

# PaintShop Pro Tutorials

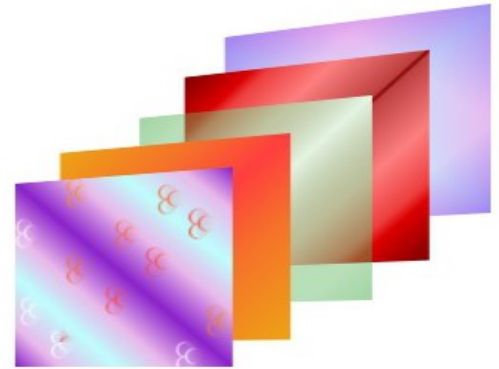
by Maureen Eves-Lavis

## TITLE: GRADIENTS AND GRADIENT EDITOR

Software: PaintShop Pro X7

Web Page: [Creative-Designs](#)

Materials Required: None

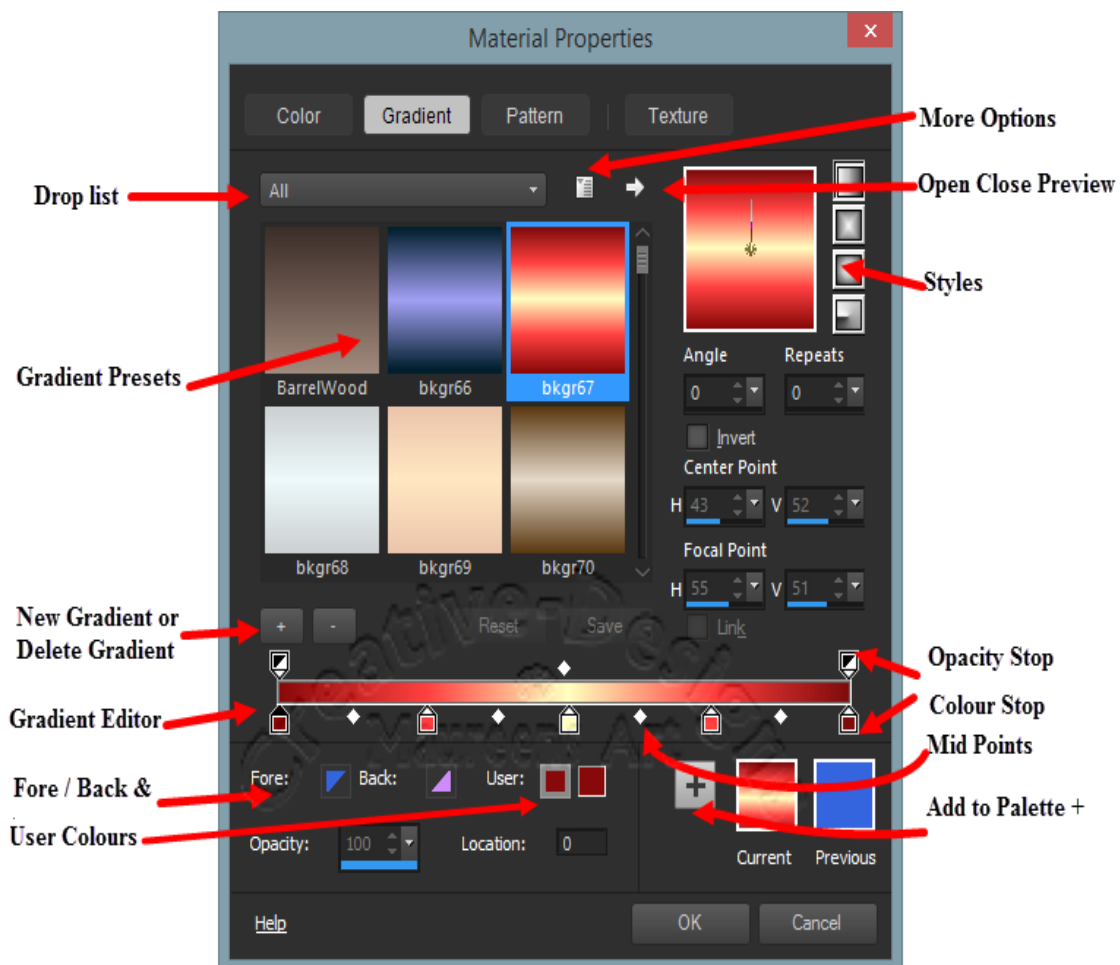


### DESCRIPTION

In this tutorial you will learn about the new Gradient palette in Material Properties. How to create a new gradient, edit an existing gradient, make a transparency and import/export.

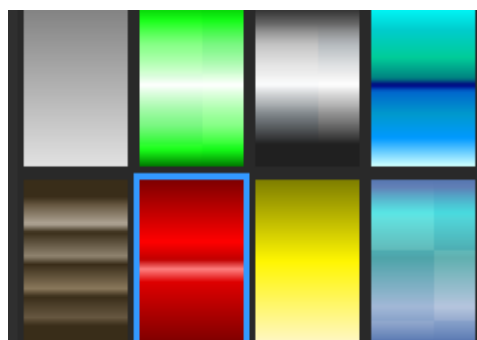
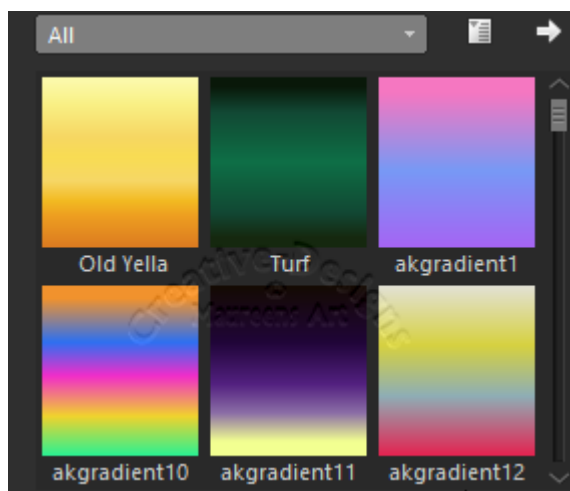
REMEMBER TO SAVE YOUR WORK OFTEN

### MATERIAL PROPERTIES-GRADIENT OVERVIEW

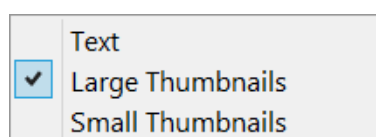
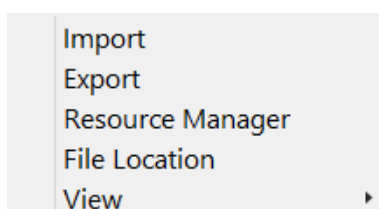


PaintShop Pro X7 Gradient Editor in the Material Properties palette is a bit different from previous versions. It now has both gradient presets, settings and editor on one palette. There are a few differences in creating and editing gradients from previous versions.

