

PaintShop Pro Tutorials

By Maureen Eves-Lavis

TITLE: TEXT ON CURVES

Software: PaintShop Pro X6

My Web Site: [Creative-Designs](http://Creative-Designs.com)

Materials Needed: None



DESCRIPTION:

Learn how to draw Vector Preset Shapes or lines and apply text to both top and bottom of the shape to create a text image.

REMEMBER TO SAVE OFTEN TO AVOID LOSING YOUR WORK

PaintShop Pro aligns text along a path starting from the spot where you click to insert it. You can also set the alignment style for the text - left aligned text starts where you click, centred aligned is centred on the spot where you click, and the right aligned text ends where you click. When you fit text to a path, you can adjust the distance between the text and path by using Offset.

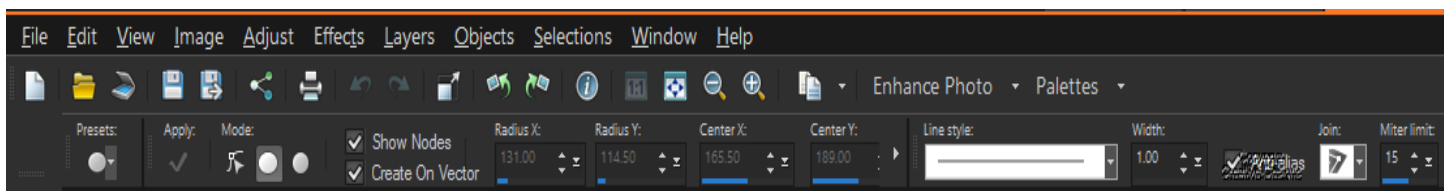
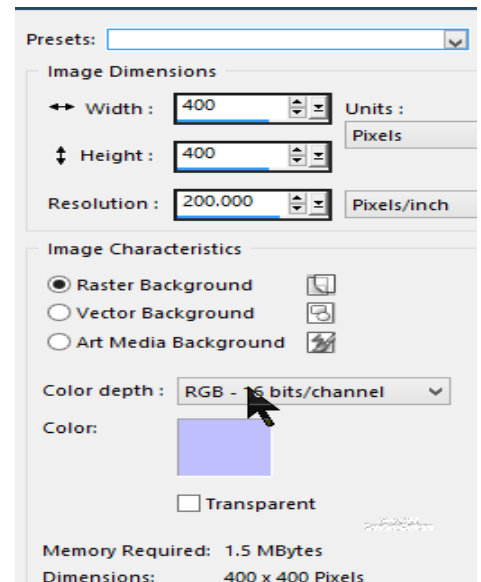
Text is displayed differently on open and closed paths. Open paths are lines and closed paths are circles, squares and rectangles. On an open path text that is longer than the path will hang from the end. The angle of the last line segment determines the direction in which the text will hang.

Text on closed paths that is longer than the path will wrap around itself.

The distance between the letters can be adjusted by applying Kerning, also on the Tool Options palette. If the text is too spaced it would overlap, a very low Kerning would squash letters and they would look out of proportion.

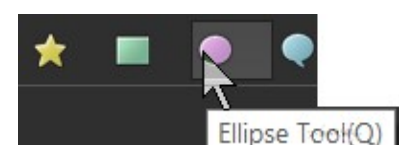
DRAWING THE ELLIPSE AND ADDING TEXT

1. Firstly, go to File on the Menu bar, New and open a New **Raster** image of 400x400 pixels, a light colour as it helps seeing the nodes when the vector is drawn. Alternatively you can open a new image from the Standard toolbar, click the icon as shown below.



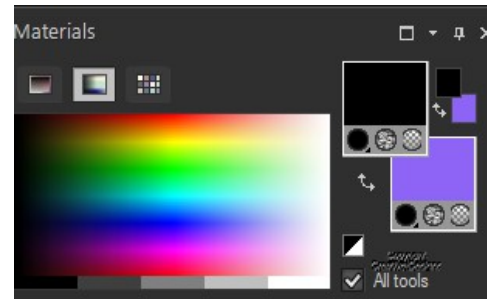
- **Menu bar** – displays commands for performing tasks.
- **Standard Toolbar** - appears under the menu bar and contains the most common file-management commands, such as saving images, undoing a command, and cutting and pasting items
- **Tool Options Palette** – displays settings and controls for the active tool.
- **Status Bar** – appears by default at the lower edge of the work space and displays information about the selected tool.

