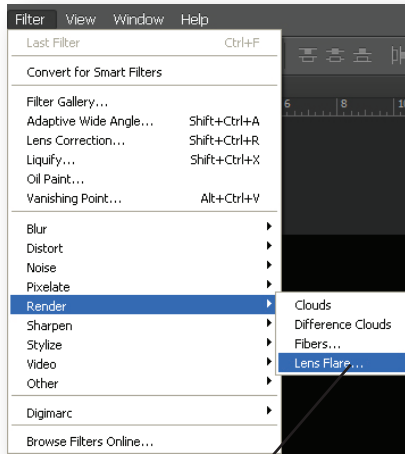
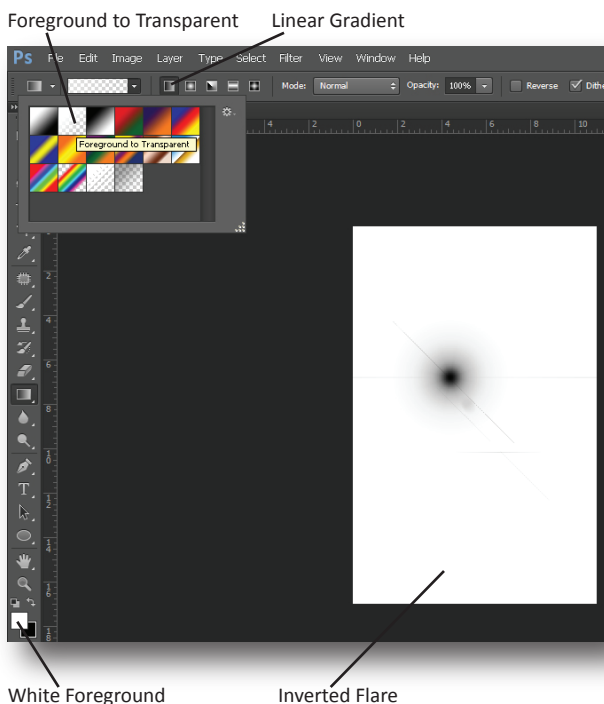


Creating a Lens Flare Background

Prepping the Flare



1. Create a new document, which is 5"x5", a resolution of 100, with a white background.
2. Make the background black by pressing Ctrl I.
3. Choose Filter>Render>Lens Flare. If it's grayed out, go to Image>-Mode>RGB.
4. When the new dialog box appears, choose Movie Prime for the flare type. The flare location could be moved, but keep it where it is. The brightness should be 100%. With these settings, press OK.
5. Now remove the colors from the flare by pressing Shift, Ctrl, U.

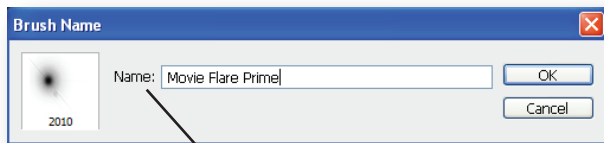
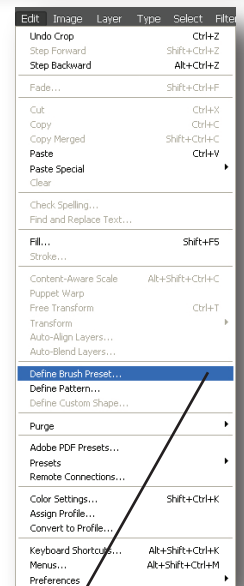


6. Next, invert the colors by choosing Image>Adjustments>Invert.

7. Finally, select the gradient tool and choose the linear gradient. Set the foreground color to white and the background color to black. Now change the gradient colors to foreground to transparent (the second choice). Click and drag from each edge inward to fade out the edges of the flare so it blends before the edge of the document. Drag from the top in and bottom up too.

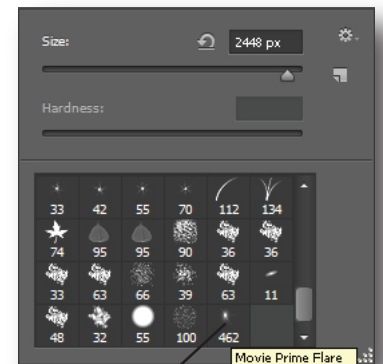
Making the Brush

1. Choose Edit>Define Brush Preset. Photoshop will ignore the white and only acknowledge the gray and black areas of the flare. It's not necessary to name the flare, but for now, just name it Movie Prime Flare and choose OK. The brush has been created.

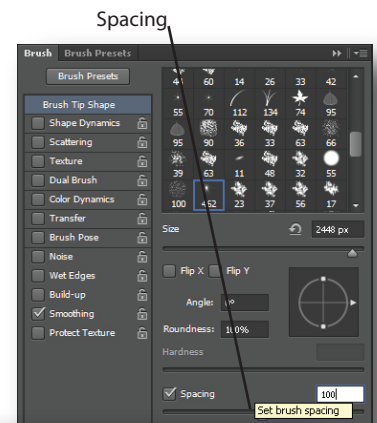


Creating the Background and Lights

1. Create a new document with resolution of 300, 11"x 17" and a white fill.
2. Press Ctrl I to invert the fill, making it a black document.
3. Create a new blank layer.
4. Choose the brush tool from the tool bar. Change the brush tool to Movie Prime Flare (it should be at the very bottom of the styles). Ensure that white is the foreground color.



5. Now adjust the brush by choosing Window>Brush. From the brush options palette, change the spacing to spread the flares out. 100% will work. Along the left edge, open the shape dynamics option. Drag the Size Jitter up to 100%.



