

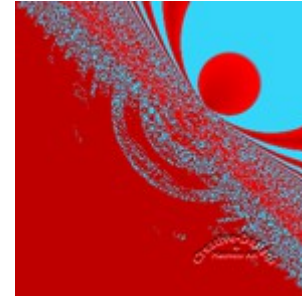
# PaintShop Pro Tutorials

By Maureen Eves-Lavis

## TITLE: THE GRADIENT EDITOR

**Software:** PaintShop Pro X6

**Web Page:** [Creative-Designs](#)



### DESCRIPTION:

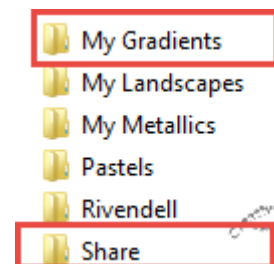
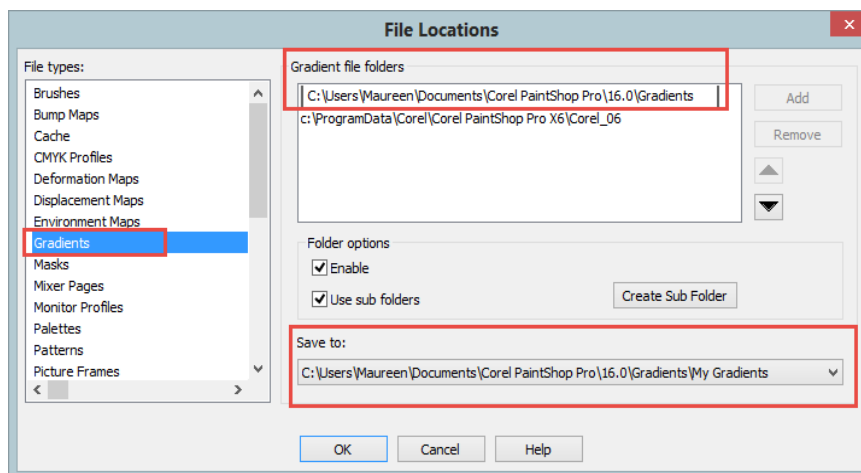
This tutorial will teach you how to use the Gradient Editor to create your own, effective gradients. How to import and export gradients as well as renaming them.

**REMEMBER TO SAVE YOUR WORK OFTEN**

### GRADIENT EDITOR

#### - SETTING UP FOLDERS

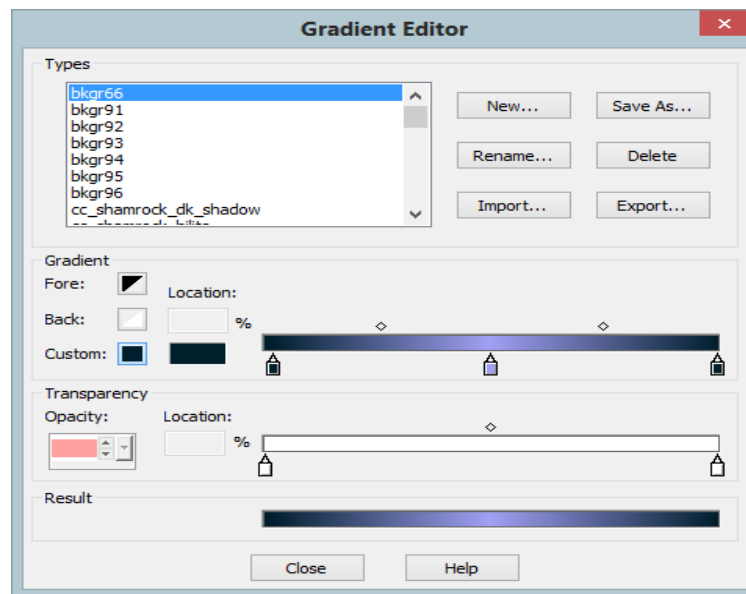
To start, I created two new folders in Documents / PaintShop Pro / Gradients / **My Gradients** and **Share**. Next, in PaintShop Pro I selected File, Preferences, File Locations. I Highlight Gradients from the left column. Under Gradient file folders, the Gradient folder is selected by default, and that's fine. But, I do not wish all new and edited gradients I create to be lumped into this one folder! So, I need to direct PaintShop Pro to save gradients to **My Gradients**. To do this, at the lower part of the window is Save to: I clicked on the down arrow and found My Gradients folder. from the list. I clicked OK. Then Ok on the File Location window. My setup is now complete.



**NOTE:** OCCASIONALLY WHEN OPENING THE EDIT AN ERROR MESSAGE WILL POP UP STATING "THE PARAMETER IS INCORRECT' ....JUST CLICK OK AND TAP WITHIN THE TYPES LIST TO DESELECT ALL GRADIENTS. IT'S DUE TO ALL GRADIENTS IN THE TYPES LIST BEING HIGHLIGHTED AT ONCE. I'VE NO IDEA WHY X6 DOES THIS.

