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Compelling. Visual. Content



## News

### This Month in the News

25 Shopping days til Christmas. Might we suggest a new computer. Try <http://www.geared2play.com>. Just purchased a new laptop from them and had a great experience! This month's e-list is going out to those photoshop users. We will be exploring some great tricks to help your photoshop skills.

### Contest Winners

It isn't too late to get into our newest competition. This contest builds on the last couple of e-lists' information on how to get better Google placement and pagerank. See the CONTEST section for more details.

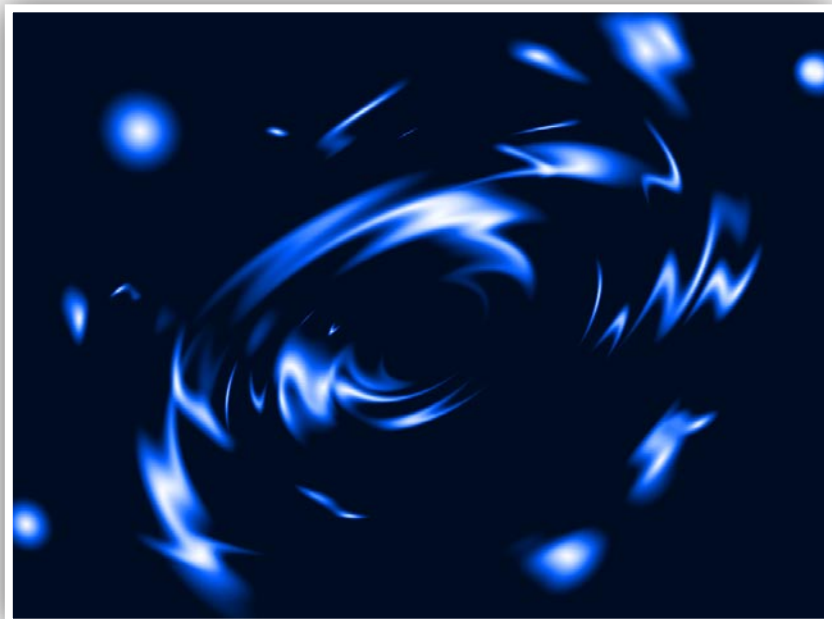
### Writers

AH Digital FX Studios is looking for Actionscript 2.0 coders to support the Flash Community and submit tutorials on Actionscript 2.0. All submissions may be sent to [info@ahfx.net](mailto:info@ahfx.net).

We are also looking for graphic designers that would like to be published in our monthly e-list. We are looking for designers to teach solid principles that everyone can practice and use in their designs. All submissions may be sent to [info@ahfx.net](mailto:info@ahfx.net)

### Unique Artwork

AH Digital FX Studios is calling to the graphic designers out there. We are looking for unique artwork to be displayed in subsequent editions of the E-list. All artwork submitted needs to be in jpg format and should include all pertinent contact information, so that we can give credit to the correct individual. Owners of artwork chosen for the E-list will be notified via e-mail of the edition that will contain their artwork. Send submissions to [info@ahfx.net](mailto:info@ahfx.net). Not all entries will be placed in the E-list. Void where prohibited. Contact AH Digital FX Studios for more information.



## Toolbox

### Great Signature

Ever wonder how people on the forums create those great looking signature graphics?

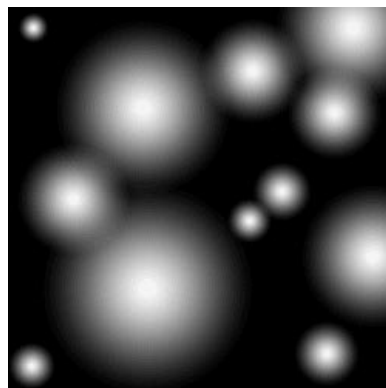


They are easy to create and can quickly add to your forum signature. Here are the steps.

1. Make a new document any size you want, mine is 500x500px. On the background layer use the Paint bucket tool (G) to fill it with black. Create a new layer and call it orbs. Get your Gradient Tool (G) and set your foreground to white and setting like the image.

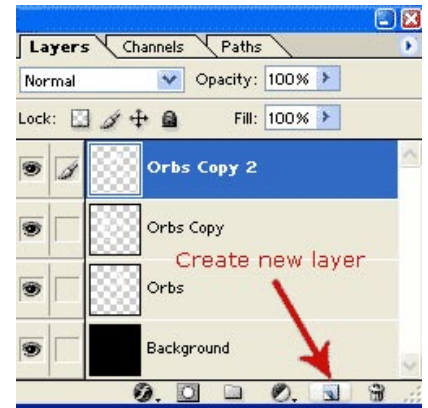


2. On the Orbs layer drag the gradient tool (G) from one point to another to make an orb looking thing make a bunch of different size orbs.