2. From the Toolbar select the Ellipse Shape Tool (Q)

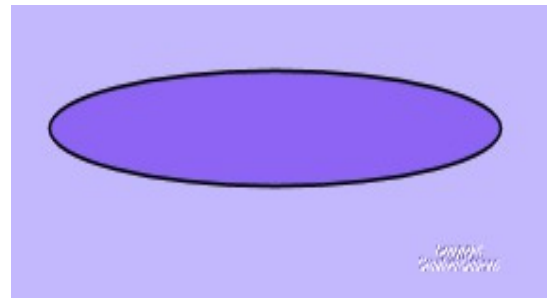
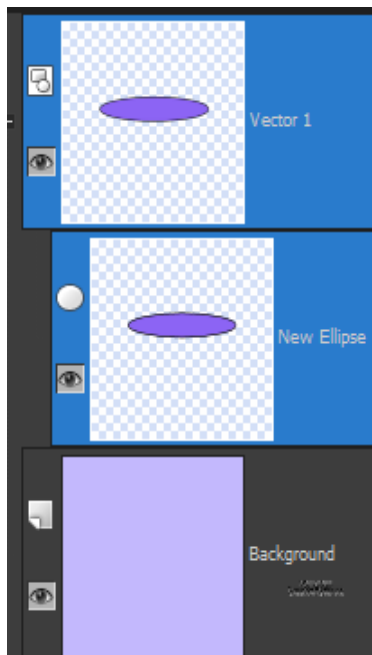


Line style will be solid with a width of 2.00. Anti-alias and Create on a Vector ticked.

Materials Palette, Foreground (stroke) black, background (fill) choose a colour of your choice.



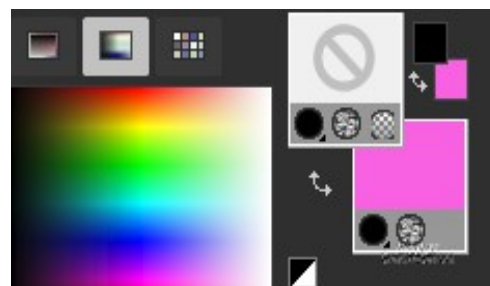
Draw an ellipse shape on the canvas. It automatically is placed on a new Vector layer.



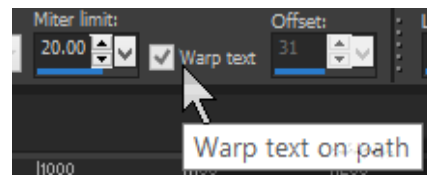
The ellipse drawn is a vector but placed on a sub layer as a Shape, New Ellipse. Before commencing adding text click on the New Ellipse layer to activate it.

3. Change to the Text tool from the Toolbar select a font similar to Arial Black with a size of 30 pixels.

4. Change the background to a colour for the text and null foreground.

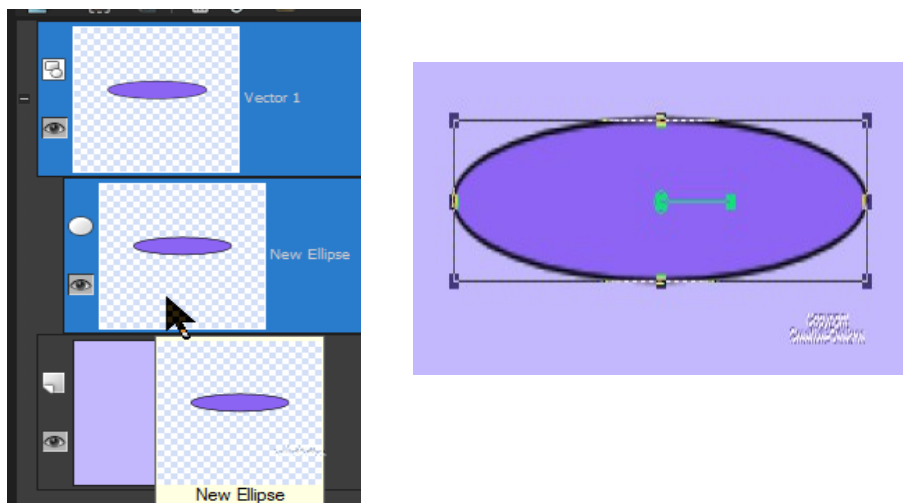


Not only can colours be applied but gradients and patterns and borders by applying a colour/gradient or pattern to the foreground.



