


LAYERS 3 – STYLES & EFFECTS PRACTICE EXERCISES

Sandro V. Cuccia: Rev. 080902

Use the handy checkboxes after you complete each step.

Layer Styles Practice Exercise 1: “Playing with Styles”

➔ *In this exercise, you will practice more with Text Layers, and you will learn about setting and editing Layer Styles to text and other objects.*

1. Open file ***Playing with Styles.psd***
2. You are ready to apply ***two*** layer styles to the text layer. Make sure that the “Plain Text” layer is both visible and selected.
3. Go to the Palette Bin and click on the ***Styles and Effects*** palette tab (the tiny disclosure triangle) and expand the palette.
4. Set the left pop-up menu at the top of the palette to “Layer Styles” and the right pop-up menu to “Bevels.”
5. Give the text a layer style -- first apply a ***Scalloped Edge Bevel***, then apply a ***Low Drop Shadow***. (You need to select “Drop Shadows” in the pop-up menu first!) Remember, these effects are cumulative. Be poised to UNDO if you make a mistake with CTRL-Z (CMD-Z on )
6. Rename the layer ***“Bevel & Shadow”***
7. Make a copy of the newly styled text layer via menu:LAYER>DUPLICATE LAYER, and name it ***“Chrome”***
8. Make sure the new layer copy is visible and active, and apply a ***Wow Chrome Shiny Edge*** layer style. (Look for the “Wow Chrome” layer style selection in the pop-up menu).
9. Turn ***off*** the visibility of the Chrome layer. If you did everything correctly, you should now see your text with the Bevel and Shadow styles you applied in step 5.
10. Turn the visibility of the Chrome layer back ***on***.
11. Do a ***SAVE AS*** and name the file with your name. Now ***CLOSE*** the file.
12. ***REOPEN*** your file. (Use the menu:FILE>OPEN RECENTLY EDITED FILE for quick access).
13. Look at your layers. Notice the small “f” symbols? This signifies that the layer has a Layer Style applied to it, and that ***it can be edited!***
14. You decide you don’t like the chrome style after all. You could just delete the entire layer, but for the sake of practice, just delete the style instead. Make sure the chrome text layer is active, then select menu:LAYER>LAYER STYLE>CLEAR LAYER STYLE. Notice that the little “f” symbol disappears, and your text reverts to its original plain ordinary style. (You may be also seeing some shadow effects from the text layer beneath show through.)
15. Now you can ***delete*** the Chrome layer.
16. If you’re on track, you should be seeing the text layer with the ***Bevel and Drop Shadow*** you applied in step 5. Make sure it is active (and, of course, visible).
17. Now, edit the styles by ***double-clicking*** on the “f” symbol on the layer in the palette. This will open the ***Style Settings*** dialog box for this layer. Since this layer has had the ***bevel and drop shadows*** styles applied, you can modify the controls that set how these styles appear.
18. Go ahead and make changes to the controls you see, and notice the changes to the styles of your text. Notice what all the available controls do. When you are satisfied, click OK.
19. Now let’s add styles to the heart. Make sure the Heart layer is active.
20. Apply these Layer Styles to the Heart Layer: ***Radioactive Inner Glow and a Low Drop Shadow***.

21. Change the heart's color to a bright red via menu:EDIT>FILL LAYER. In the Fill Layer dialog box, select **Color...** in the "Use:" pop-up menu. Now use the **color sampling** technique by moving the cursor outside the color picker and sampling the color from your red text.
22. Finally, edit your text and/or change fonts & size to see that it is completely editable. Change "Photoshop" to "Elements". **SAVE** your file.

Did you know you can copy your custom Layer Style to another layer? Here's how!

1. Create a NEW BLANK FILE (make it 640 x 480 pixels at 72 ppi) and white background.
2. Type some text in a new Text Layer with font, size, and color that you want.
3. Lets suppose you really like the Bevel & Shadow layer style you created in the previous exercise and you'd like to use it again on some other text in another file.
4. If your "I Love Elements" file is not already open, do so now, and make active the text layer that contains the the style you like (look for that little symbol).
5. Go to menu LAYER>LAYER STYLE>COPY LAYER STYLE
6. Now bring up the new file you created in step 1 and 2. Make sure the Text Layer is active.
7. Go to menu LAYER>LAYER STYLE>PASTE LAYER STYLE. The Style from your first image was copied into your new image. Make any necessary changes or text edits, if desired.
Remember, you are not copying text; you are copying the style.

Layer Styles Practice Exercise 2: "Rehoboth Beach"

➔ **In this exercise, you will learn how to expand the canvas of an image, and you will learn how to give an image that "pop-off-the-page" three-dimensional look.**

1. Open the file **Rehoboth Beach.jpg**. Your assignment is to apply a drop-shadow to this image. First, you need to expand the canvas in order to be able to apply the drop-shadow.
2. Make a copy of the Background Layer first. We need to do our work on a copy for this exercise to work, but it's a good habit to get into anyway!! Make sure the copy stays active.
3. Show Rulers via menu:VIEW>RULERS.
4. Go to menu:IMAGE>RESIZE>CANVAS SIZE
5. In the Canvas Size dialog box, enable the "Relative" check-box because you want to increase the canvas size all the way around by 1/2 inch. This measurement will be **relative** to the original size; it is not an **absolute** measurement, which would be the case with "Relative" unchecked.
6. For Width and Height, enter 1 inch. (1/2 inch at the bottom plus 1/2 inch at the top increase the total height by 1 inch ... same holds for measuring the width).
7. The anchor should remain unchanged --- the anchor (representing the original image) needs to be in the center of the grid because we want to add equal amounts of canvas on all four sides.
8. Finally, the "Canvas Extension" color should be White.
9. Click OK. You will now see a white canvas extension all the way around. Study the dimensions on the rulers to understand what just happened.
10. With the Background Copy layer still active, go to the **Styles and Effects** palette, and apply a Low Drop Shadow.
11. Edit the Style you just created (double-click on the tiny "f" symbol). Play around with the **Light Angle** and **Shadow Distance** controls until you get an effect you like.
12. Finally crop out the excessive canvas with the **Crop Tool**.