## THE GRADIENT EDITOR

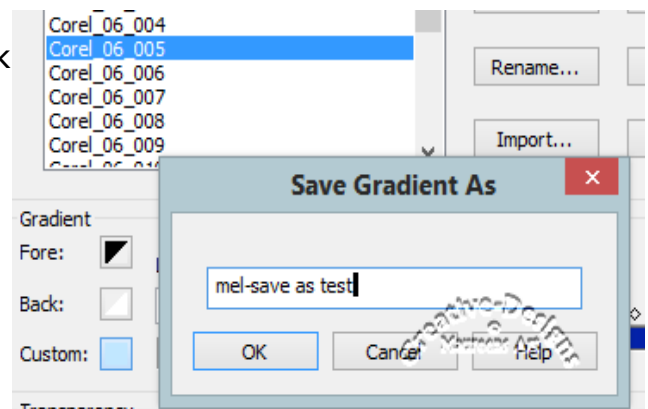
The Gradient Editor provides all the necessary settings for you to make new, edit, rename, import and export gradients. Let's begin!



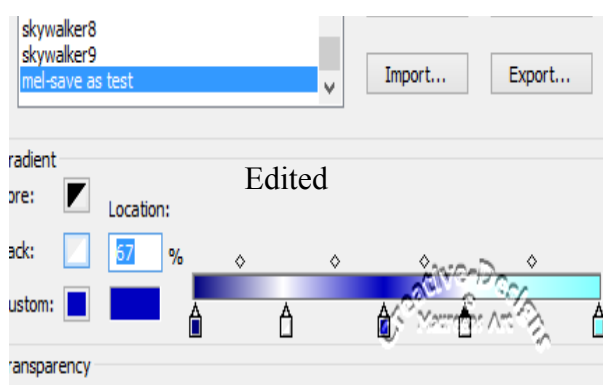
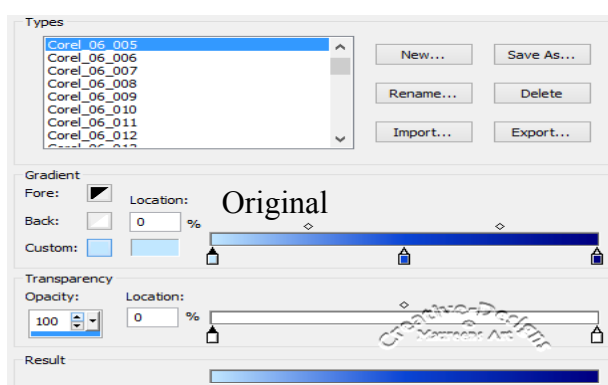
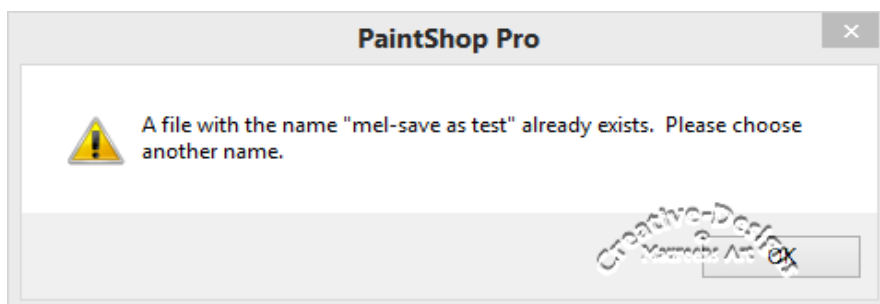
## THE GRADIENT EDITOR

### - SAVE AS

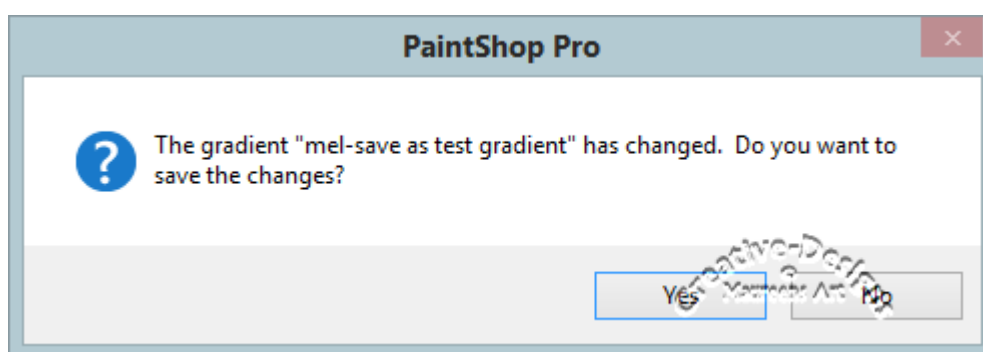
1. Open the Gradient Editor and selected Corel\_06\_005 gradients which is a light to dark blue gradient. I click Save As, give it a new name, but now I have two gradients exactly the same with two different names. I applied the Save As to enable me to edit the newly saved gradient. The newly saved gradient is saved to My Gradients folder.