6. Simply click and drag some flares into the document. Just stay away from the edge of the file.

7. Now go into Free Transform by selection Edit>Free Transform or pressing Ctrl T. Right click on the flares and choose warp. It's now time for some fun... just drag the points around in the document to distort the effect and make a unique design. There's no right or wrong, just see what happens.

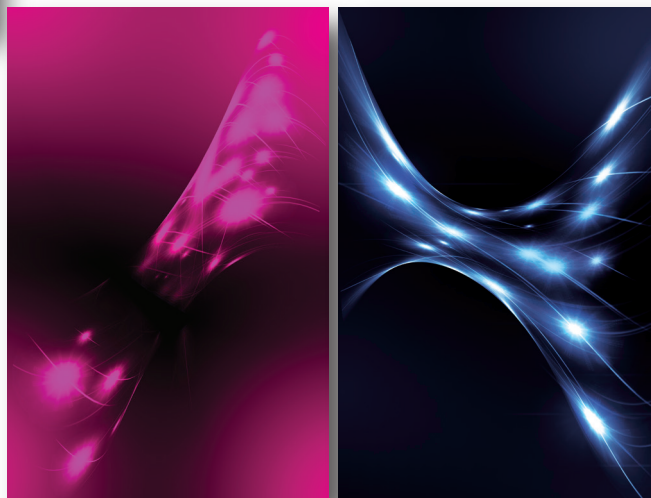
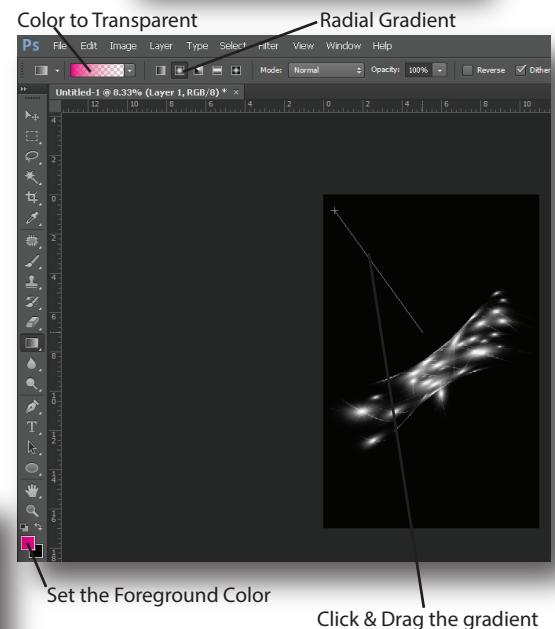
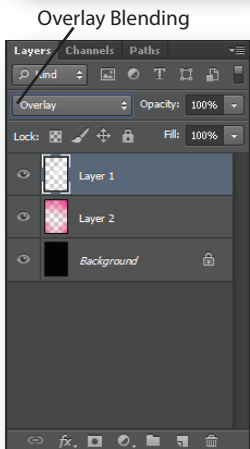
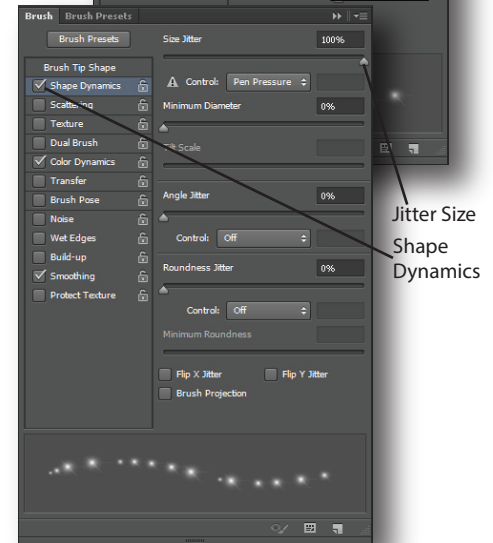
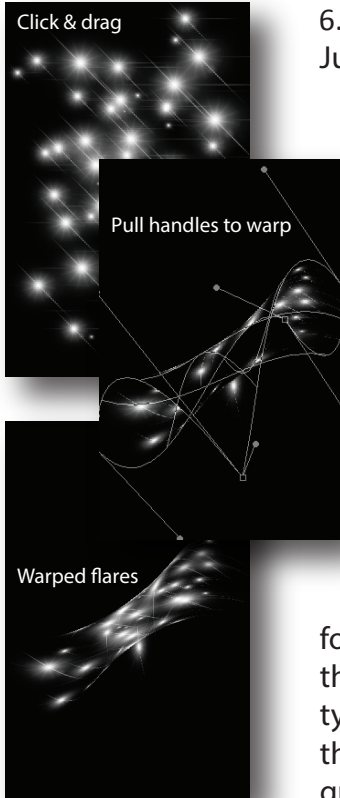
Adding Color

1. Create a new layer just below the graphical element.

2. Select the gradient tool, and choose a foreground color for the background. Next, change the gradient to radial and make sure the gradient type is still color to transparent. Just click and drag the gradient to create a subtle fade in the background. The longer the pull the slower the transition.

3. On the layer with the graphic, change the blending mode to overlay. The effect will be a little subtle, so press Ctrl J to add a layer and multiply the effect. If it's not strong enough, press Ctrl J again until the effect is strong enough.

4. Finally, if the flares aren't strong enough in some areas, take the brush and paint in a white flare or two to make a few brighter.



Pink Example

Blue Example