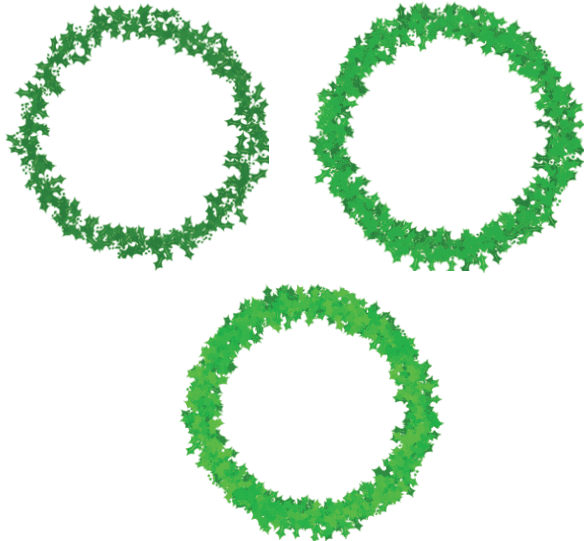


Then set your foreground color to #346E3E - click the 'Stoke Path with Brush' button at the bottom of the Path palette - it looks like this

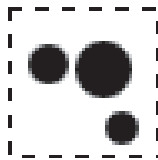


Make sure your brush tool is active in the tools palette or this won't work correctly. Notice how this strokes the layer that is active in your layers palette, even though you can't see it. Now go to the layers palette again and create a new

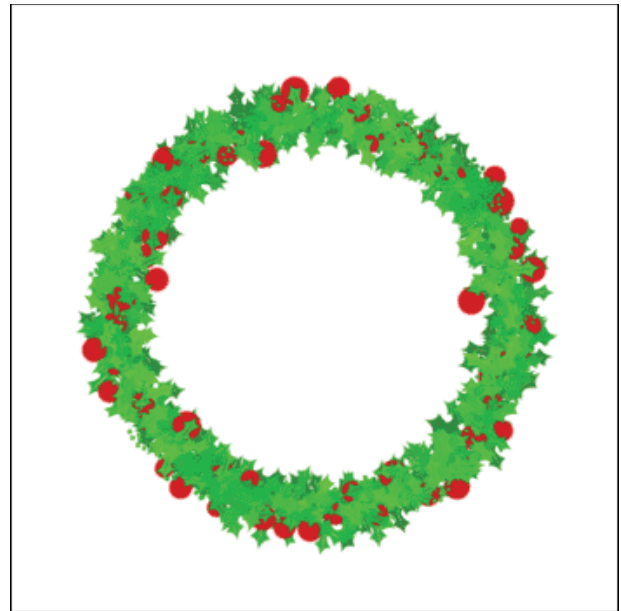
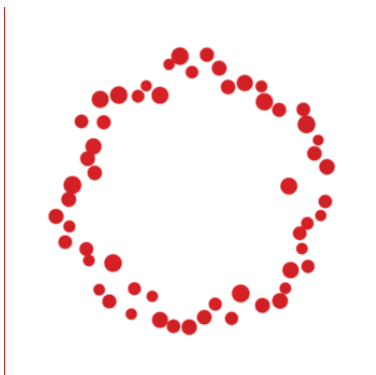
layer on top. Change your foreground color to #30A643. Go back to the Paths palette and hit the stroke path button again, still making sure that your brush tool is active. Now create a new layer on top again. Make your foreground color #3CE056 and stroke this layer with the brush again in the paths palette. You should now have three layers with holly leaves on them.



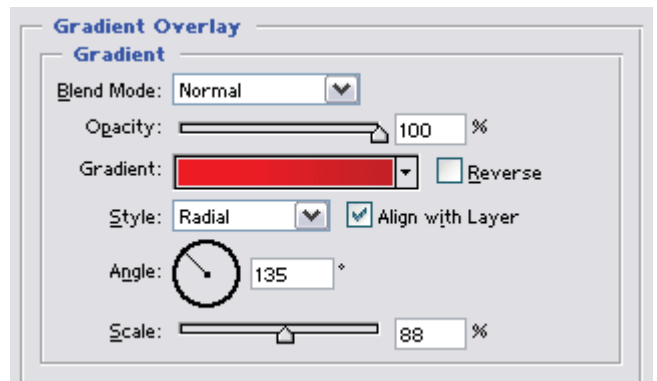
Next, using the ellipse tool, create three small circles of varying size like as shown here. Turn off all of the other layers, put a square selection around them with the marquee tool and go to Edit->Define Brush.



Now, create a new layer, select the brush tool and pick your new brush. Go back to the Paths palette and stroke the path with this new brush. Drag this layer just below the top holly leaf layer so the berries mix in. You may turn off the other layers in the first image to show what you should end up with.

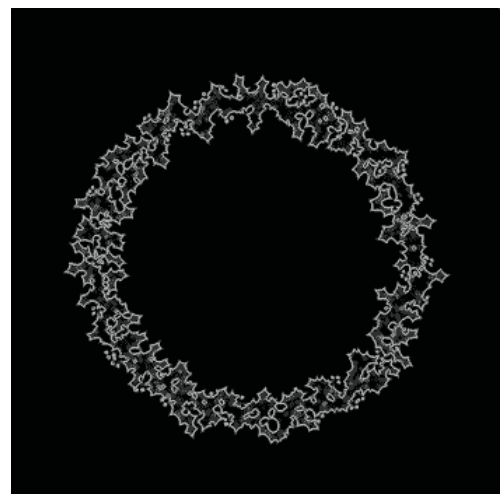


Now add a layer style to the berries layer. Follow the settings shown.



Create a new layer on top of the others. Ctr+Click on the top most holly leaf layer to get a selection. Go to Edit->Stroke and stroke this selection with the settings of 1 pixel and white for the color. Hit Ctrl+D to deselect.