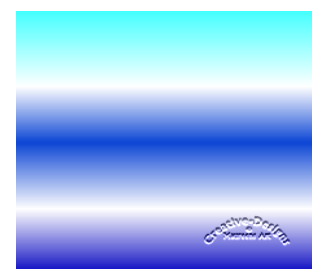
2. After editing this gradient I want to keep the edits. how do I save it? If I click on 'Save As' again I receive a pop-up telling me this file already exists, which in effect, it does. So, what do I do?



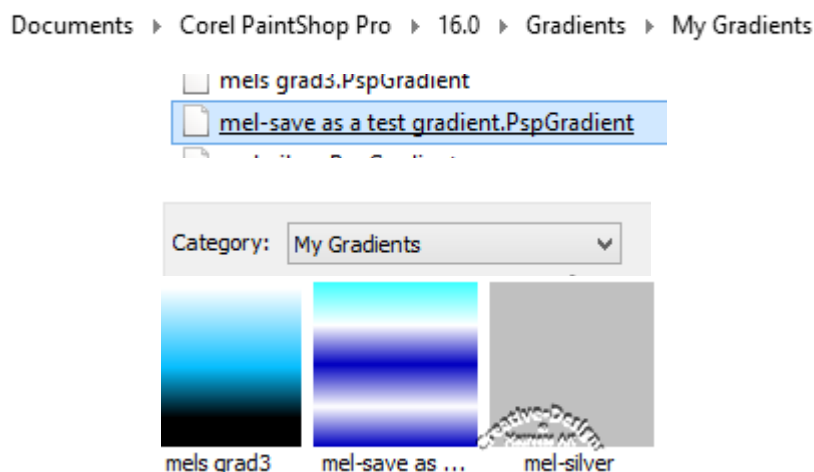
3. The simple answer is, **click Close**. When the dialogue window opens and asks me 'Do you want to save the changes', I choose Yes, because I want all the changes I made to the gradient saved. and it will not overwrite the Corel gradient. Exit the Material Properties by clicking OK.



4. The gradient will be in the Materials Palette, foreground colour box.



5. I open My Gradients folder and there is the new PspGradient. I open Material Properties, Gradients tab, click on the thumbnail. You can select All or My Gradients from the drop list. My gradient is visible.

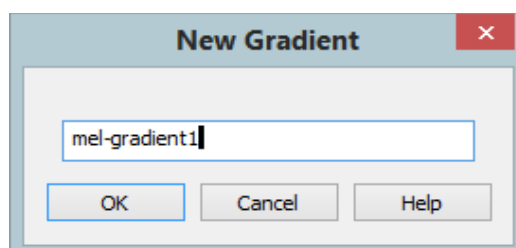


## NEW GRADIENT

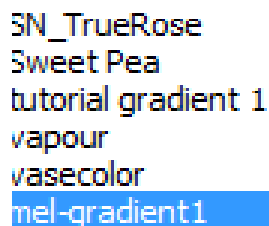
### - GRADIENT 1

1. Open a new raster image 300x300 pixels with a transparent background. Resolution at default. Go to the Materials Palette and select a foreground colour of #2a5eda with a background colour of white. Click on the foreground colour box in the Materials Palette to open the Material Properties. Select the Gradient tab, then the Edit button.


2. Click on the **New...** button choose a name for your 'gradient. It is always a good idea to put your initials before saving a file. Add this name to the window: **yourinitials-gradient1**. Click OK.





3. The newly named gradient will be visible at the end of the Types list. Make sure it is highlighted. If your colours change, don't worry, this is normal.





```
SN_TrueRose
Sweet Pea
tutorial gradient 1
vapour
vasecolor
mel-gradient1
```

**Fore:**  On the Gradient Editor under Gradient is Fore: This shows the current colour set in the Materials Palette. Tap the first marker then tap Fore. The colour has now changed to blue.

**Back:**  Back is the current white background colour. Go to the end marker and lightly tap it, now click Back: This part of the Gradient bar has changed to white.

**Custom:**  Custom colour swatch shows the currently defined custom colour. If your colour is different, that's ok.

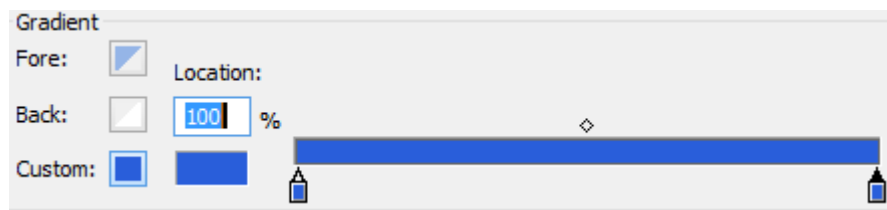
 Markers indicate points of solid colour. Markers can be added and/or deleted. To add a marker, tap the area under the colour bar, a new marker is created. To delete a marker, click on it and hit the delete key or just drag it away.

