

PaintShop Pro Tutorials

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TITLE: CREATIVE GRADIENTS

Software: PaintShop Pro X6

Web Page: [Creative-Designs](#)

Materials Required: [Gradient Supplies.zip](#)



DESCRIPTION:

Gradients are gradual blends of two or more colours. Selecting colours to make your own gradient patterns and apply texture can be a lot of fun and enables you to be as creative as you wish.

REMEMBER TO SAVE YOUR WORK OFTEN

Download and unzip the files. Place the Textures file in Documents / Corel PaintShop Pro / 16 / Textures folder.

Note: Before we begin with custom gradients it is advisable that you make a new folder within the Gradients folder in Documents / Corel PaintShop Pro / 16 / Gradients. Name this folder My Gradients. Save your custom files separate from all other gradients.

CREATE A SIMPLE GRADIENT

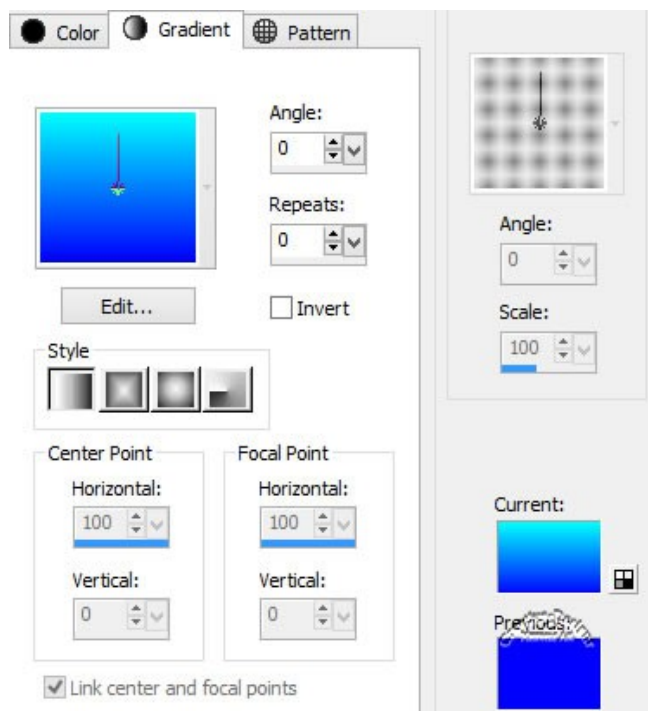
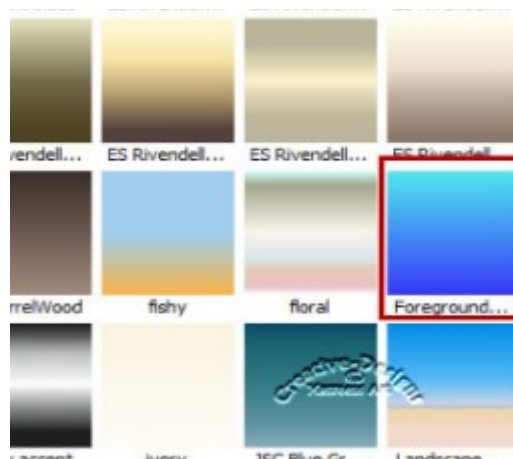
1. Open a new Raster image 300x300 pixels, background transparent. Select the following colours: Foreground #3838f8, Background #50e9ee.
2. Click the foreground colour box from the Materials Palette to open the Material Properties. Click on the Gradient tab.



3. By default, Linear Style is always selected. If you have previously created a gradient using one of the other gradient styles, that style will most likely still be selected. There is no reset button. Set Angle and Repeats to 0, then select Linear style.

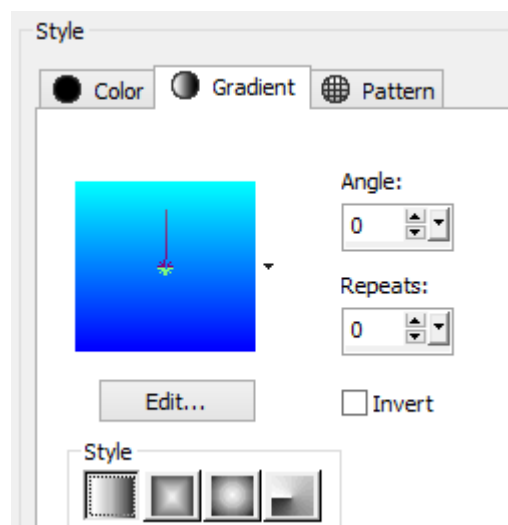
4. Click the thumbnail or the down arrow. The Gradient Category - Select All. In this list you will see Foreground which is the foreground/background gradient.