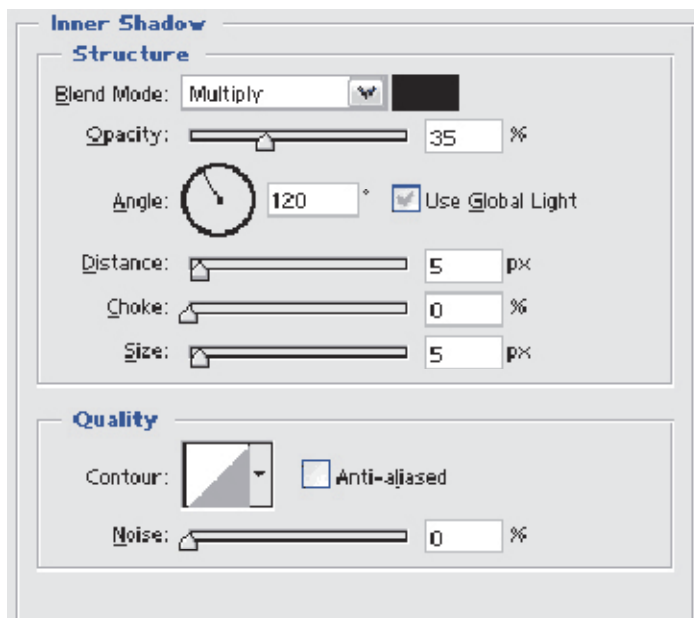
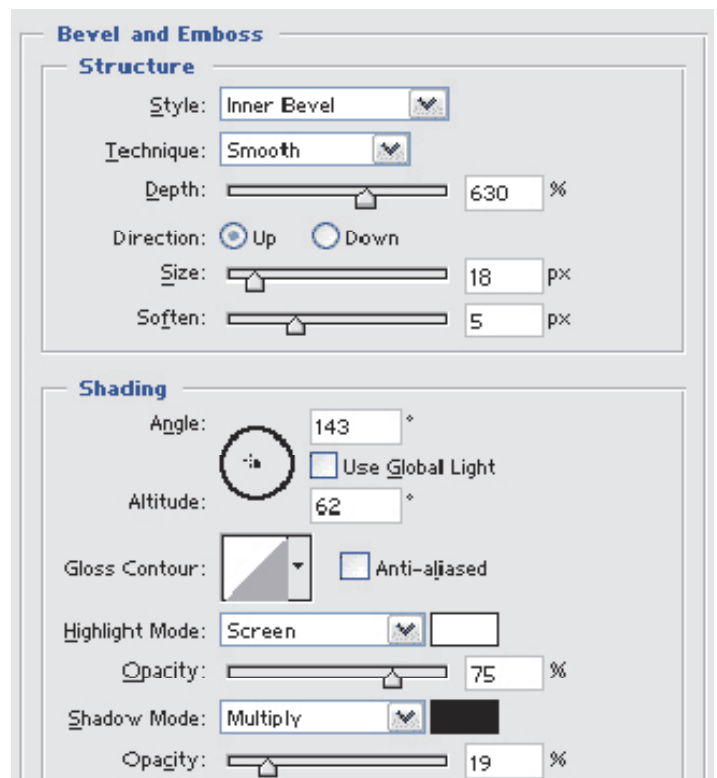
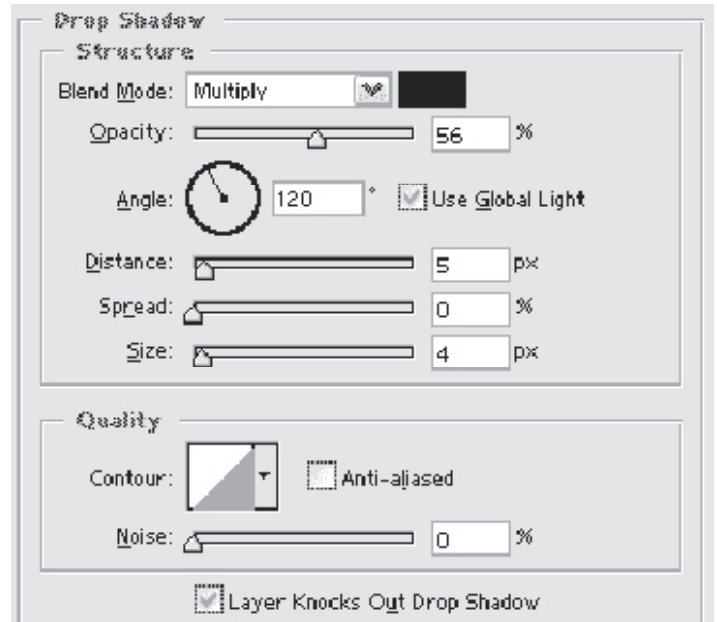
Here all of the other layers have been hidden and the background made black so you could see more clearly.



Next, run the Filter->Blur->Gaussian Blur filter on this layer with 1 - 1.6 for settings. You just want to blur a little - this will be your highlights layer. Then, duplicate this layer and hit Ctrl+I to invert the colors - this will be our shadows layer. Nudge this down and to the right by 2-4 pixels. Now nudge the highlights layer up and to the left a few pixels. Then set both of the layer modes to Overlay. This adds a bit more depth and realism to the leaves.



Finally, we'll add a bow. Luckily Photoshop 7 & CS come with a custom shape that does this for us. You may have to load the "Objects" custom shape set to see it. Select the custom shape tool and draw a red bow on a new layer. Then add the following layer styles to it and your pretty much done.



This is the result you are seeking.



Now head over to the candy cane and bell tutorials and create some nice elements with which to decorate your wreath.