5. Check to see Warp text is ticked on the Tool Options palette. Having this enabled warps the text around the curved section of the path. If the path is not curved, the effect is not apparent. Warping is set on a per-character basis, so you can warp specific characters in a text block.

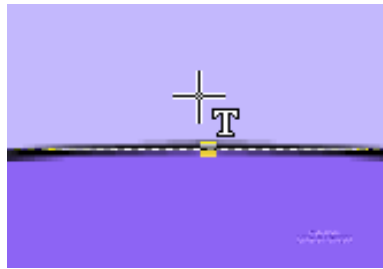
6. Open and click on the Vector layer to reveal the ellipse shape, a bounding box will surround the ellipse.



APPLYING TEXT

1. Check on the Options Tool bar that the Direction (Horizontal and Down), Alignment (centre), Anti-alias (smooth), and Create as a Vector are all activated. Stroke Width is not required due to not having a foreground colour, set the Path Offset to 0, Kerning to 65.

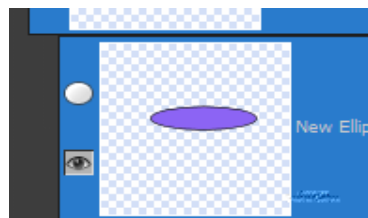
2. Hover the Text tool on the ellipse line at the top the tool shape changes to a curve with a 'T'.



3. After hovering the cursor on the line and click to apply text, it is replaced by a blinking line.



If by any chance you move away from the canvas and it appears you have lost the ability to text, click on the ellipse layer and the blinking line will return ready for you to continue with the text.



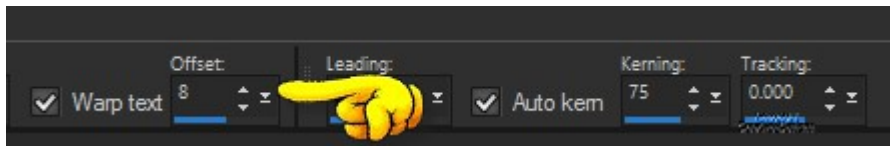
4. Position the cursor centre top and apply the word Test the text will write left to right. The text is sitting too low, let's raise it a little.



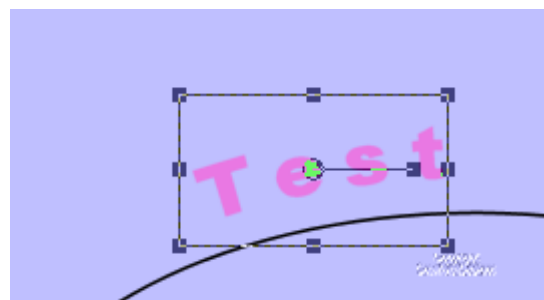
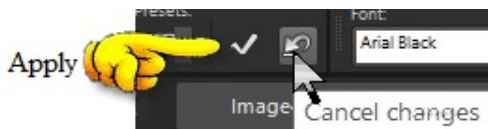
5. Make sure the text is highlighted, you still have the text tool activated, you can swipe the text or Ctrl+A. Look at the Path Offset on the Tool Options palette this determines

where the text will be applied - above or below the line regardless whether you text at the top or bottom. Path Offset only appears when the Text tool is active.

6. Change the Path Offset to 8. The text will move up a little higher.



7. The Tool Options palette has two icons, Apply and Cancel changes (undo). If you wish to remove the text click the Cancel Change (undo) so you can start again.