 Midpoints will show where two colours are equally blended. Each pair of markers has a midpoint. You can also change the position of the midpoints. Don't be concerned if your Gradient Editor shows colours. This doesn't matter as you will be adding custom colours.

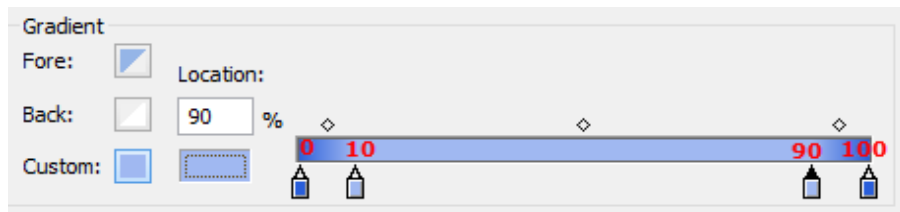
**If you accidentally delete a marker, just make a new one. If you accidentally add a new marker, just delete or drag it away.**

4. The first marker is set at 0% and the end marker at 100%. Now you need to add new markers with their own colours:

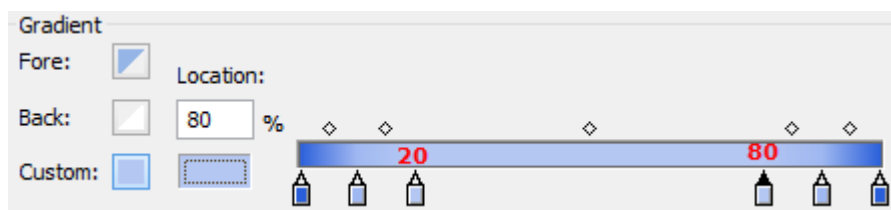
- First marker at 0% click on it then click the custom colour box to open the Materials Palette, choose this colour #2a5eda. Do the same for the last marker.



- Second markers **add** at 10% and 90% and select this colour. #a0b8f0.



- Third set of markers **add** at 20% and 80% with this colour #b4c7f2.



- Four set of markers **add** at 30% and 70% with this colour #e0e8fa.

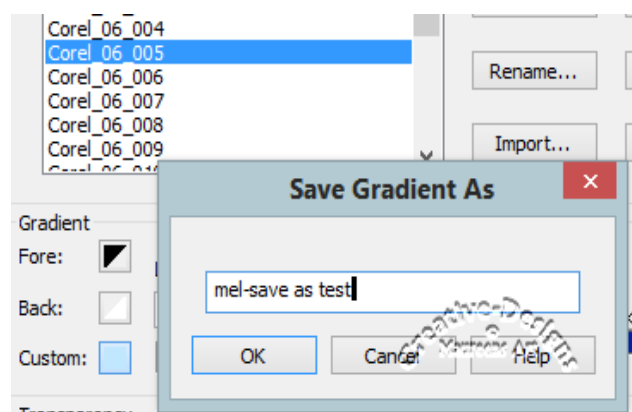
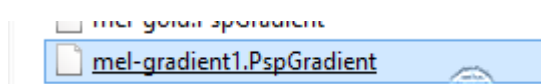


- Fifth marker **add** to central (50) and white. As shown below.

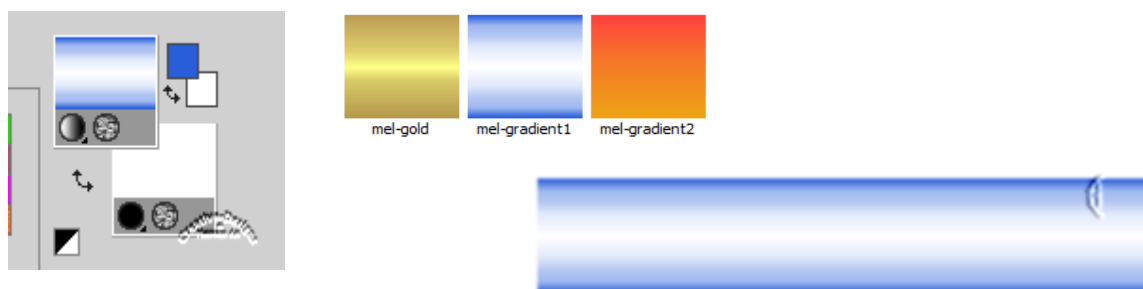


- In between each marker is a Midpoint. The Midpoint equally blends the two colours.

5. The new gradient is now complete. You can't Save as, as the gradient name was saved before editing. Just click Close and when prompted to save the changes click Yes. Your gradient is now saved as yourinitials-gradient1.PspGradient in your My Gradients folder.



6. Return to the workspace, your gradient should be visible in the Materials Palette. Open a new transparent image 500x200 pixels. Select the Flood fill and fill the canvas. This gradient creates a lovely ribbon effect.