Your tile may not be in the same position as in the image shown below.



Applying this gradient without any further changes will create a basic linear gradient.

5. Select the Foreground/Background gradient thumbnail. Click OK.

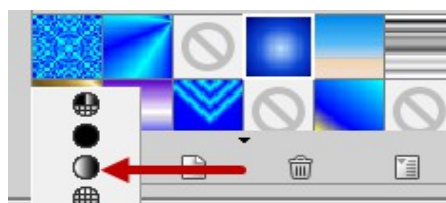


6. Move the Angle to 45.

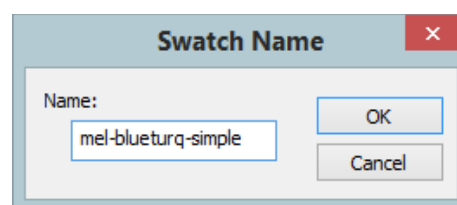
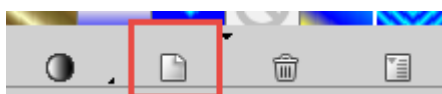
7. With the Flood Fill tool, fill the canvas.



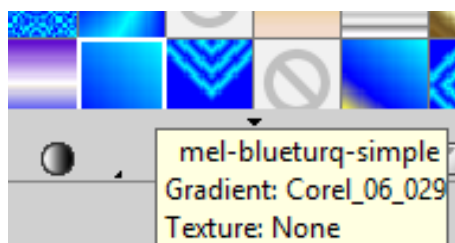
8. To save this gradient to the Swatches palette click on the Gradient button.



9. Click the Create New Swatch button. When the Swatch Name dialogue window opens, add a name: your initials-blue-turquoise-simple-gradient. Click OK. The Material Properties dialogue opens, should you wish to make any changes. If not, click OK.



10. The gradient will be in the Materials Palette, Gradient Swatches. When you hover over the gradient, an information box pops up. You will notice that the gradient has been saved as a Corel Gradient even though you have given it a custom name. You will learn more about this in the Gradient Editor Tutorial.



11. Let's do something different. On the Material Properties/Gradients box are a number of options and settings to add to your two colours to make the gradient a little more interesting. Open a new transparent image 300x300 pixels.

EDITING A GRADIENT

1. Apply the following to your gradient:

Styles: Rectangle

There are four styles to choose from:

Linear, Rectangular, Sunburst and Radial.

Angle: 45

The Angle specifies the direction or angle of the gradient from 0 to 359 degrees. This only applies to linear, rectangle and radial.

Repeats: 5

You can repeat the number patterns from 0 to 999.

Edit: This is discussed further down in this tutorial.

Invert: Unticked

Inverts the two colours in the gradient.

Centre Point:

Horizontal: 50

Vertical: 50.

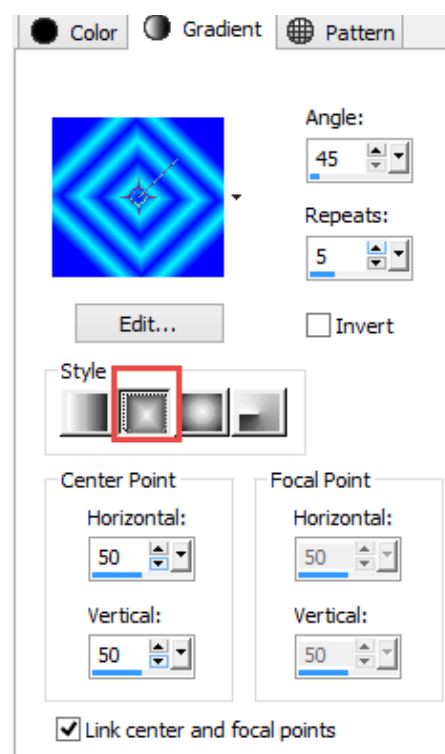
Centre Point determines the horizontal and vertical co-ordinates of the point from which the gradient disperses or radiates. The distance measured is a percentage of the fill area's width. It can be changed to centre the point to create circles, or other shapes in which the centre of the gradient is not at the centre of the object. This applies to rectangular, sunburst and radial only.

