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Creating Text with Smoke



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“ I am excited as I am writing this tutorial; I have just acquired a new toy: my Wacom Intuos 3 tablet. Always constrained by the limited capabilities of a mouse, I thought I couldn't draw or paint. Since I started with my Wacom tablet, I discovered a new talent in myself!

In this tutorial, I am sharing my newfound knowledge. You will be learning how to create text using smoke – a very laborious task with the mouse but a breeze if you have a grip pen. Join me and discover your own drawing talents too!”



Shirley Tan
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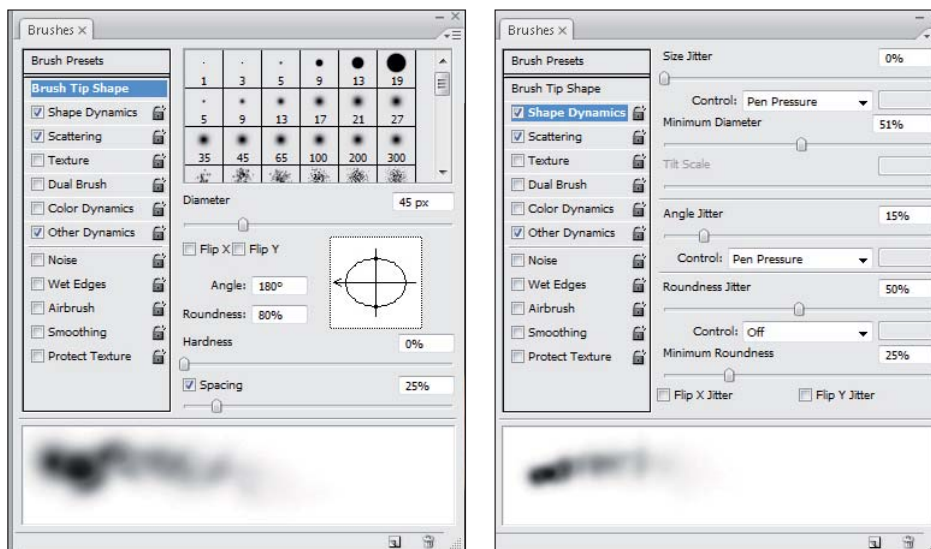
As the anti-smoking campaign is so strongly advocated recently, let's do our part and learn how you could put together a poster with Photoshop and a Wacom tablet.

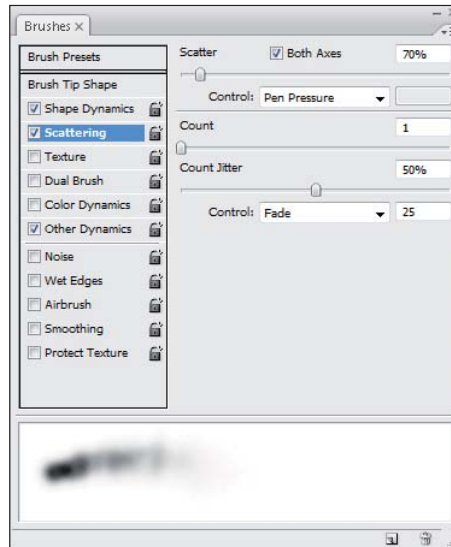
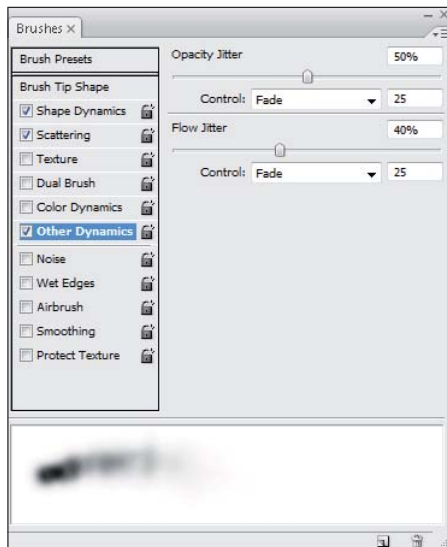
Creating the background

- 1) Start with an image that is relevant for this poster. I am using one that show a pair of hands holding a cigar.
- 2) Using the *Type tool*, write your message. I am writing a simple yet strong word: *Quit*.



- 3) Add a new layer and rename it *Smoke*.
- 4) Select the *Brush tool* and customised it according as below:





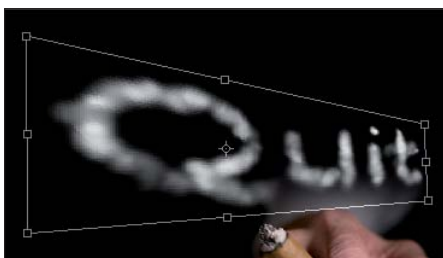
Adding the Smoke

- 5) Once you have customised these settings, paint over each letter with the Brush tool. Vary your pen pressure to achieve a very natural stroke.
- 6) Off the visibility for the text layer when you have completed all the painting.



Transforming the text to fashion smoke

- 7) Select **Edit > Transform > Distort**. Using the corner handles, transform the text such that they are smaller at one end and gradually grow towards the further end.

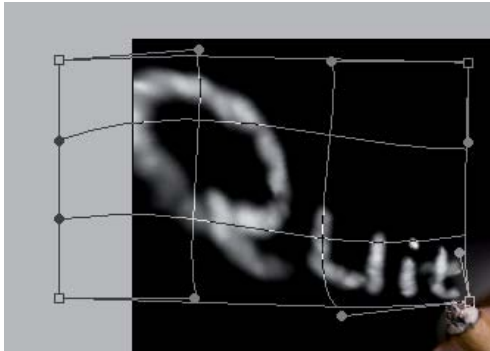


- 8) Depending on the content of your image, you may also need to rotate the text a little to fit the angle.



Warping for realism

- 9) To add some realism to our smoke, select **Edit > Transform > Warp**.



- 10) Drag the warping grid to form a wave with the smoke.
- 11) Press **Command + J** (Mac) or **Ctrl + J** (Win) to duplicate the current layer.
We are about to add some movement to the existing smoke.
- 12) Choose **Filter > Blur > Motion Blur**. I am using a negative angle of -88 and a distance of about 90 pixels.



You managed that? This effect is now ready to send your intended message. The process of creating this effect was hastened dramatically with the a pressure-sensitive pen. It gives you an advantage in painting the smoke. Do try them out and experience it yourself.