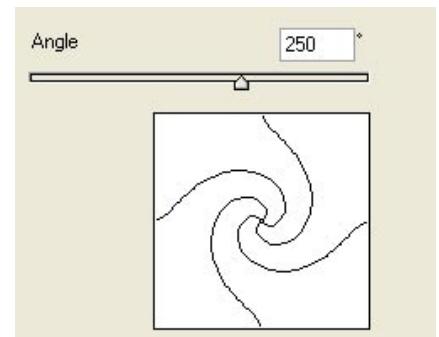


## Toolbox (cont.)

3. Now you should have a black background layer and a layer with all the orbs on it. Click on the layer with the orbs on it and drag it down to the little page icon next to the trash icon. This will duplicate the layer; do this one more time so you have 3 orb layers in all.



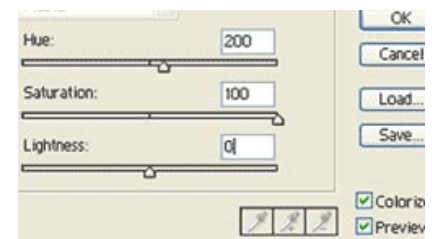
4. On the first the orb layer go to Filter >> Distort >> Twirl. Set angle to 250. On the 2nd orb layer do the same Filter >> Distort >> Twirl but with the angle to -250.



5. On the third orb layer go to Filter >> Distort >> Wave. Play with the settings and use the randomize button to get different results.



6. Go to Layer >> Merge visible. Press Ctrl+U to colorize the image, then check the colorize box and play with the scrollers to change the color of your image.



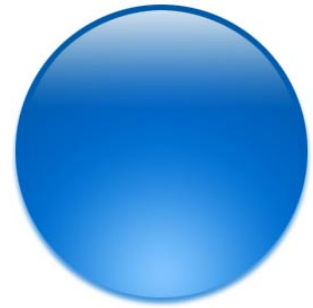
*This tutorial came from <http://www.unlimit-3d.com/index.php?page=tutorials&id=7>*

## Toolbox (cont.)

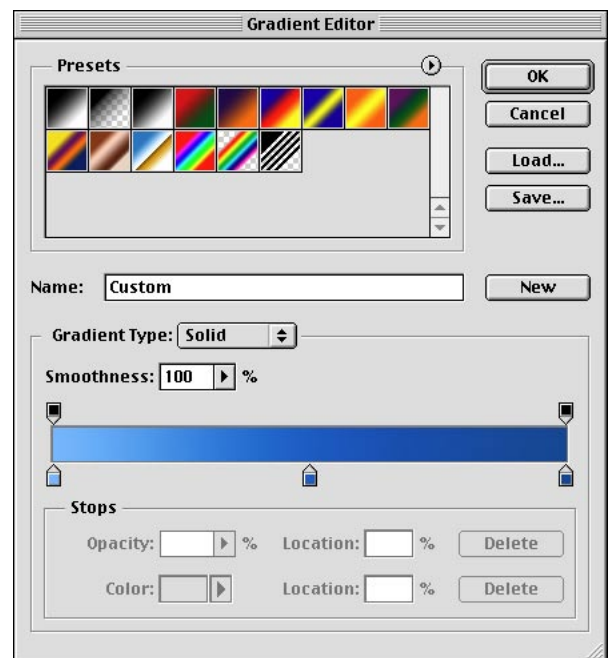
### Glass Orbs

Lately I have noticed more and more of these glass orbs (especially with this color scheme) popping up all over the place. So here is how they are done.

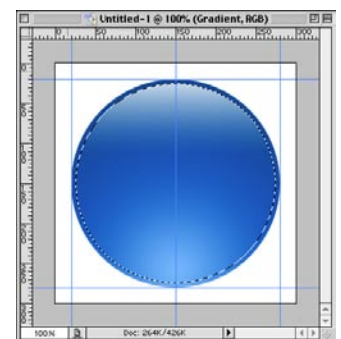
1. Make a new document and set the background color to White.
2. Make a new layer and call it Gradient.
  - a. Using the circle marquee tool, make a perfect circle (hold shift).



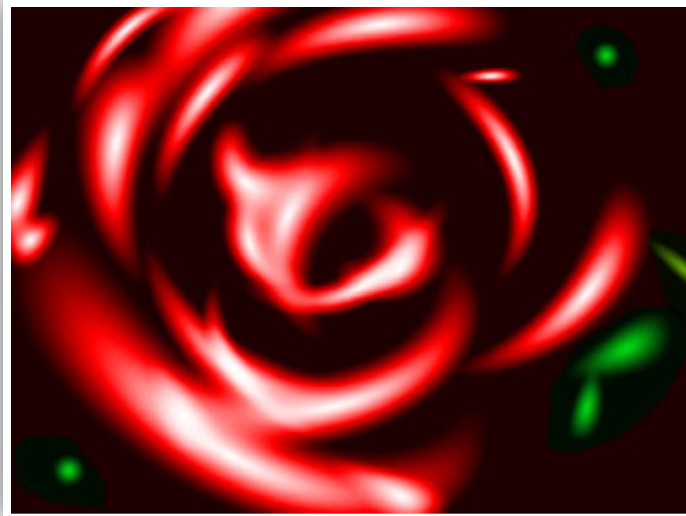
3. Go to the gradient editor and use this set-up.
  - a. From Left to Right:  
First Color: 81C5FF  
Second Color: 0070CF  
Third Color: 005AA6
  - ii. Set the gradient to Radial. Starting from a few pixels above the bottom middle of the circle marquee, drag the gradient tool up to the top of the marquee.