Focal Point: Will be greyed out.

It determines the horizontal and vertical co-ordinates of the point where the foreground colour of the gradient begins. The distance measured as a percentage of the fill areas width. The focal point can be changed to create fills etc. It only applies to rectangular and sunburst. It is available only when the Link centre focal points box is unticked.

Link Centre and Focal Points: Greyed out

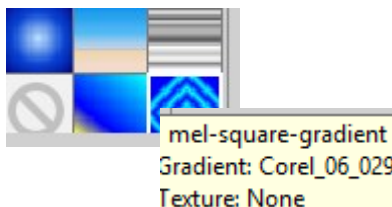
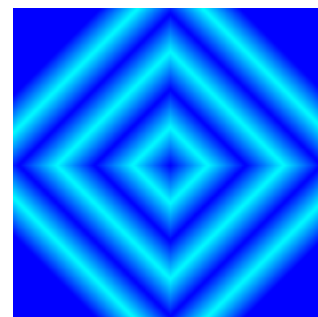
It assigns the same values to the centre and focal points. If you untick the box, the focal points can be edited separately from the centre. This feature only works with rectangular and sunburst.



2. Flood fill the canvas with the new gradient.

3. Save the gradient as you did the previously to the Swatch palette. Remember to use your initials.

Now we have two new gradients!



4. Close this image and open a new transparent image of 200 x200 pixels.

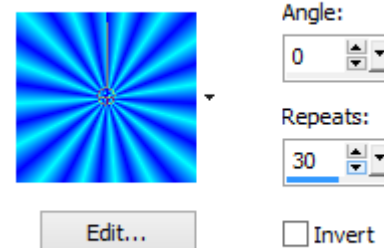
5. With the current gradient selected, go back to the Material Properties and select the Gradient tab again.

Apply the following:

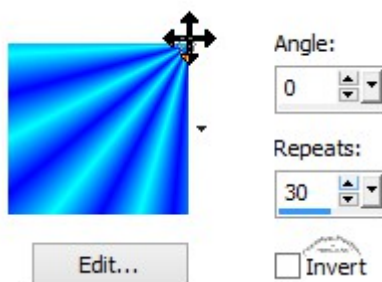
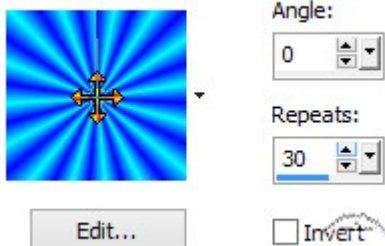
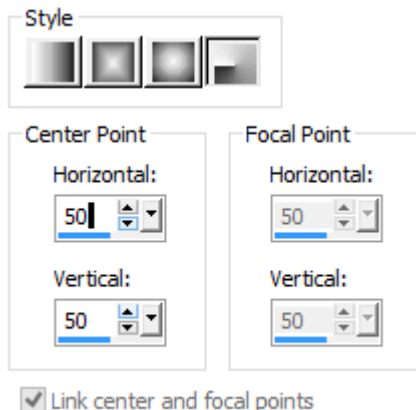
Style: Radial

Angle: 0

Repeats: 30



6. Grab the Centre Point and push it to the top, right corner. Click OK.



7. With the Flood Fill tool, fill the canvas with the gradient.

8. Save this gradient to the Swatch library as you did previously. You can now close the current canvas in the workspace.

ADD TEXTURE TO A GRADIENT

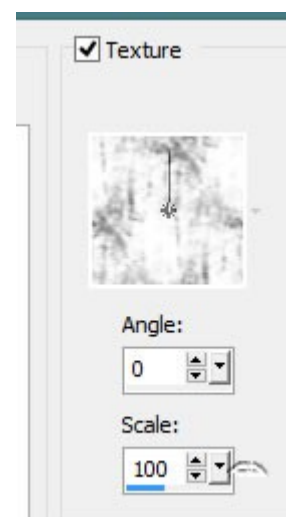
1 Open a new Raster image 200x200 pixels, transparent background. Apply the colour button to remove the gradient from the foreground colour box.