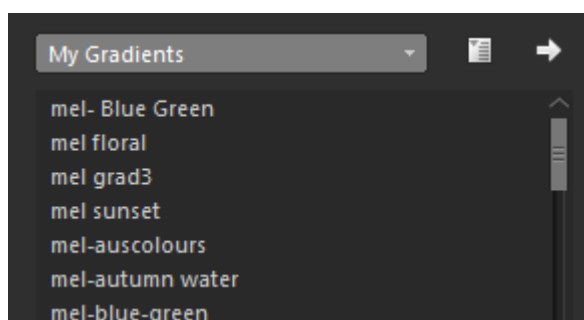
The images above and below left show large gradient presets. The image below right shows small presets. These do not show the name of the gradient. Take a few moments to familiarise yourself with this palette.



To switch views, go to More Options, View then make your selection. The small arrow adjacent to More Options will open and close the view of preview and settings. To use this is a matter of personal preference.



If you select Text you will not see the coloured presets, only names as shown below.



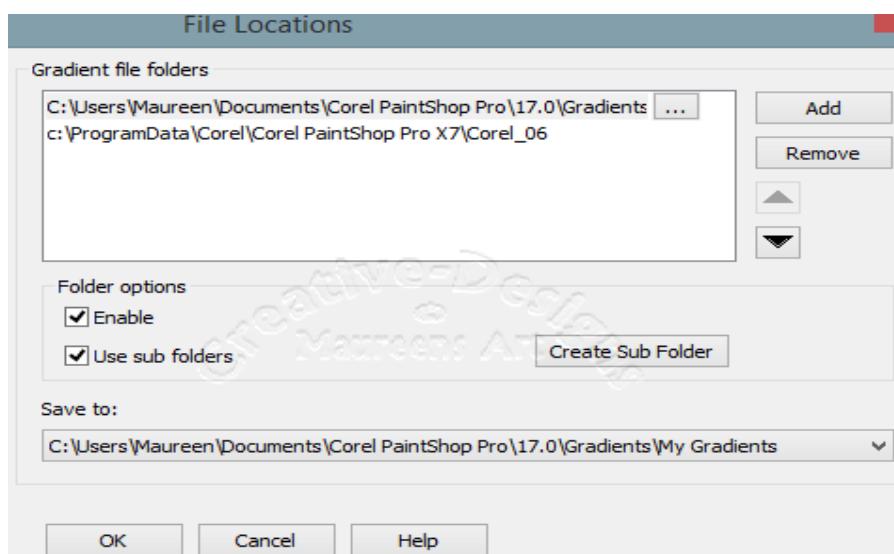
Gradient Colours vs Foreground/Background colours Have you ever noticed gradients you have made change colours when you change foreground and background colours? This will always happen when you use colours from the Materials Palette rather than the Gradient palette.

The Editor consists of markers beneath the editor. These are for adding colours to the editor. (These markers are also referred to as colour stops). The Mid Points (little diamond shapes) determine the blend between the colours. Opacity markers on top of the editor are for creating transparency gradients. The Mid Points determine the blend between colour and opacity. More on transparency further on. Let's create a new gradient.

## NEW GRADIENT

The best way to find your way around the Gradients is to actually make one or two. When you create your own custom gradients it is advisable to create a folder and name it My Gradients. Doing this prevents gradients becoming mixed in one folder. To create a new folder, go to Preferences, File Locations, Gradients. Where it has Save to: locate Gradients. Click on Create a Sub Folder and name it My Gradients. Make sure this folder is now showing in Save to:

Each time you create or edit and save a gradient it will save in this folder.



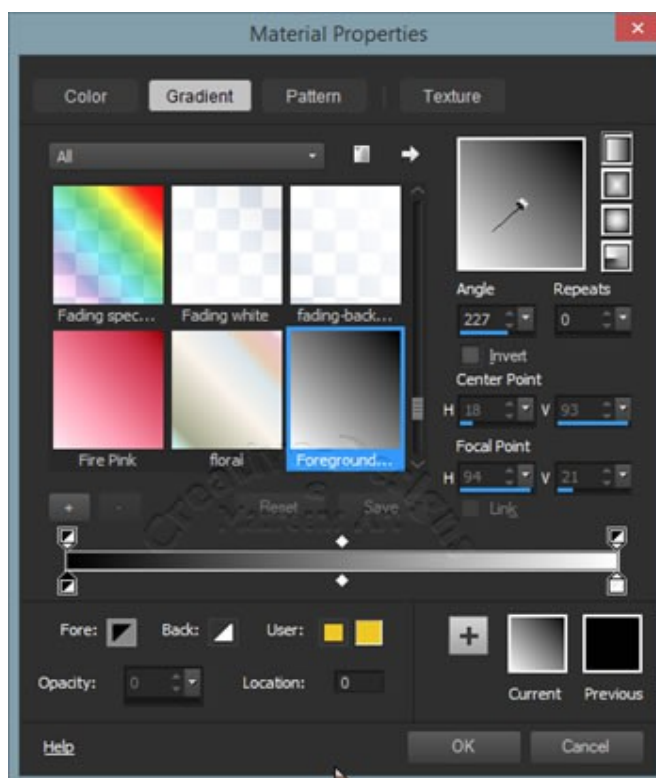
uments\Corel PaintShop Pro\17.0\Gradients\Holiday  
uments\Corel PaintShop Pro\17.0\Gradients\Miscellaneous  
uments\Corel PaintShop Pro\17.0\Gradients\My Gradients  
uments\Corel PaintShop Pro\17.0\Gradients\My Landscapes  
uments\Corel PaintShop Pro\17.0\Gradients\My Metallics

Open a new transparent raster image of 300x300 pixels.

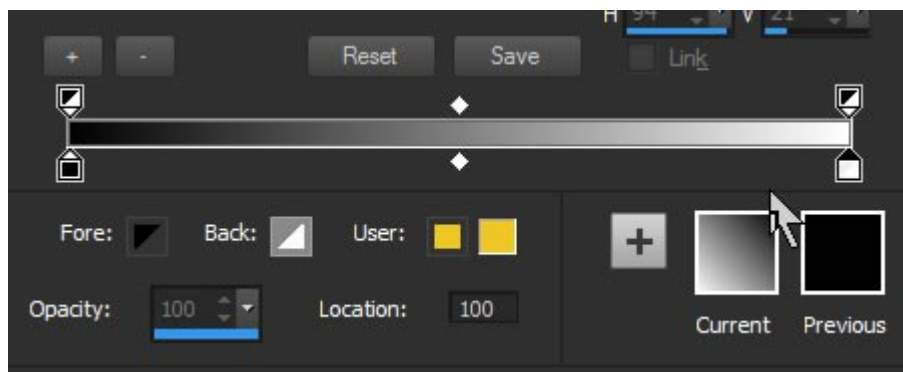
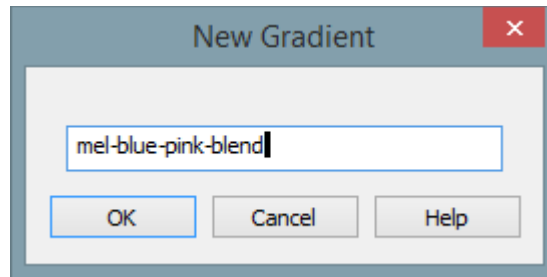
When making a new gradient **don't** use colours from the Materials Palette, only select colours from the Gradient Editor. Why? You may ask. When you choose colours from the Materials Palette the gradients don't stick. Each time you change colours in the Materials Palette, so too does the gradient which can be annoying.