## GRADIENTS WITH TRANSPARENCY

### - GRADIENT 2

1. Open a new transparent Raster image 300x300 pixels.
2. Click on the foreground colour swatch in the Materials Palette and add a colour of your choice. Add a complementary colour for the background. Try to keep them light in colour. (I chose green).
3. Click the colour swatch to open the Material Palette. Select the Gradient tab.
4. Click on the New... button and add a name of **yourinitials-gradient2**. Click OK.
5. Select a custom colour for the first marker and a lighter shade of the same colour for the second marker. You can add further markers with colour as you did for gradient1,

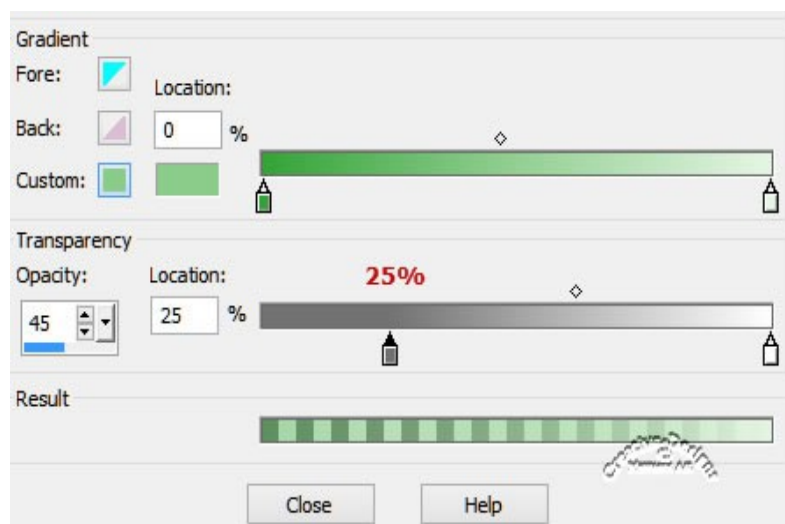


however, for this tutorial, just two colours are applied.

6. On Transparency, click on the first marker and move it to 25%. Reduce the Opacity down to 45.

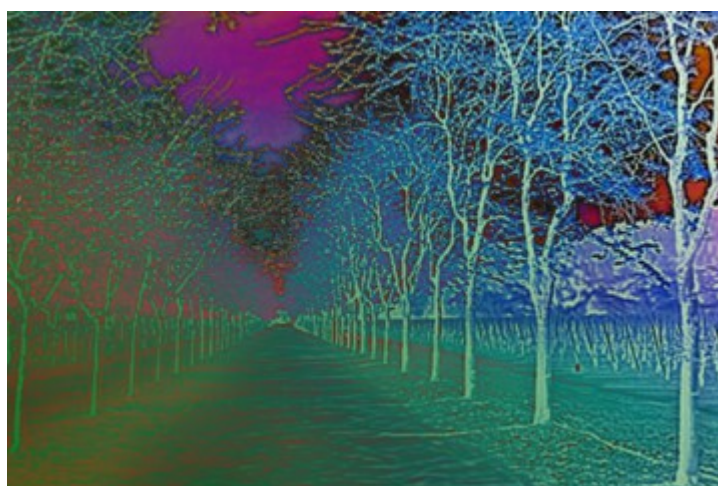
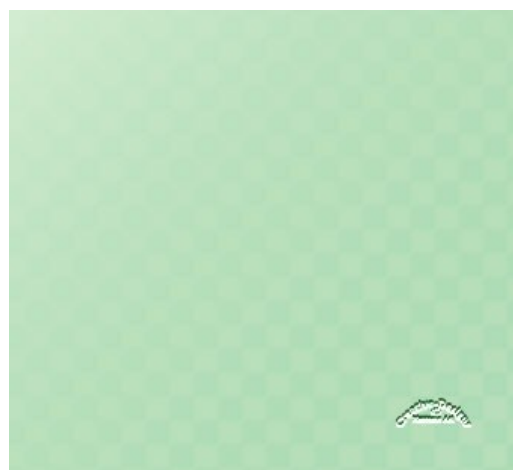
More transparency the lighter the gradient is.

7. Click Close and when prompted to save, click Yes.



8. Flood fill the canvas with your new transparent gradient. The background shows through! These transparent gradients are good for overlays and can also be used with Blend Modes very well. Experiment with variations in Opacity.

I added a new raster layer over the image below and filled the layer with the transparent green gradient. After applying a little Blend Mode, Difference it produced the fun coloured image below right.