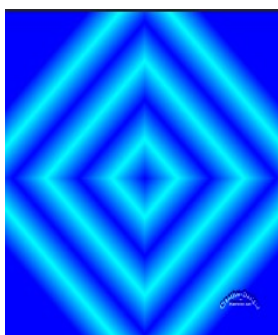
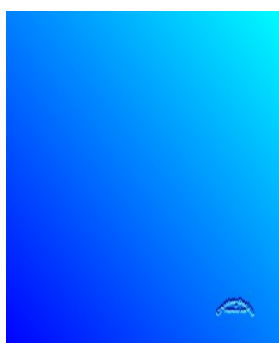
2. Select new foreground and background colours of your choice. Make a lighter colour for the foreground and a complementary darker colour for the background. Click on the foreground colour box to open Material Properties. Select the Gradient Tab and apply the following:

- Angle: 0
- Repeats:0
- Style: Sunburst
- Invert: Unticked
- Centre Point: Horizontal 50, Vertical 50.

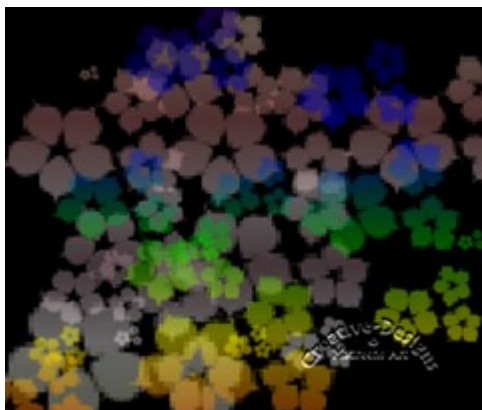
3. On the right panel of the Material Properties is Texture. Tick the Texture thumbnail to open the Category list. Locate the mel-texture04. Angle 0, Scale 100. Click OK.



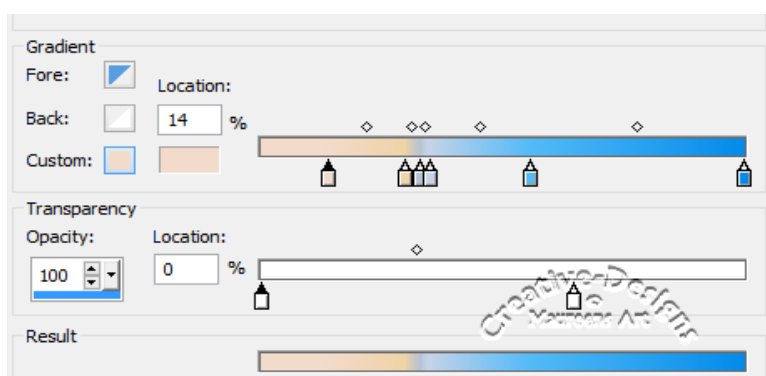
4. With the Flood fill tool, fill the canvas. Save this gradient as you did the others above.



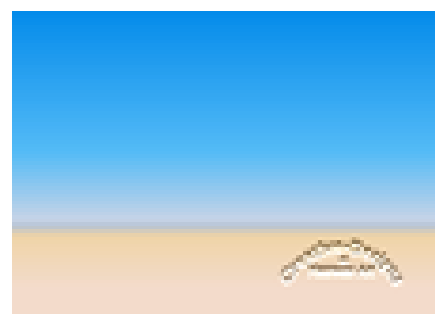
PAINTING WITH GRADIENTS



Gradients are not only for using 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 and other gradients and apply the Warp brush to produce movement in