Click on the foreground colour box to open Material Properties / Gradient. By default Gradients open in All. It will show as Foreground - only if you installed the Extra Content. If you haven't go to Help, Download More Content. Install Creative Content.

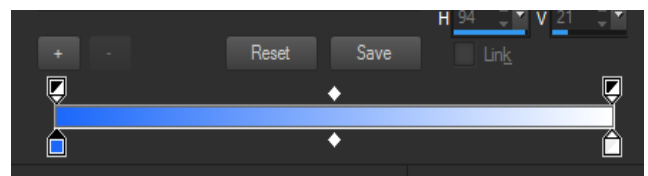
Whatever colours are in the Material Palette will be showing in the Gradient presets and preview.



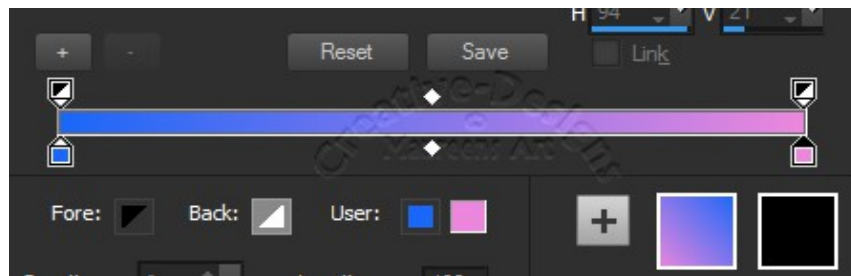
Click on the + button to the left of the palette. When the New Gradient dialogue window opens, add your initials then blue-pink. Click OK. (It is a good idea to add your initials when saving custom files, as when *All* is selected, your files are easily found). The new gradient name is now saved in My Gradients folder.



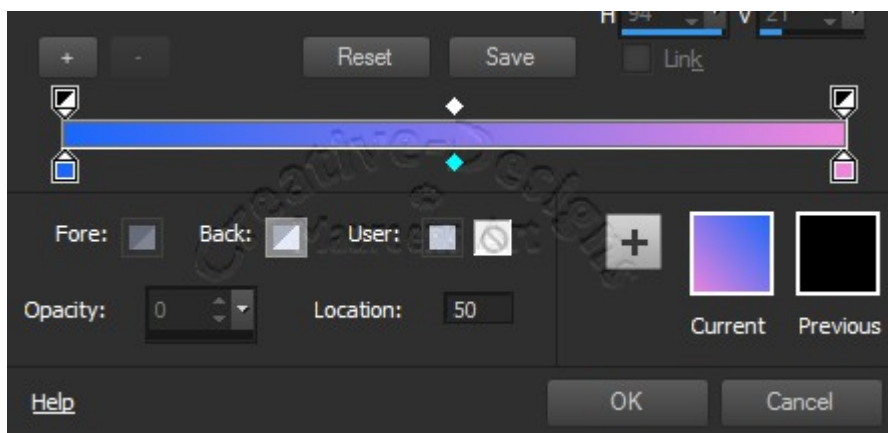
Double click on the first marker under the Editor. Go to User, click on the Colour box to open the Colour Wheel. Select a blue or add the HTML in the small window. #3a76e8. Click OK.



Double click on the right marker, then the User colour box and from the Colour Wheel choose pink - #ed87de

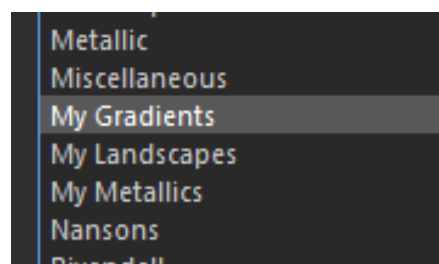
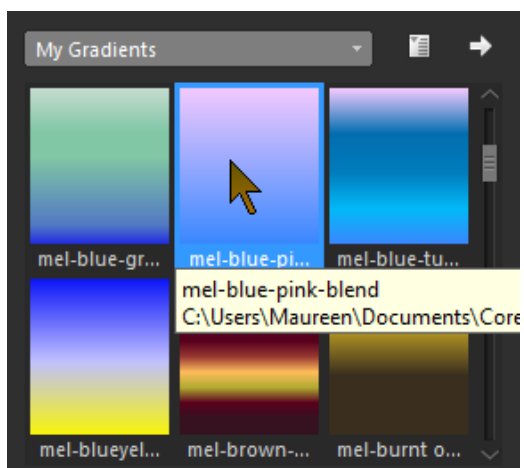


Select the lower Mid Point and move to Location 50. Now you have an equally blended gradient.

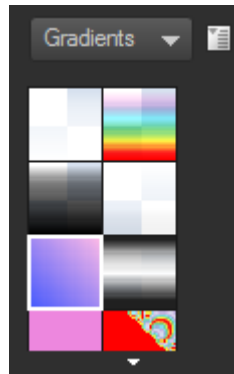


Let's save this simple gradient. Because you have already created the new gradient name, all you need to do now is click the Save button.

Your new gradient is now saved. Click the arrow on the drop box, scroll down the list to My Gradients, your newly created gradient is now showing in the presets.