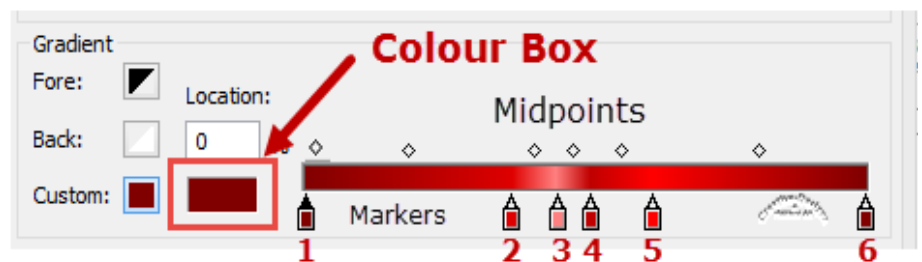
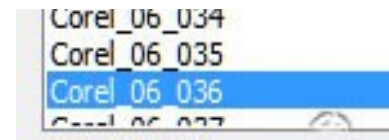
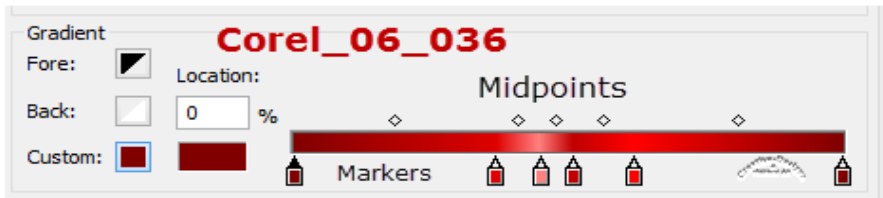




## EDIT AN EXISTING GRADIENT

### - GRADIENT 3

1. Open Gradient Editor. Select Corel\_06\_036 gradient from the Types list. The gradient contains six markers and five midpoints which we will edit to make a new gradient.



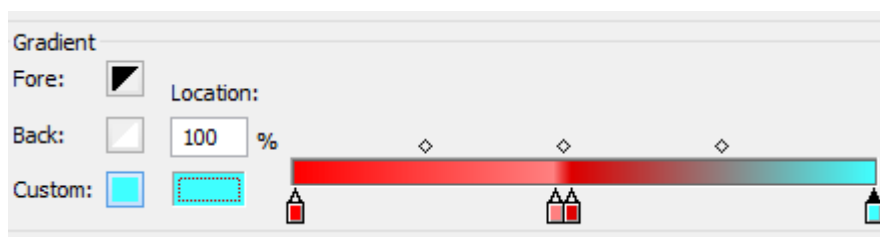
2. Remove markers 4 and 5.

3. Click on the first marker, then the colour box to change the colour to a lighter red #ff0000.



4. Move Marker 2 at 50%.

5. The far right marker, tap and change the colour to #40ffff

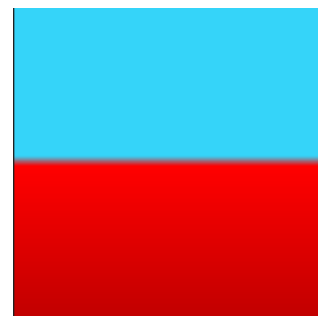


6. Marker 5 change the colour to #40ffff and move to 50%. This part can prove a little tricky and the best way I found is to place the turquoise marker over the red marker as near as you can get. Go to the location and add 50 in the box.



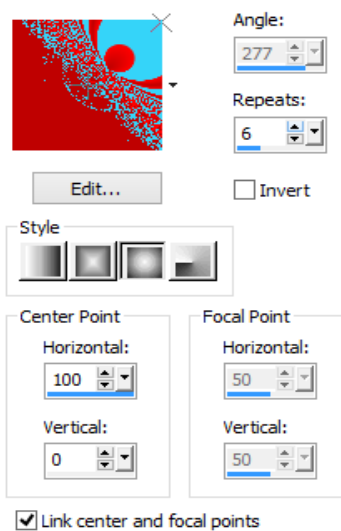
7. Click the **Save As** button. When the Save As dialogue window opens, give the gradient a name: **yourinitials-gradient3**. Click OK. This gradient is saved to your My Gradients folder and the Corel Gradient is untouched.

8. Select the Flood Fill and fill the canvas. What you will have is the image on the right.

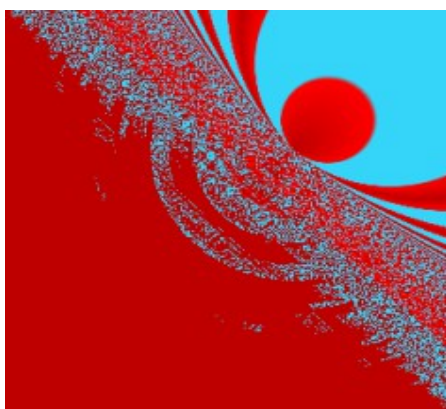


9. Let's jazz things up a little.

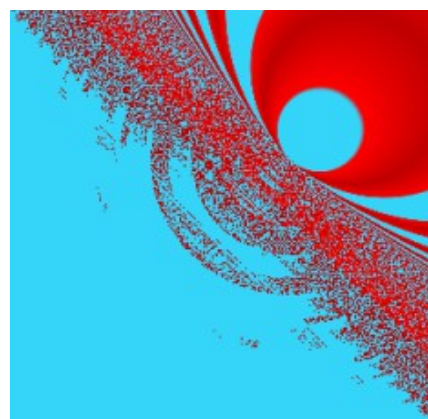
- Style: Linear
- Angle: 0
- Repeats: 6
- Change to Radial
- Horizontal 100
- Vertical 0.
- Change the Style to Sunburst



Flood Fill the canvas. Wow, it creates a lovely pattern.