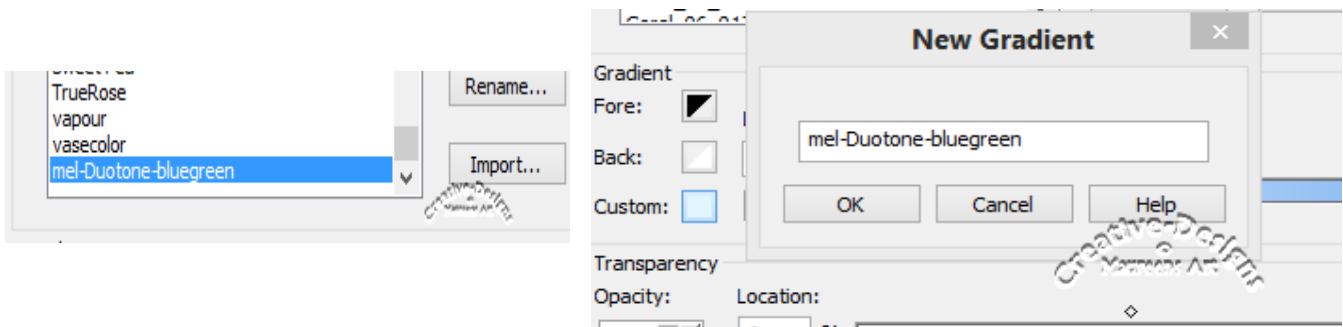
1. Open a new raster, white background image 400x300 pixels at default resolution.
2. Select the Landscape gradient from the gradient categories.
3. With the Paintbrush, size 90, transparency 70. Leave all other settings as they are. Paint from the centre of the canvas in light, circular movements to create a cloud effect image.



4. Add a new raster layer. Change the gradient to Duotones, dark blue. Brush size 10, Opacity 30. Paint several strokes as shown below.

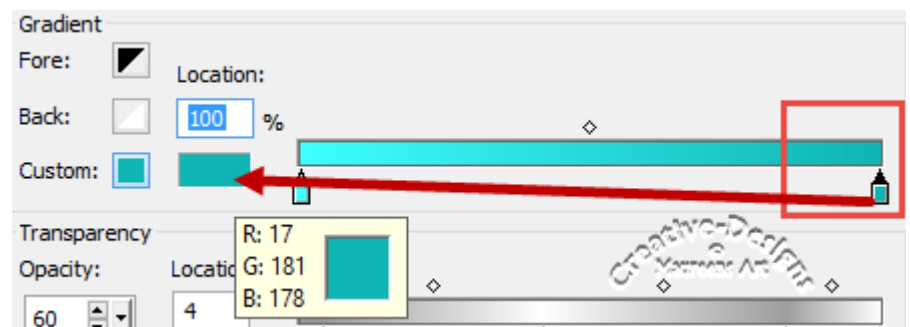
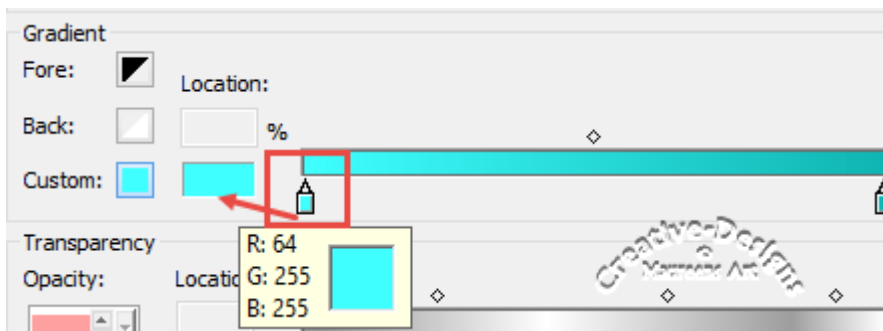


5. Change gradient to Duotone Light blue. Click on the Edit button on the Gradients. As this is one of Corel's Duotone gradients, its code is Corel_06_009. I want to change this gradient and it's very important that I don't overwrite it, so click on New, add this name: yourinitials-Duotone-bluegreen and click Ok. The name is now in the Types list.

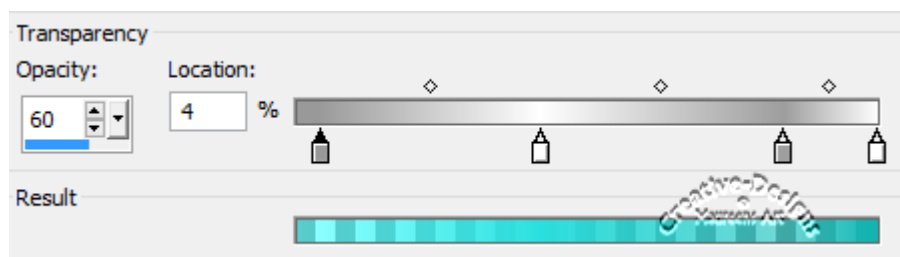


Make sure the new name is highlighted.