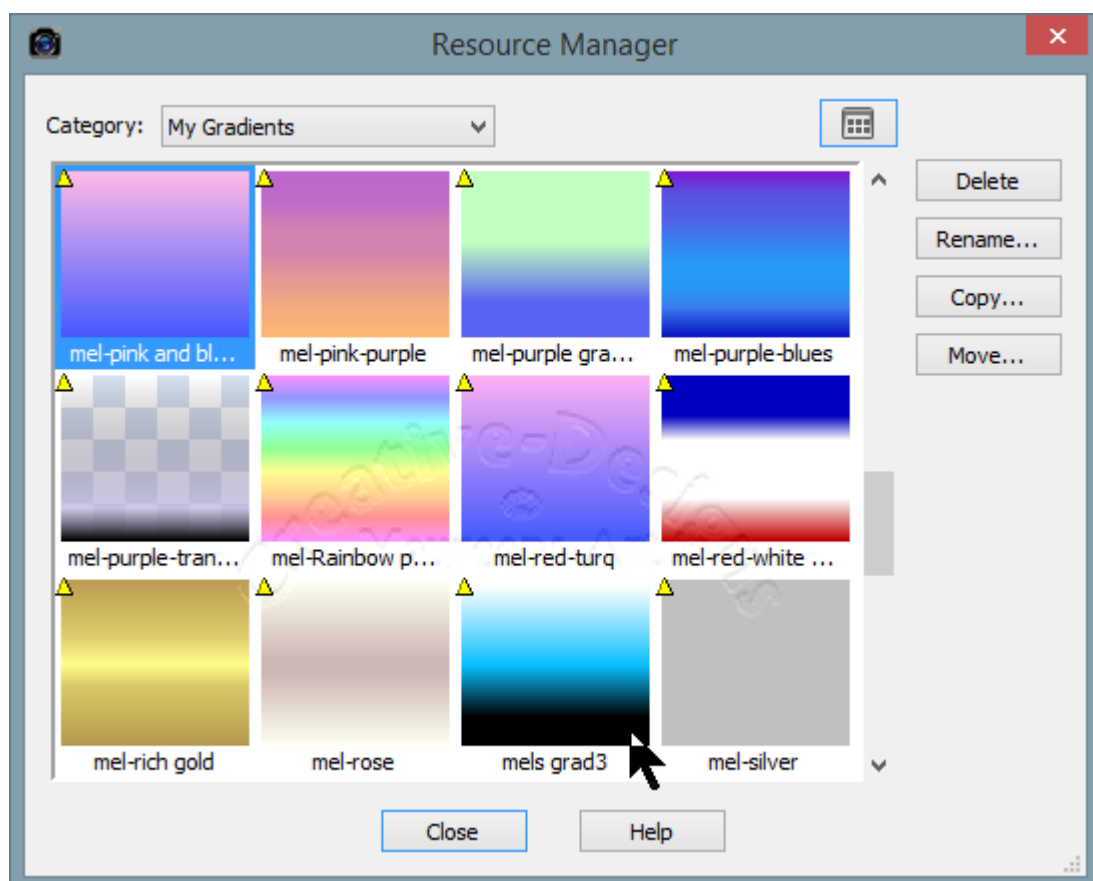


You can add this gradient as a swatch in the Materials Palette as I mentioned above. There is a tutorial written specifically for the [Custom Swatches Palettes which you can find \*\*HERE\*\*](#).



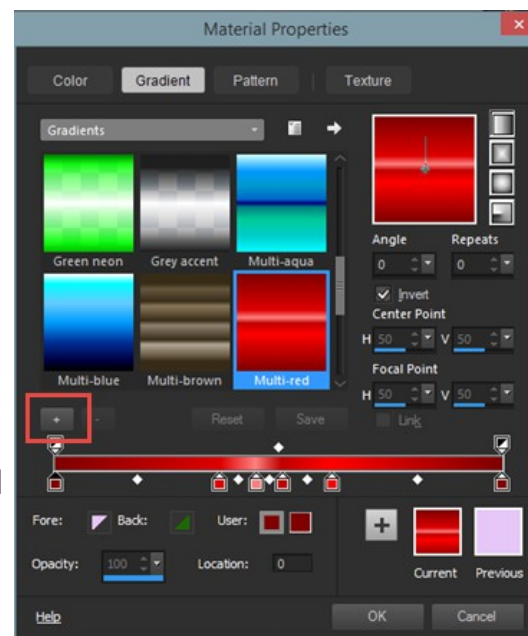
### MORE OPTIONS – RESOURCE MANAGER

Open More Options, Resource Manager you can delete gradients, move gradients to another folder, copy and save and rename a gradient.



## EDITING AND SAVING AN EXISTING GRADIENT

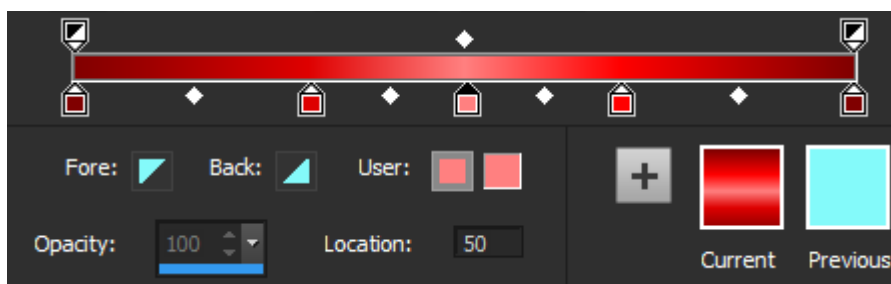
Click on the colour box on the Materials Palette to open Material Properties. Select the Gradient tab. From the drop list find Gradients – these are Corel's selection of gradients. Select the Multi-red preset.



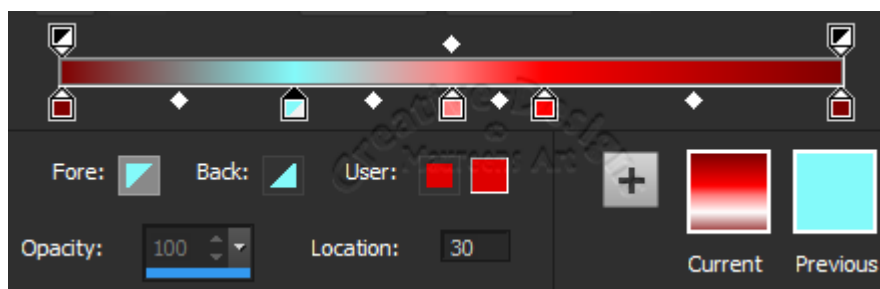
Click the + button to give the gradient a name. The new name is now saved in My Gradients folder. Proceed to edit this gradient.

The red colour marker to the right of the pink one, remove it by clicking down with the mouse button, holding and dragging away.

Tap on the near middle pink marker and move it to Location 50.

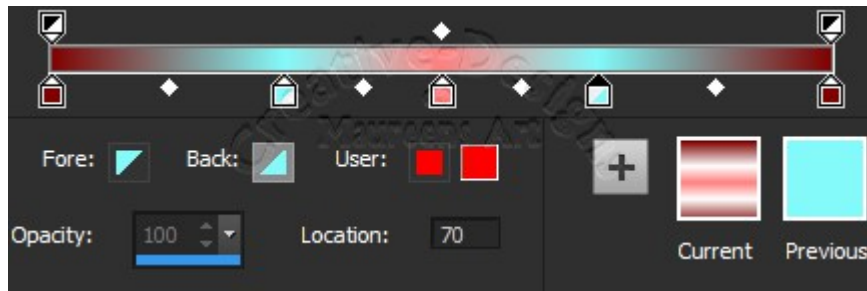


Move the second from the left marker to Location 30 then tap on the Fore button. The area on the editor has changed colour.

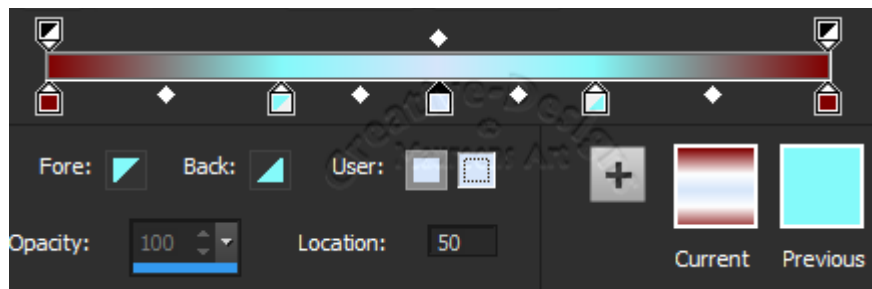




Move the next to last marker to the right to Location 70 then tap the Back colour button.

