

PaintShop Pro Tutorials

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Create Custom Brushes From Photographs

Paintshop Photo Pro X3
Can be done in earlier versions

Level : Easy

Materials Required : Photographs

To copy the image from a .pdf select the Camera, draw a selection around the image, right click Copy Selected Image and paste into PSP as a New Image. If using Adobe Reader, you may be able to just right click, copy.



Right click on the image in the layer palette, and promote background layer.

The image has a nice, clean, black background so it will be easy to remove using the magic wand. Choose the magic wand with a tolerance of 28, 0 feather and tap in the black area. Hit the delete key.

Your image should now look like the one on the right

Select the crop tool and crop in close, but not touching the flower.



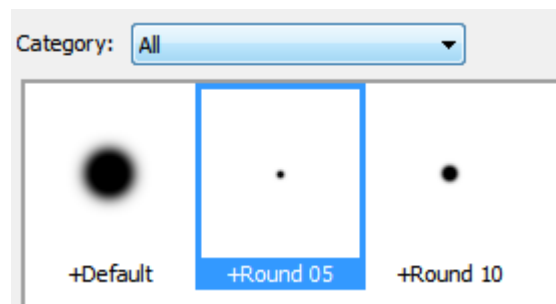
Go to selections, select all, selections again and invert.

On the layer palette, decrease the opacity of the flower to 80.

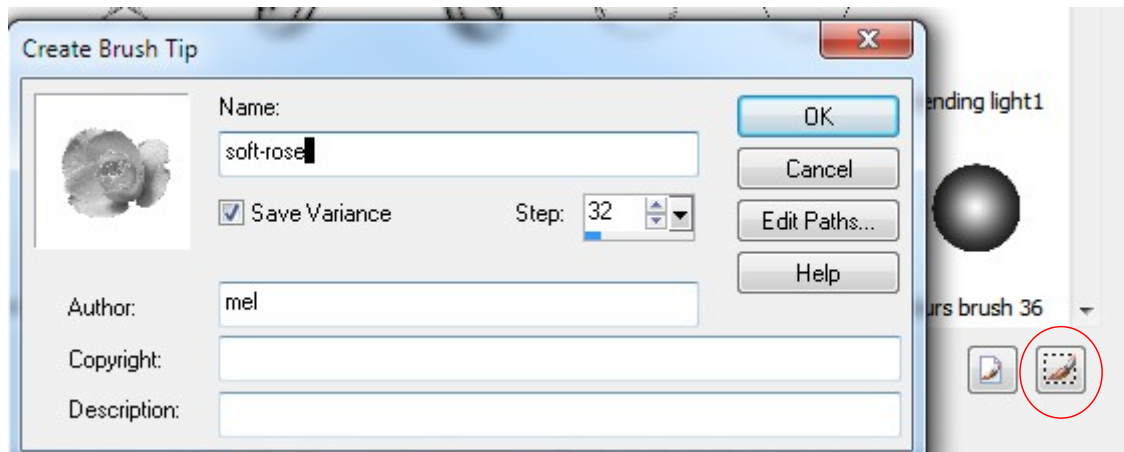
Click on the paintbrush



Open the brush category window and select any round brush.



At the lower edge of the category window is a small icon of a selection surrounding a brush, click it open. A dialogue window opens Create Brush Tip. Give your brush a name and give yourself credit as the author. Click the Edit Paths to ensure the brush is going into the correct folder. Click ok.



Open a blank, white canvas. Select the brush or airbrush and locate the new brush you have just made.



Dab the brush on the canvas. If your current materials palette is displaying foreground and background default black and white, the rose will be grey, so choose a colour. The rose is a very soft, delicate colour even if you choose a dark colour.

Try the airbrush. Using the airbrush is a little different to the paintbrush. The airbrush 'sprays' the paint onto the canvas. The more you spray, the darker the image, until you reach the desired colour in the colour palette.