6. Click on the first marker then the custom colour box and change the colour to #40ffff and #11b5b2 for the far right marker colour.



7. Change the Transparency by applying clicking on the markers and adding markers in these locations reducing the opacity on each marker. The result is shown in the Transparency bar. Click Close and when prompted to save, Yes. The new gradient will be in the Materials Palette ready for you to use.



9. Select the Paintbrush again, with the same settings given above. Apply streaks of this new gradient. Alternate between the new gradient and white. It should look like the image below.



10. With the Smudge brush, reset to default by going into Presets and clicking the Reset to default button. Change the size of the brush to 28 and Opacity 65, lightly smudge over the



11. With the Warp brush, rough up the ocean. With the paintbrush apply a little white paint as shown in the image below.

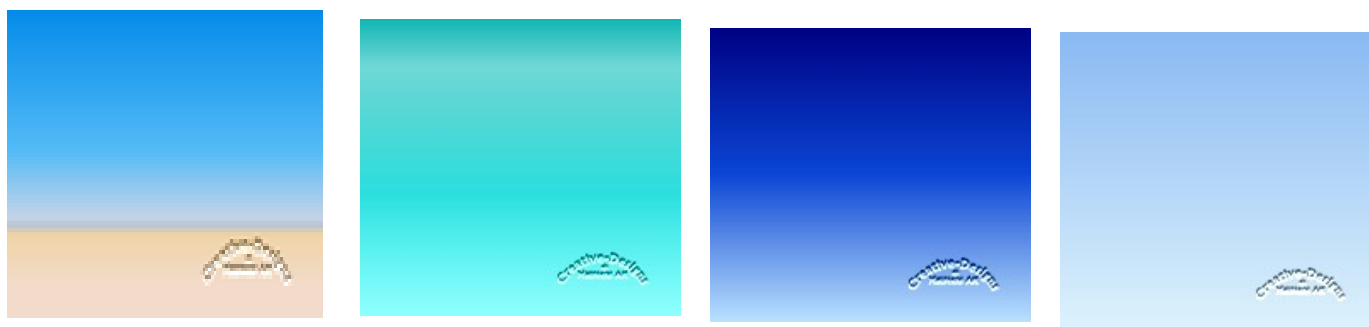


12. Change back to the Warp brush with the same settings and rough up those little white lines.



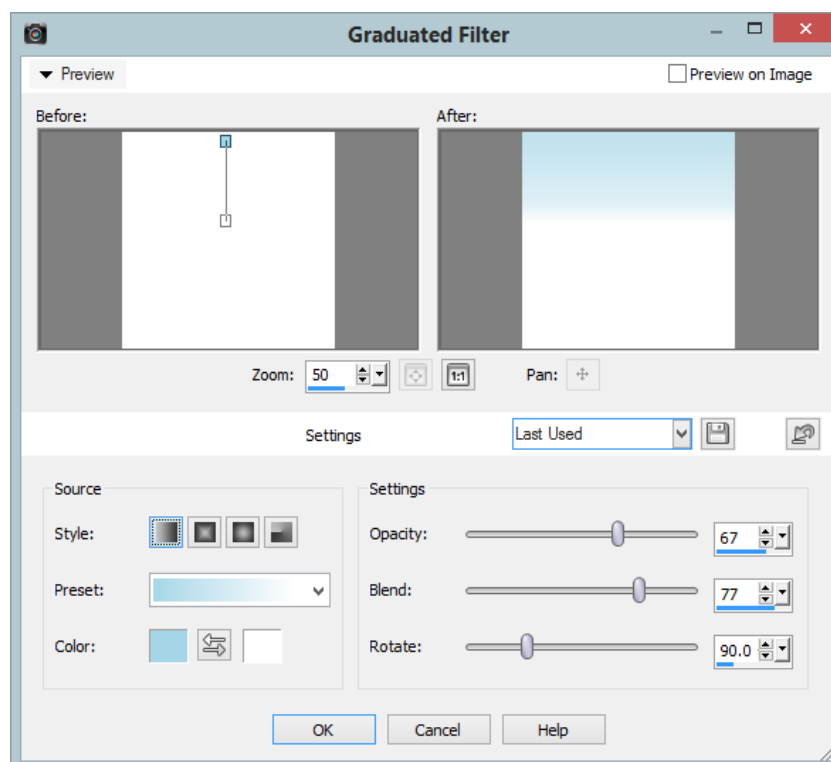
13. Now you can add your own embellishments, a sailing ship, shells anything you wish, but never over-crowd it.