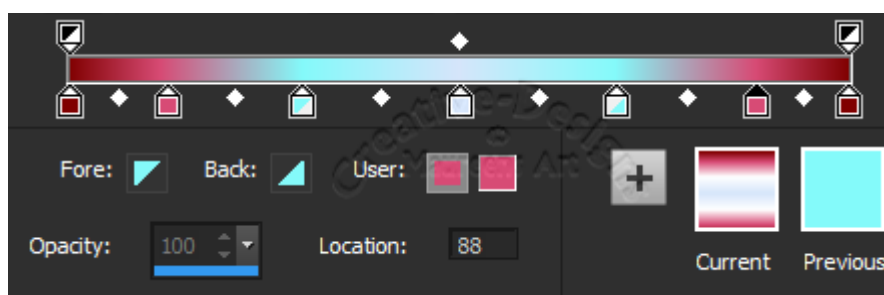


Click on the centre pink marker click on the User colour box. Select and **#d6e5fa**.



Where the midpoint is on the left, click to just the left side of it to add a new marker. You will notice that a midpoint has been added automatically. Move this marker to Location 12. Click to the right of the last, (right) midpoint and add a new marker. Move this to Location 88.

Click on the first newly created marker. Next click on the User colour box. This opens the Colour Wheel. Select the colour **#d74b75** by copying/pasting the HTML into the window. Do the same for the other new marker.

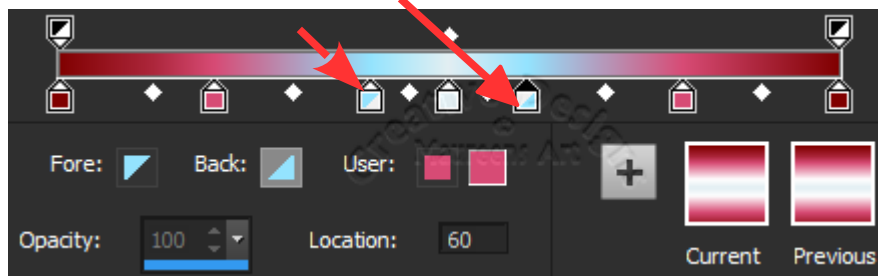


Now we have a nice, soft blend of colour.

Unless you wish to have an abrupt divide between colours I wouldn't recommend moving midpoints. They automatically create a nice soft blend between colours selected.

Let's do a little more adjusting before saving.

In the image below I moved the two turquoise colour stops more toward the centre colour stop. Each are in a Location of 40 and 60.



Click on the Save button. A dialogue window will open. Save this gradient with your initial-red-turq.

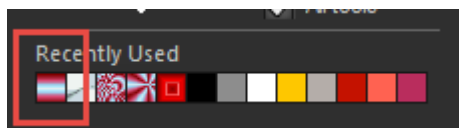
This new gradient is saved in My Gradients folder.

You can now close the Material Properties.

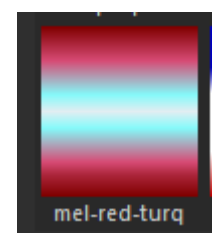
The gradient will be visible in the Materials Palette.

Flood fill the canvas.

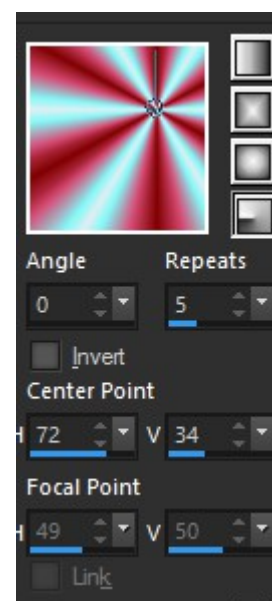
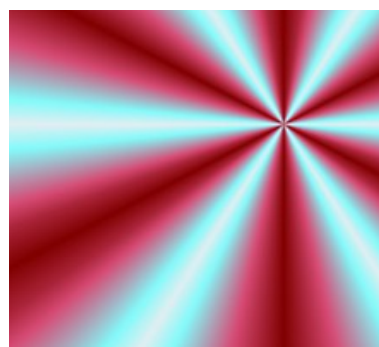
Look at the Recently Used. The gradient is showing and will remain there even when you change colours in the Materials Palette.



mel-red-turq.PspGradient



While the gradient is in the colour box in the Materials Palette, click to open the Material Properties – Gradient. Change Repeats to 5, move Centre point to H72, V34. Click OK. Flood fill the canvas. Close the image in your workspace.

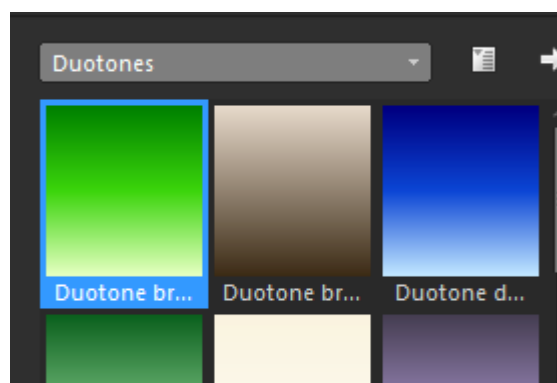
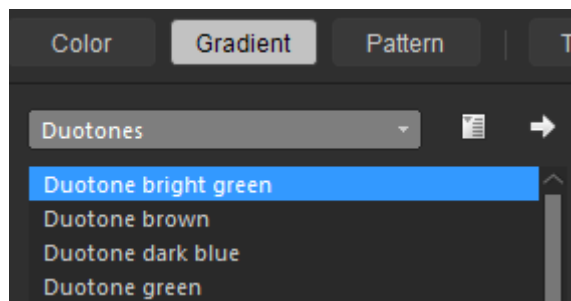


## CHANGING STYLES AND SETTINGS

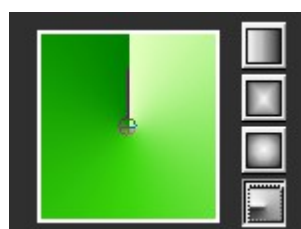
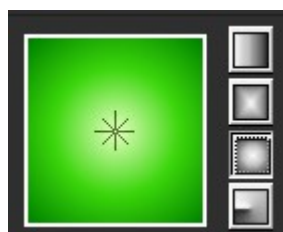
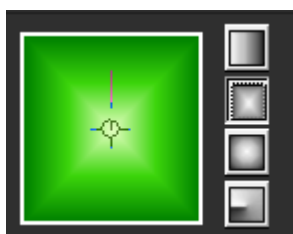
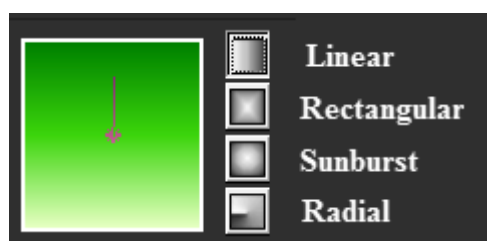
Open a new transparent raster image, 300x300 pixels.