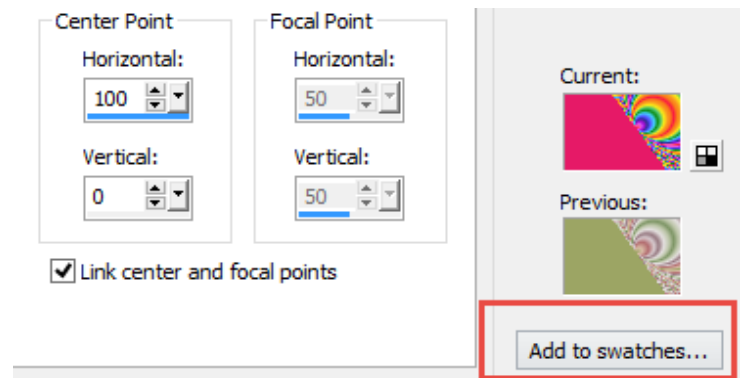


With Inverted box ticked.



## SAVING AS A SWATCH

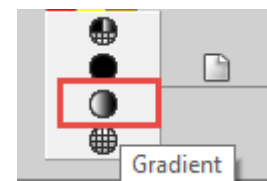
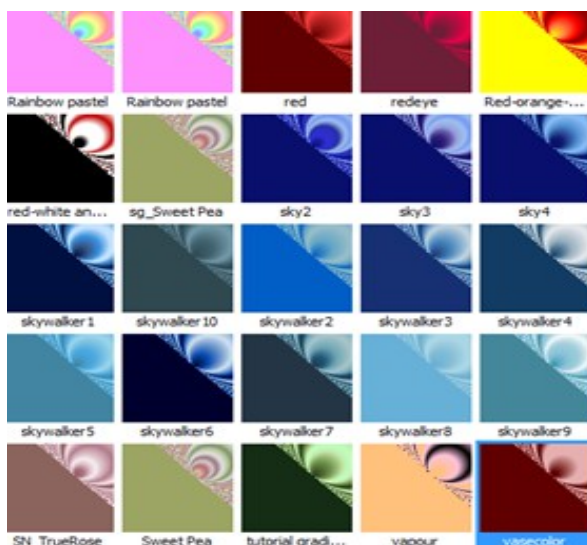
1. To keep the pattern, click **Add to Swatches** from the Material Properties. Add your initials-pattern-gradient. Click OK. This Gradient is visible in the Materials Palette, Gradient Swatches.



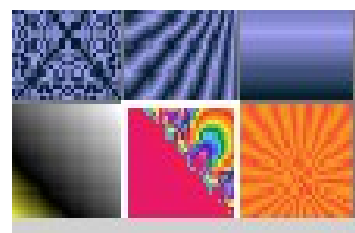
2. Clear the canvas by going to Selections, Select All then click the delete key. You will now have a transparent canvas again.

3. To reset the colours in the Materials Palette, click the Set to Black and White button. The foreground will be black and background white. Click on one of the colour boxes to open the Material Properties. Click on the Gradient tab. Click the drop box to open the gradients. Are they all showing the pattern you have just made? It looks a nice display of all gradients but they need to be resumed to default. Set Style to Linear, Angle 0 and Repeats 0 the gradient will resume to default. If you click on the swatch in the Materials Palette, the pattern will return.

4. Select the Swatches in the Materials Palette and click on the Gradients button and there's your gradient-pattern. You can select any combination of colours by selecting foreground and background colours from the Materials Palette.



Materials Palette Gradient Swatches



## IMPORTING AND EXPORTING

### - IMPORTING

1. There are several types of gradients you can import. Original Jasc gradients with the file extension of .jgd. Photoshop gradients with the file extension of .grd and naturally, PspGradient. You do not need to use the Import button in the Gradient Editor for PaintShop Pro Gradients. Any gradient with the file extension GRD will require importing.

2. We need to search online for some nice gradients that are free. Use your search engine to find free gradients for PaintShop Pro. Here's one I found that you can use for this part of the tutorial. **<http://www.barbkermisdesigns.com/AGrads.htm>** - select a set of gradients you like and click Download. These will be found in your downloads folder as a zip file. There are 8 gradients to a set.