Now you not only know how to paint with gradients but also edit and existing gradient to get exactly what is required for the project at hand.



GRADUATED FILTER

1. The Graduated Filter can be found in Effects, PhotoEffects. Although it is classed as a filter, the result of using the filter is a gradient effect.



2. The Gradient Filter dialogue window has similar settings to the Material Properties, Gradient dialogue window. Graduated Filter has a Preset and you can select two colours. Currently the colours are blue and white. Let's change a few settings.

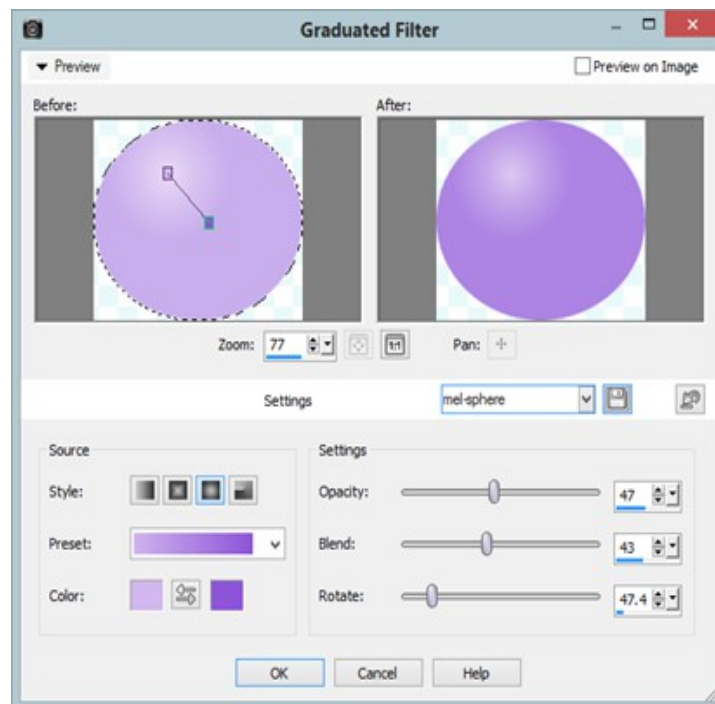
3. Select a new colour - lilac and the second colour purple. Set the middle Preset which blends both colours. The top preset blends the foreground colour and the lower preset blends the background colour. If you click the switch colours button you will see them reverse in the After window. If you click on the Preview on Image box the gradient will be on the canvas in the workspace.

4. Clear the canvas by going to Selections, Select All then click the delete button on your keyboard.

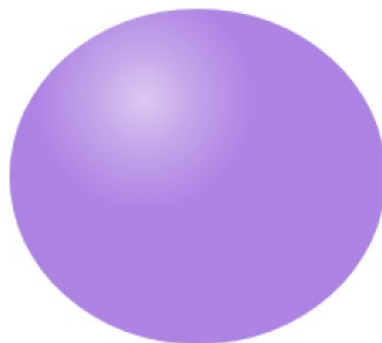
5. Pick the Selection Tool, Ellipse and draw the shape on the canvas.

6. Open the Gradient Filter. The previous colours should still be available. Apply these settings:

- Style: Sunburst
- Preset: Centre
- Colour: Should still be lilac and purple
- Opacity: 47
- Blend: 43
- Rotate: 47.4.



You should have a beautifully shaped sphere.



7. Save this Preset by clicking on the disk image.

8. Moving the Control arm in Before enables you to have control over the shape. You can create a very smoothly blended gradient using this method.

Experiment with colour, Style and other settings. When you find settings you like, save them as Presets.

This concludes the Creative Gradients Tutorial.

Okay, so now you know how to make a few simple gradients. However, there is more to gradients than what is here. To learn about the Gradient Editor and creating your own interesting gradients, how to export and import go to the next tutorial - [Gradient Editor](#)

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](#).