Click on the foreground colour to open the Material Properties. Select the Gradient tab.

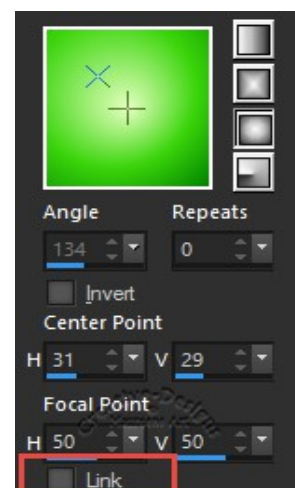
Find Duotones– Bright Green.

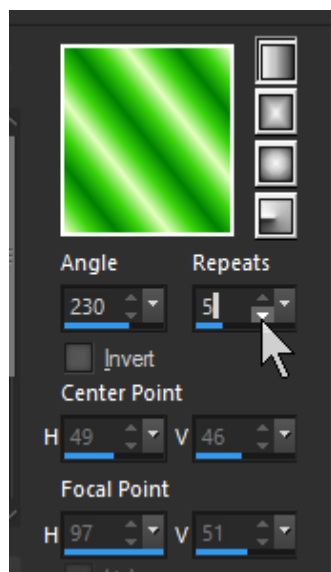


There are four Styles as shown below. Click on each one to see the new shape in the gradient.



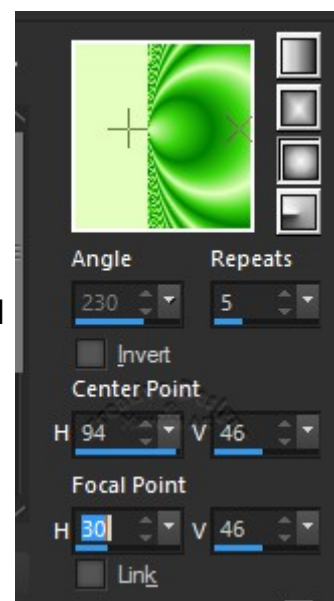
The centre point can be moved by dragging the control needle or cross hairs that show in the preview. If you un-tick the **LINK**, you can move the focal point by dragging the cross hairs of the gradient. Ticking Invert reverses the gradient colours.





Select Linear style, 5 repeats with an angle of 230.

Change to Sunburst style. Make sure Link is unticked. Move Centre Point H to 94 and Focal Point H to 30. That's some neat looking gradient.

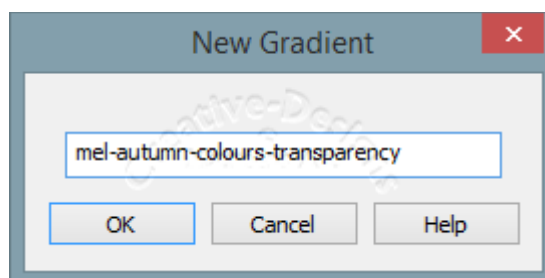
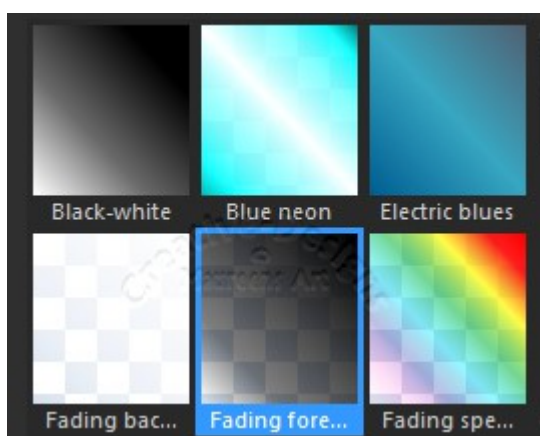


Experimenting with these settings you can create some very interesting gradients.

### GRADIENTS WITH TRANSPARENCY

Close everything in the workspace and open a new transparent raster image 300x300 pixels.

Open Gradients. Corel already have a nice selection of transparencies that you can edit. To view them go to the drop box and select Gradients. The image below is an example with the lower right preset reflecting the colour set as the foreground in the Materials Palette. We will use the Fading Foreground preset.



Click the + button, New Gradient and choose a name for it.

Click Fore: then the User colour box to open the Colour Wheel. #572803 - this is a rich reddish/brown.

Do the following on the Editor:

Add a new marker at a location of 28. Select a colour of #b85404. Ok.

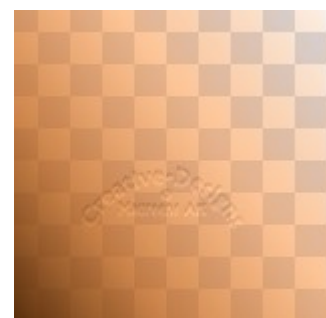
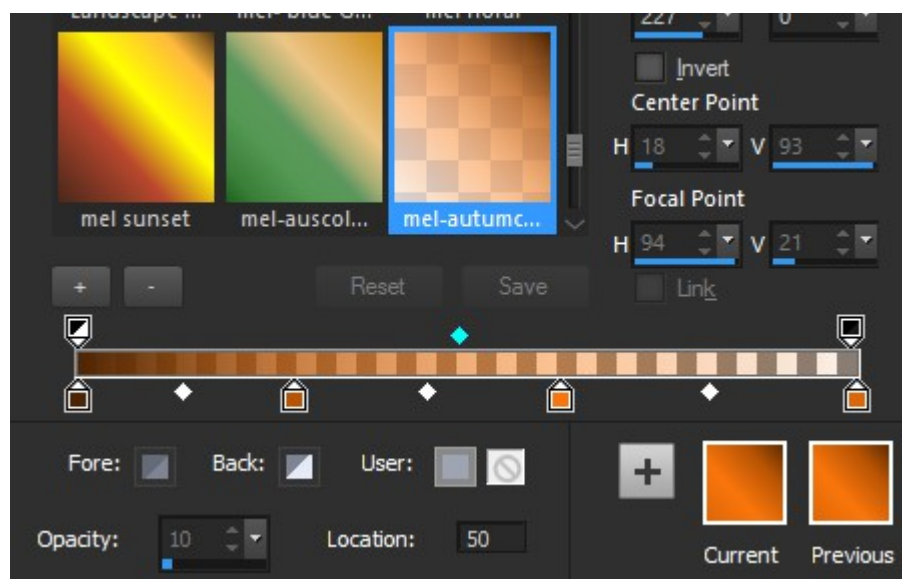
Add another marker at location 62 with a colour of #fa760c. Ok.

Top left transparency marker – Opacity 100, location 0.