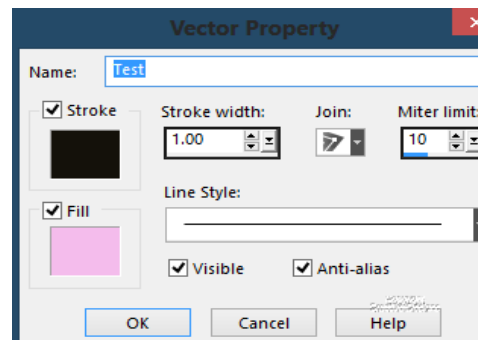
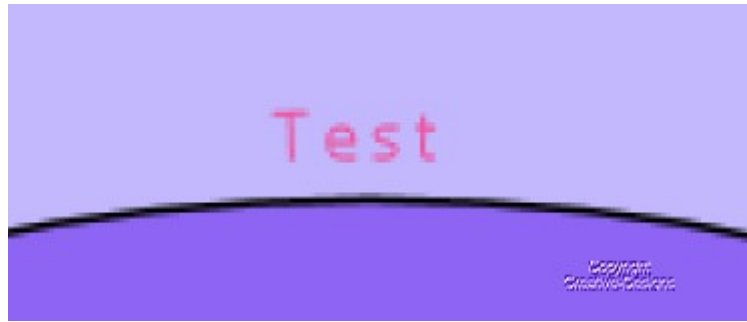
8. Click on the Apply icon. A bounding box will surround the text now the text can be moved anywhere around the shape, but not away from the shape.

To place the text below the line, reduce the value of Offset. Remember you must be in text mode with the word highlighted then decrease the value to around -15. Click the Apply button.

If you delete the ellipse shape layer now the curved text will be lost and it would be horizontal.

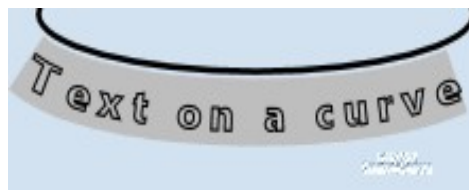


9. To keep the ellipse and text intact it requires merging. Right click on the top layer and and Convert to Raster Layer.



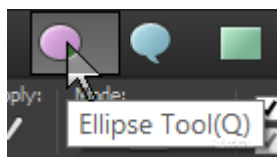
10. You may want a different colour, gradient or patterned text or place a border around the text which is simple to do. Right Click on the text layer, Properties - Vector Properties palette opens from here you can make further adjustments.

Reverse Contour and Reverse Path

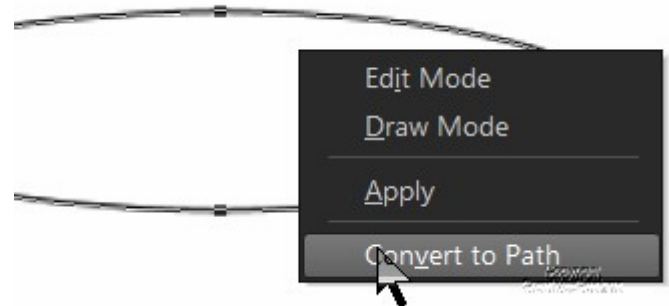


11. Open a new white raster canvas 400x400.

On the Tool Options palette ensure Show Nodes and Create on a Vector is ticked. Width 2.00, Anti-alias ticked. Draw an ellipse with the Ellipse Tool.

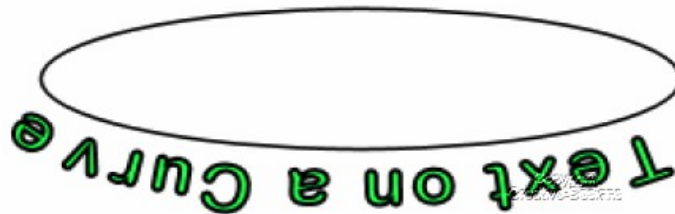


12. Right click on the ellipse on the canvas, Convert to Path.



13. Change to the Text tool, Arial Rounded MT or similar, size 30.

14. Hover the cursor over the lower portion of the ellipse. Change Path Offset to 10. Type - Text on a Curve..... whoa, it's upside down!