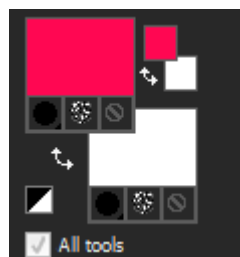


One dab of the airbrush



Two dabs of the airbrush

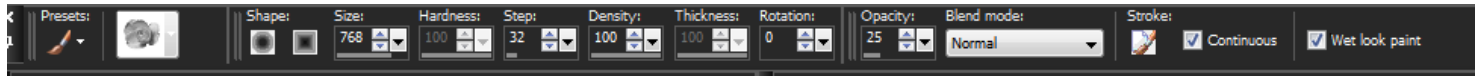
This one I held the brush down more than twice – see how dark the colour has become.



Another way of extracting an image from a photograph is using the Lasso tool. The best method to use is the Smart Edge.

When a brush is selected, you have several options open to you

If you look on the brushes menu bar there is opacity, blend modes, stroke, continuous and wet look paint. This menu only appears when either the paintbrush or airbrush is activated.



There's no need for me to explain the **brush size** or **shape** or **opacity**, however, if you have a preset shape brush and click on the shape, it will immediately choose a round or square brush.

Hardness is determines how sharp the edges will be on the brush stroke. The higher the number the sharper the brush. Lower the number and the brush will have softer edges.

Step determines the time interval that elapses between paint strokes. Each application is defined as a single, continuous brushstroke.

If using the airbrush, set density lower than 100%.

Thickness determines the width of the brushstroke. A setting of 100% will produce a completely round brush or square brush, depending on the shape setting. If using a preset, customised brush, this will not apply and you will see that thickness is greyed out.

Opacity I think we all know about. The higher the percentage, the more cover of the brush, the lower the percentage, the lighter and softer the brushstroke will be.

Blend Mode determines how pixels are blended with underlying layers. They act in the same way as the layer blend modes, but when using a paintbrush, the blend only applies to the brushstrokes. One of the blend modes in this category is Paint Behind. If painting is done behind the image on the active layer, no paint will be visible when the topmost layer and the active layer are fully opaque.

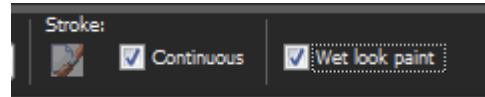
Rate when using the airbrush, the rate can be between 0 and 50. The higher the number will apply more paint, so naturally, the lower the number, the lighter the paint.

The following three settings interact with each other as you will now see.

Stroke allows you to build up paint. There are two icons, stroke and continuous.

If there are no paint strokes on the canvas, the stroke icon will be greyed out.

Apply a few paint strokes and the icon will be highlighted.



This application only applies when actual paint strokes have been applied to the canvas.

Paint a couple of strokes, click on the stroke icon and the paint will be applied over the top as shown below. To the left is normal brushstrokes and to the right wet paintstrokes.



Continuous specifies whether paint builds up when multiple brushstrokes are applied over the same area with opacity set at less than 100%. If the continuous is ticked the paint strokes you can paint over and over the canvas and there will be no difference in effect. Untick continuous and the paintstrokes are not continuous as shown in the image below right.



Wet Look Paint tick this box to mimic a watercolour effect of the brushstrokes. The inside is lighter whilst the outer edges are darker. Lower the values in hardness to give better results.

Courtesy Corel

The blend mode for the brushes is different to that of the layers. The layers blend mode affects the whole layer, the brushes blend only applies to the paint you apply with the brush.

There is one blend in particular, paint behind. Add a new layer above the background and paint a few strokes on the canvas in normal blend mode. Change to paint behind, select another colour and paint a few strokes. The strokes are painted behind the first paintstrokes.

I painted lilac first the behind green. The blend has produced a blue colour.



Experiment with the different blend modes; you'll be surprised as some of the fascinating colours you can get.

One other aspect of using brushes is the Brush Variance. The brush variance does not work with the Art Media, only the paintbrush and airbrush.

What do these options do? One way to find out is by experimenting with the various settings and see some of the effects you can get.

Have fun and happy painting!