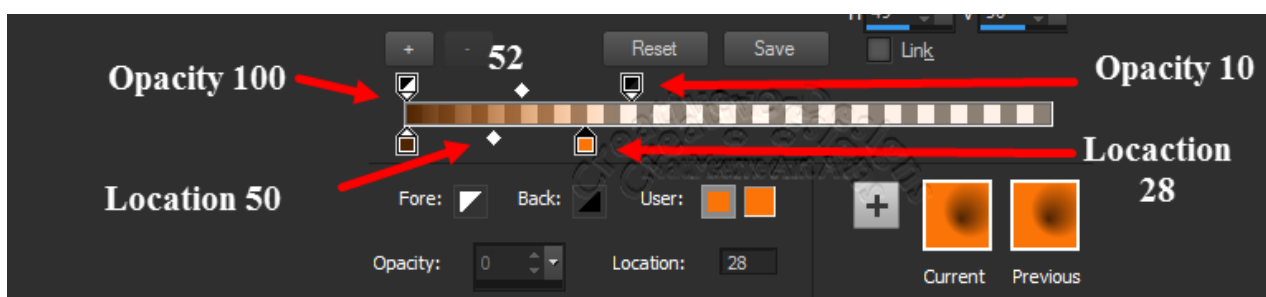
Transparency marker to the right set at location 99 with colour of #dd6607. Ok.

Transparency Mid Point is to be set at 50.

Click Save

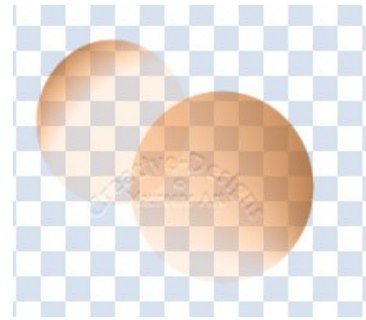
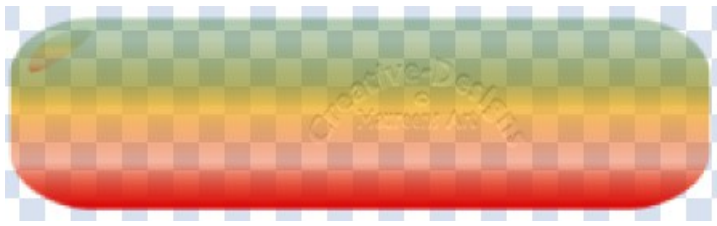


Click the + to add a New Gradient. This time remove the lower markers 2 and 4 by dragging them off the Editor. Apply the following settings.



Click the Save button. Your new very glassy transparency is saved. You can edit this with other colours, but always remember to create a New Gradient before editing.

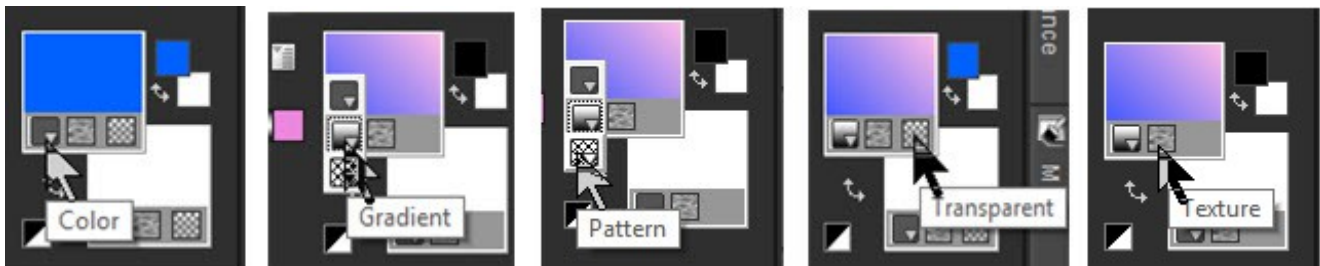
The images below show gradients with two and three colour transparencies.



### ADDING TEXTURE TO GRADIENTS

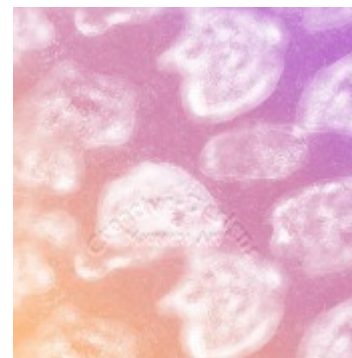
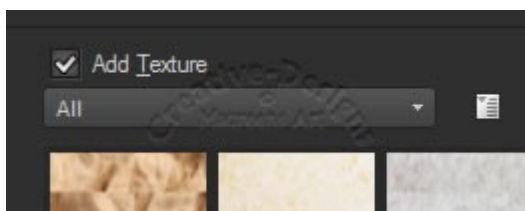
If you wish to add a little pizzazz to your gradients you can add a texture or pattern.

On the Materials Palette Colour boxes are three small buttons. Click each one to view colour, gradient and pattern. The second button is to turn textures on or off. The last button is if you wish the box to be transparent.



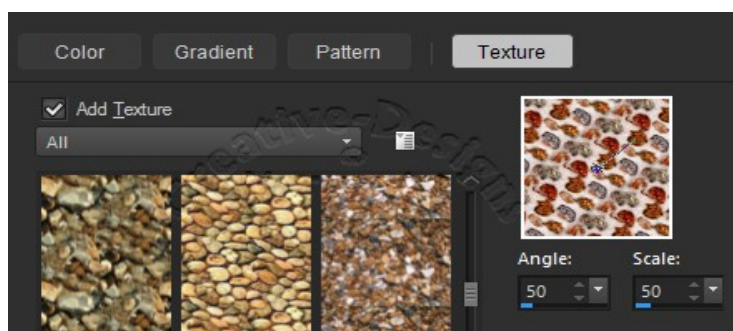
Select a gradient of your choice.

Go to the Texture tab then place a tick in the 'Add Texture' box. Not all textures or patterns work effectively, it's a matter of trying them out.



The textured gradient will show in the Current box. Click OK.

Angle and Scale can be applied as with gradients.

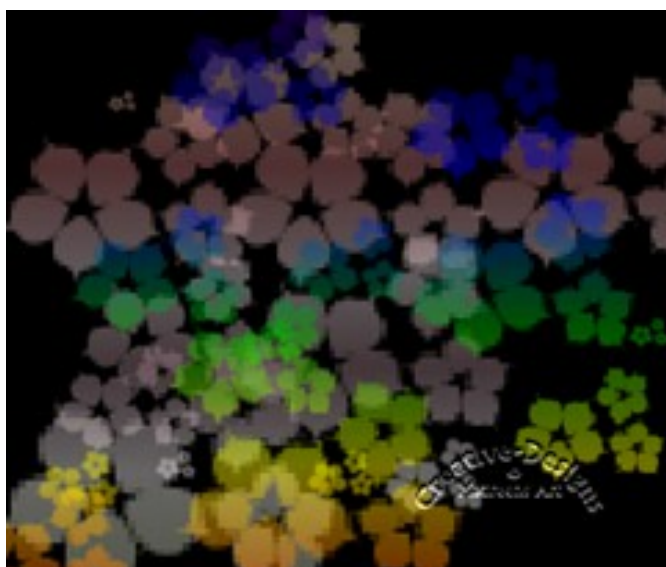


Select the Flood Fill tool and fill the canvas.