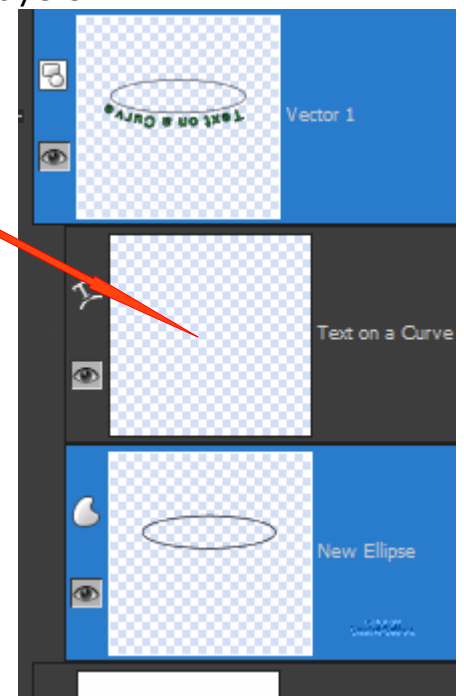
15. Open the layers in the Layers palette so you can see all layers.

16. With the pen tool, click on the New Ellipse layer

17. Right click on the ellipse, Edit, Reverse Path, the text will be inside the ellipse.

18. Reverse Path can also be accessed by Objects on the Menu bar.

19. Change to the text tool ensure the text is highlighted and adjust the Path Offset to +30 then click the Apply button. The bounding box is around the text. Change to the pick tool to move the text to the centre. It's that simple, eh!



APPLYING TEXT TO A WAVY LINE

- Open another new white canvas 400x400.
- Select the pen tool.
- Materials palette, foreground black background null.
- Tick Connect Segments, Create on a Vector. Show Nodes and Anti-alias.
- Line Width 2.00 with a Line Style of a solid line.
- Choose freehand drawing and draw a wavy line from lower left to upper right.
- Open the layers so you can view the vector and new path.
- Click on the New Path - the line on the canvas will now show nodes.
- Right click on a node, edit, reverse path.
- Path Offset +30 and Kerning about 265 (you may need to adjust this in according with the font, size and length of path). This will place the text below the line.
- Alignment – left.
- Hover the cursor at the lower left and begin typing, Text on a path is fun. The text will be above the line and left to right.

Click Apply button.



Text on a path is fun

Close the eye on the New Path layer to view the text.

CONVERT TEXT TO CURVES

1. In order to detach the text from the ellipse it requires converting.

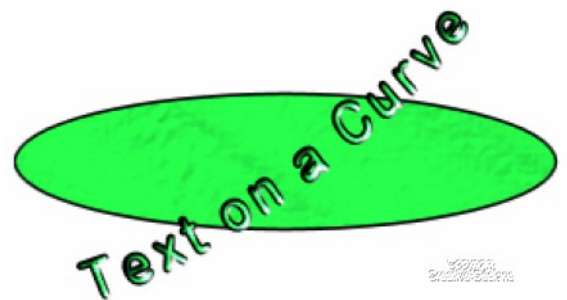
Go back to the previous image where you wrote Text on a Curve at the lower edge of the ellipse.

Open the layers palette to view all layers.

With the pick tool selected, right click on the Text on a Curve layer, select Convert Text to Curves then As a Single Shape.



2. Converting to a single shape produces one path containing a contour of each letter. Convert Text to Curves is also accessible from Objects on the Menu bar.



3. The text is independent of the ellipse and can be moved anywhere on the canvas.

USING A PRESET SHAPE & EFFECTS

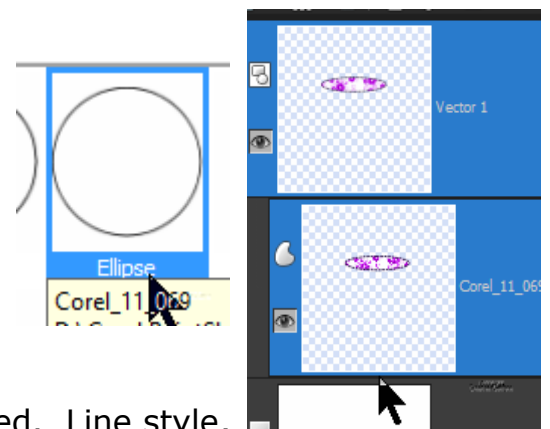
1. For this last one we shall use a Preset Shape.

2. Open a 400x400 white raster canvas.

Foreground colour navy blue, background a pattern of your choice.