3. I created a folder named: BarbsPlayground and unzipped the contents to that folder in Documents / Corel PaintShop Pro / 16 / Gradients / BarbsPlayerground. (Your version may vary). Often you don't need to make a new folder as the gradients are in their own folder, all you need to do is pop the folder into the Gradient Folder.

4. There are some lovely gradients here you may like to import from here:

<http://elvensword.deviantart.com/gallery/1923834>

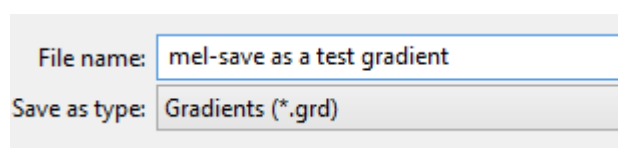
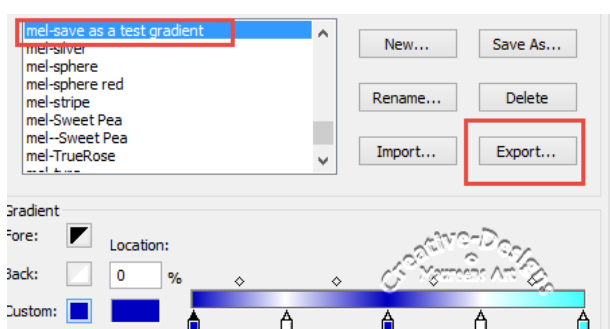
5. Click on the foreground colour box to open the Material Properties. Select the Gradient tab. Click the gradient thumbnail to open the drop list. Find the newly added BarbsPlayerground, PaintShop Pro Gradients. I only have a small selection, but they do look nice.



6. I would never add downloaded or imported gradients into My Gradients folder as they're not my creation. I would extract them from the zip and point them to the Gradients folder where they'd install in their own folder.

## - EXPORTING

1. Why do I need to Export Gradients? If I want to share my gradients with users who use other software, I will use the Export so the PspGradient file will save as a .GRD.
2. I opened the Gradient Editor. Selected the mel-save as test gradient from the Types list and clicked Export. An Export dialogue window opens which gives me the option of selecting a folder. Because it will be a .GRD file **I will place this. and any subsequent exported gradient file into the Share folder I created at the beginning.**
3. Exporting the PspGradient in no way changes that file, PSP creates a new GRD file for sharing - this file extension cannot be read in PSP. The PspGradient is still in My Gradients folder for me to use in PaintShop Pro. Both the PspGradient and .GRD files are the same gradient with different file extensions for different uses.



3. Of course, I do not need to Export at all. If I wished I can zip the PspGradients and share with fellow PSP users. All they need to do is download and unzip the files, and place them in their gradient folder.

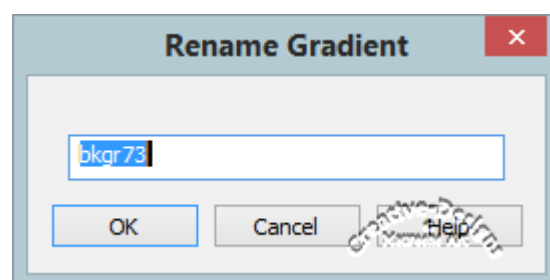
## SHARING GRADIENTS

1. I already have a **Share folder** which I will use to Export this gradient into. The file will save as mel-save as test gradient.grd. The original PspGradient is not affected by this export. Once I've added a set of gradients to this folder, I can zip and share.
2. One more thing, with my GRD files in the Share folder, if say I create a selection of pastel gradients and I wish to just share them as a pastel set. I can do two things.

Highlight all the pastel gradients and zip them. Or, place the pastel gradients into their own folder and zip the folder. By doing the latter, when the recipient downloads the file, all the gradients are within a folder. All the recipient needs to do is extract the contents of the zip into Gradient folder. Certainly is a more helpful way of sharing files.

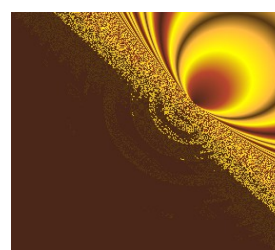
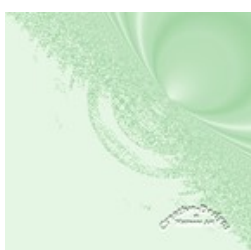
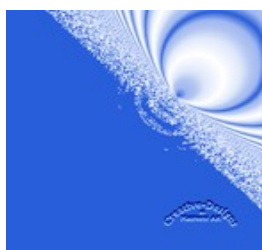
## RENAMING GRADIENTS

To give a gradient a new name, I open the Gradient Editor. Click on a gradient from the Types list that I want to rename. A Rename Gradient dialogue window opens. I change the name to whatever I want. Click Ok.



This completes this tutorial on Paintshop Pro X6 Gradient Editor. I hope you have enjoyed learning about the Gradient Editor. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask in the PIRC Forum. (see below).

There is a further tutorial [Creative Gradients](#) that may interest you, which is all about creating different types of gradients.



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](#).