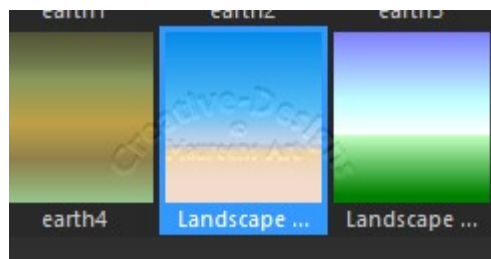
To turn off the Texture, click the Texture button below the colour box. To change texture, click on the colour box to open the Material Properties/Texture.

### PAINTING WITH GRADIENTS

Gradients are not used as backgrounds or filling an object with colour, you can paint with them. Sure, the paint would be limited to the pattern, but applying various types of brushes presets or wet effect and changing a few settings in the Brush Variance can give you not only a colourful effect but a painterly brush. The only brushes you cannot use gradients with are the Art Media.



An Example of using a Landscape Gradient then apply the Warp brush to produce movement in in the gradient to give it a look of water.



## IMPORTING/EXPORTING GRADIENTS

### SPECIAL INFORMATION:

At the moment importing Photoshop \*GRD files is not functioning in PSPX7. This is an ongoing issue that Corel's PaintShop Pro X7 development team are addressing. If you try to import Photoshop GRD files a pop-up will tell you .....

So don't worry there is nothing wrong with your PC. The tutorial will be amended as soon as it is fixed.



There is a problem opening the currently selected gradient file.

Importing and Exporting is the same as in previous versions of PaintShop Pro.

There are two ways you can share files.

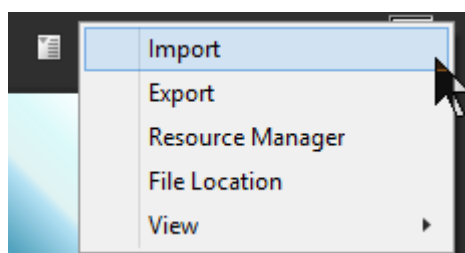
1. Zip a folder containing gradients and send to a friend. The recipient unzips the file directly into the gradient folder. These gradients are PspGradient files.
2. Exporting changes the file to a .GRD. From the Gradient palette/presets, select a gradient you wish to export. Go to More Options, Export. When the Export dialogue window opens, save the file with the name of the gradient. You will notice it is a grd.



Gradients (\*.grd). Exporting always saves as a .GRD file. This feature is used when you want to be selective with certain gradients within the presets. The file can be shared by both Paintshop Pro and Photoshop, plus other software that uses the .GRD file extension for gradients.



If you download gradients off the internet check if they are .GRD files or PspGradient files. If PspGradient, unzip directly into the Gradients folder. If .GRD files you will need to import them from the Gradient palette/More Options/Import. However, as said above, there is a current problem importing .GRD files at the moment so it's best to stick with PspGradient files.



### TEMPORARY GRADIENTS

Sometimes you may just wish to make a gradient without saving it.

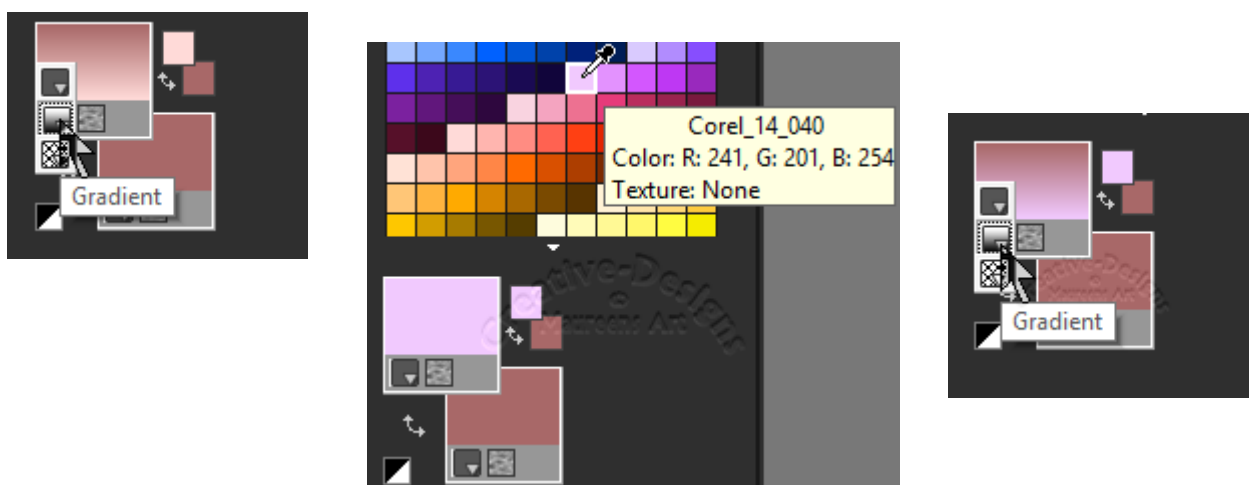
Choose two colours from the Materials Palette. Click on one of the colour boxes to open Material Properties. Select the Gradient tab. In the drop list under Gradients locate Foreground/Background and click on it. In order for you to have Foreground/Background you must have downloaded and installed the "More Content". (see Help in PSP)

Your two selected colours are now in the preview and the editor. Make any adjustments or settings you want, then click OK.

Use the Flood Fill tool to fill the canvas. The gradient is not saved anywhere.

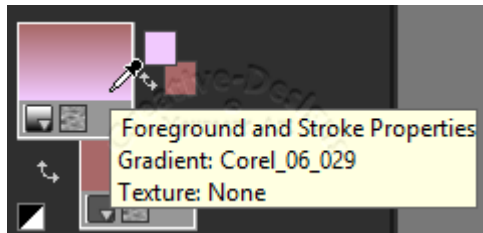


If you need to edit it, just click on the colour box to open the Gradient tab again or use the Dropper Tool to select different foreground/background colours. The gradient will automatically change in the colour box without having to open the Material Properties. Once new colours are selected, click the Gradient button on the colour box.



Remember, this gradient is not saved, however it will be recorded in the Recently Used. If

you wished to save the gradient directly to the Gradient Palette, click the + next to the Dropper Tool, give the gradient a name and it will be saved in your Gradient folder. Also, this gradient was created out of the default Corel Foreground Stroke – Corel\_06\_029 so be careful not to over-write it.



**FOR PAINTSHOP PRO TUTORIALS FOR FREE!**

To learn more about PaintShop Pro, join the free Beginner's Workshop for PaintShop Pro [HERE](#).

Also, you are welcome to join the PIRC Forums where there is a great community of graphic artists all learning together [HERE](#).