3. Select the Ellipse from the Preset Shape tool from the toolbar, this will open the preset shapes categories. Locate where the ellipse tool is and select it.

Untick retain style, Anti-alias and Create on curves ticked. Line style, dotted line width 2.



4. Draw the ellipse and open the layers to view all.
5. With the Pen tool, click on the shape in the layers palette then on the ellipse on the canvas, right click and reverse path.
6. Change the foreground to transparent and background a colour that complements the pattern. Change the stroke width to 1 and line style to solid line. You may wish to choose a nice text and reduce the size so it fits snugly under the ellipse.
7. Hover the cursor over the lower edge of the ellipse, but first remember to change the path offset to a minus figure to place the text below the line. Change to -16.

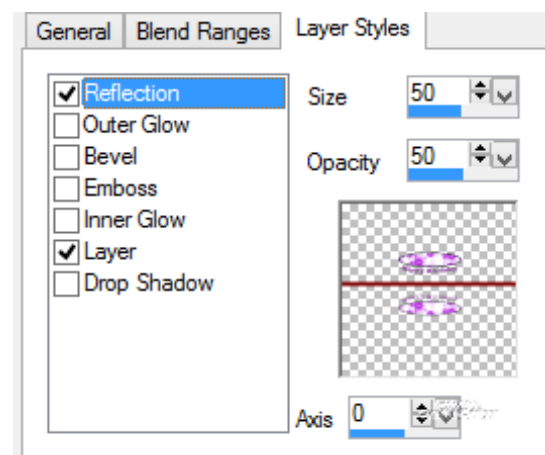
Apply Happy Birthday below the bottom curve. The click Apply.



You may need to adjust the text with the Pick tool.

8. Click on the Vector layer and convert to Raster. You should now have the white raster layer 1 and raster 2 with the image.

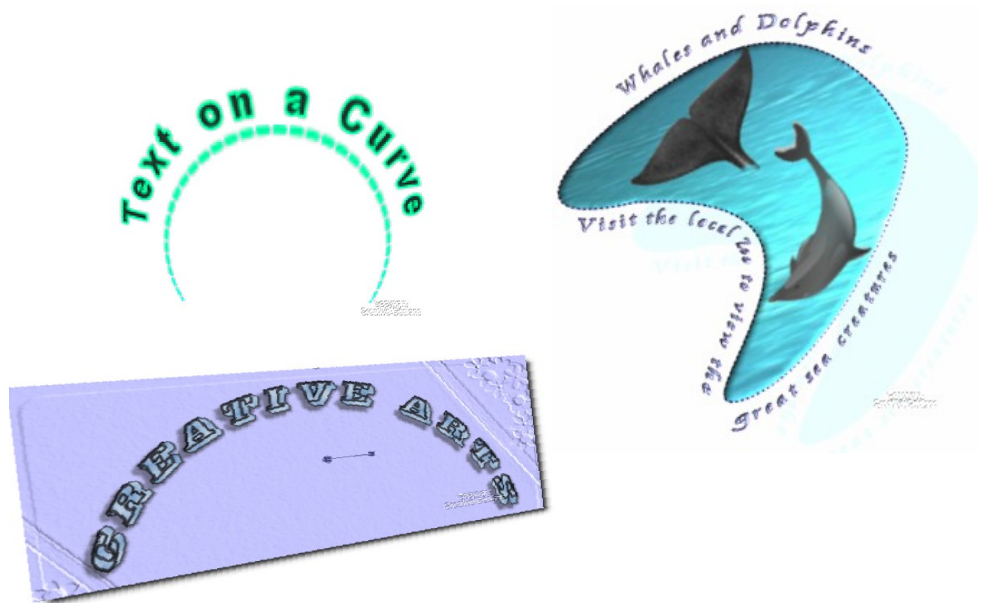
Right click on the Raster 2 and select Properties. Select Layer Styles tab. Tick Reflection, Size 13 and Opacity 23, Axis 0. Click OK.



You can if you wish apply a gradient or solid background and use the image for creating a card.



Once you have learned the basics of applying the text onto a curve, you can proceed to make vector shapes with the pen tool and apply creative text. Below are just a few examples of Text on Curves. Now create your own.



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](#).