4. Make a new layer and call it Glare.
  - a. Select > Modify > Contract 5 pixels, or more depending on how large you made your circle.
5. Back to the gradient editor. This time use a white to clear linear gradient.
  - a. Starting a few pixels above the circle marquee, drag the gradient tool down to a little above the center of the marquee.



This tutorial was found at <http://www.sketchi.org/Tutorials/glassorb/glassorb.html>



The Rose

## Contest

### Increase in PageRank

The rules for this contest are as follows:

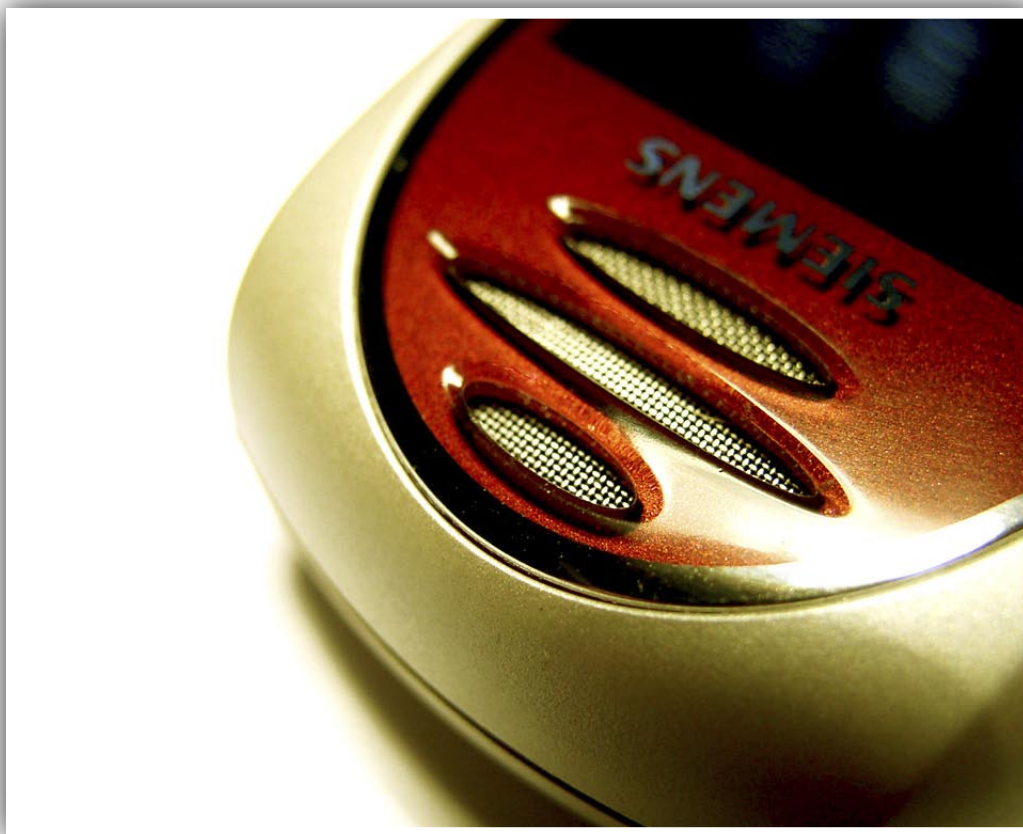
1. You must submit the site that you will be optimizing to info@ahfx.net by the end of the contest. Please also submit the keywords you will be targeting.
2. AHFX.NET will record your current PageRank.
3. Using the tips in this month and last month's e-list, optimize your site.
4. Contact your friends and get a link exchange going to help boost your pagerank.
5. The site that increases their pagerank the most wins.
6. All entries must come from e-list subscribers. (You may subscribe and enter the contest on the same day.)
7. All entries must be received by December 31st, 2004.
8. The contest will run til December 31st, 2004. Pagerank will then be calculated.
9. Winners will be announced in the January e-list.



## Contact

### Contact Information

Thank you for joining AH Digital FX Studios' E-list. If you would like AH Digital FX Studios to do an in-depth evaluation of your current web site, email us at info@ahfx.net. If you have any questions, require our services, or know of someone that might need our services please contact us with the information below.



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