



GIMP Tutorial 2 – Graffiti

In this tutorial, we are going to create some realistic graffiti in the Gimp in order to explore the text capabilities as well as layers.

Step 1

Download the photo below from <http://tigertech.pbworks.com/images> and open up the Gimp. Open up the photo we just downloaded. Go to Select > All, copy & paste onto a new layer. Delete the original layer.



Step 2

Now we need to add some text. At this point, go ahead and use the Text Tool and type in whatever you want your graffiti to say and select a font (we use Nosegrind below). Position and size it. Don't worry about the perspective right now. We will get to that later. Name this layer "Text"




Step 3

Now we'll add a little bit of a background and a stroke (border) to the text. Create a new layer underneath the text layer and name it "text_bg." Right click on the original text layer and select 'Alpha to Selection' – this creates a selection around the text. Go to Select > Grow on the menu to expand the selection. Grow by 15 pixels. Select the text_bg layer and fill the selection with white using the Bucket Filltool.



Create a new layer above the text layer and name it "text_gradient." Right click the original text layer and select Alpha to Selection – this creates a selection around the text. Change the foreground color to #00a2ff and the background color to #383838. You can change the color by double clicking on the colors in the toolbar on the left. The color on the top is the foreground color and the color on bottom is the background color. Type those color numbers in the HTML notation field. The foreground is a blue and the background is a dark grey.



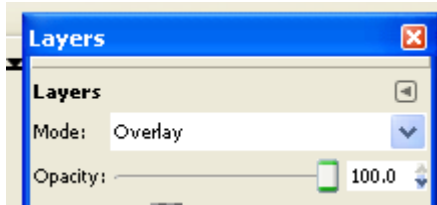
Select the BlendTool  and apply a gradient from top to bottom of the text on the text_gradient layer. Click just above the text and then release just below the text. The text should fade from blue to grey. Go to Select > None to remove the selection.

Merge all the layers that make up the text by right clicking on the top gradient layer and select merge down. Repeat this for all text layers. In the end, you should have a single text layer and the background. Go to Filters > Light and Shadow > Drop Shadow. Set the X & Y radii to 20 and the blur radius to 0. Uncheck allow resizing. Set the opacity to 70%. Hit ok. Merge the text layer with the new shadow layer by right-clicking on the text layer and selecting merge down. Our text is done.



Step 4

Set the layer mode of the text's layer to Overlay. You do this by changing the Mode field just above the list of layers.

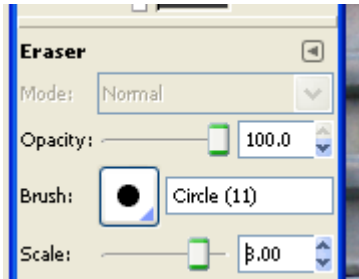


At this point, the text looks a little too sharp to be spray paint. Let's fix that. Duplicate the text layer. You can do this by right-clicking on the text layer and selecting 'Duplicate Layer'. Move the duplicate layer underneath the original text layer. With the duplicated layer selected, go to Filters > Blur > Gaussian Blur. Enter 30 for both values. Hit ok. Right click the original text layer and hit the Alpha to Selection option. Select the duplicate layer and hit the delete button. This deletes the text from the duplicate layer and just leaves the blur we just added.



Step 5

Use the eraser tool **A** on both text layers to erase the parts of the text covering the pole. Expand the size of the eraser by changing the Scale of the Eraser tool. The tool properties are found just below the Tools.



Step 6

Let's add one more effect. Go to Edit > Copy Visible, and then go to Edit > Paste As > New Layer. On the new layer that just popped up, go to Filters > Blur > Gaussian Blur. Enter 10 for both values and hit ok. Set the Layer mode to Overlay (see step 4 for info on doing this). This adds some additional contrast to the image.



Conclusion

There you have it. A simple way to create some graffiti. Just remember that you should never use a smooth wall- only textured/rough ones. Makes the effect more realistic.

PRINT A COPY OF YOUR IMAGE (AND ONE FOR YOURSELF IF YOU LIKE), WRITE YOUR NAME ON THE BACK AND TURN IN FOR YOUR GRADE.