

# ■ 0 Before You Start

## BEFORE YOU START

Spend some time reading the tutorials at PSDTUTS. The best way to get an idea of what we're looking for is to familiarize yourself with what we've accepted in the past.

## FORMAT REQUIREMENTS

You must submit your tutorial in .HTML format. Use a text editor like Notepad (PC), TextEdit (Mac) or a program like Dreamweaver to work on and save your tutorial file as .HTML. Pay careful attention to the rest of this guide for details on correct HTML formatting.

## OUR TERMS

We encourage authors to pitch a final image before writing the full tutorial. This is to ensure we haven't already published a similar tutorial before, and that we like where you're heading. We don't publish every and any tutorial that is submitted, so make sure yours is a stand-out.



# 1 Writing Your Tutorial

## WRITING STYLE

For style, spelling, grammar, etc., the Chicago Manual of Style and the Merriam-Webster Collegiate Dictionary are used, with the following customizations for Eden.cc based on the conventions used in the Photoshop help documents.

### Summary

1. **PS Menus and Palettes**—Prefer capitalization to any kind of formatting (bold, italics; em, strong, b tags, etc.), as it will probably be removed later by the editors.
2. **Italics**—(1) Use if you are referring to a word as a word or letter as a letter (see Summary item #4 for an example). (2) If you want to emphasize a word.
3. **Spelling**—Use American spellings if you can. This is something we'll correct for you, however, so don't worry if you're not familiar with the conventions of American grammar and spelling.
4. **Keyboard Shortcuts**—use a + between commands but a hyphen if using the word click, as in Ctrl-click. Shortcuts should be spelled as they are written on your keyboard keys.
5. **Remember, only ONE space after a period.**

See the full style guide below for a couple more items and examples of the above items.

## STYLE GUIDE FOR SPELLING AND FORMATTING—ITEMS AND EXAMPLES

### Keyboard Shortcuts

1. Keyboard shortcuts are capitalized and spelled Ctrl, Shift, Command, Alt, Enter.
2. Use the + key to separate shortcut commands but a hyphen with the word click.
3. Capitalize the keyboard letters you refer to.

### Examples:

- ▶ "Now press Ctrl+Shift+I to inverse your selection."
- ▶ "Ctrl-click the handle layer to select its pixels, go to Select > Modify > Expand, and use a value of 1px. Then in a layer below the handle layer, fill your selection with white. Then press Ctrl+D to deselect and then press the right arrow twice to move it to the right. This is just to give our handle a bit of a thin white highlight.

## PHOTOSHOP MENUS, PALETTES, AND FILE PATHS

1. ONLY capitalize (no bold, italics or other emphasis) when you're speaking directly about the PS menu/palette settings, but lowercase if you're speaking generally: Opacity/opacity.
2. Put the keyboard shortcut in parentheses following the capitalized menu/palette name: Pen Tool (P).

### Examples:

- ▶ "We're using two types of Inner Shadow (one using Inner Shadow and one using Inner Glow). Also we have a subtle Gradient Overlay and a Drop Shadow and a bit of Satin. I've chosen these to try to make the object look 3D by using shadows at the edges curving away and a radial gradient to make it look like light is hitting the middle. The satin is just to add a bit of extra something!"
- ▶ "Choose File > Automate > Crop and Straighten Photos."



# 2 Writing Your Tutorial

## CAPITALIZATION

### DO capitalize:

1. Photoshop, PSDTUTS, and acronyms like CSS, OK, PSD
2. Web, Web site, Internet
3. Font names

### DON'T capitalize:

1. Colors
2. The word e-mail.

## NUMBERS

1. Spell out numbers from one to ten.
2. Use numerals for all PS settings and instructions.

### Examples:

- ▶ "Use the Rounded Rectangle Tool (Shift + U) in shape-layer mode, enter a Radius of 10px."
- ▶ "In fact, there are three gradients drawn in and three 1-pixel lines used."

## DISCUSSING TYPE: SPEAKING OF WORDS AND LETTERS

When you're referring to a word or letter as a word or letter, use italics rather than bold or other emphasis.

- ▶ "Draw a big *L*-shape in the top left. Then write the word *love*."

## NAMING LAYERS AND FILES

1. Use double quotes, not single quotes for layer names.
2. Capitalization is up to you.
3. Periods go inside the quote marks.

### Examples:

- ▶ Name this layer "Smoke."



# 3 Formatting Your Tutorial



## How to Create a Super Shiny Pencil Icon

In Drawing by Eren Göksel

1. <p>

*The Pencil is one of the visual metaphors most used to express creativity. In this tutorial, I'll show you how to draw a pencil icon. We'll have a look at gradients, selection tools, and basic transform operations. Let's have some fun with this.* </p><!--more-->

2. <h3>

## Final Image Preview </h3>

3. <p>

Before we get started, let's take a look at the image we'll be creating. As always, the layered Photoshop file is available via our [PSDTUTS Plus membership](#). You can view the final image preview below or view a [larger version here](#). </p>

### NOTE 1

This section is the excerpt that will appear on the main page of PSDTUTS. The <!--more--> tag tells our blogging software to insert the 'Continue reading' link where marked.

### NOTE 2

Each tutorial should start with a preview of what you will be creating. Each heading is enclosed in <h3> </h3> tags.

### NOTE 3

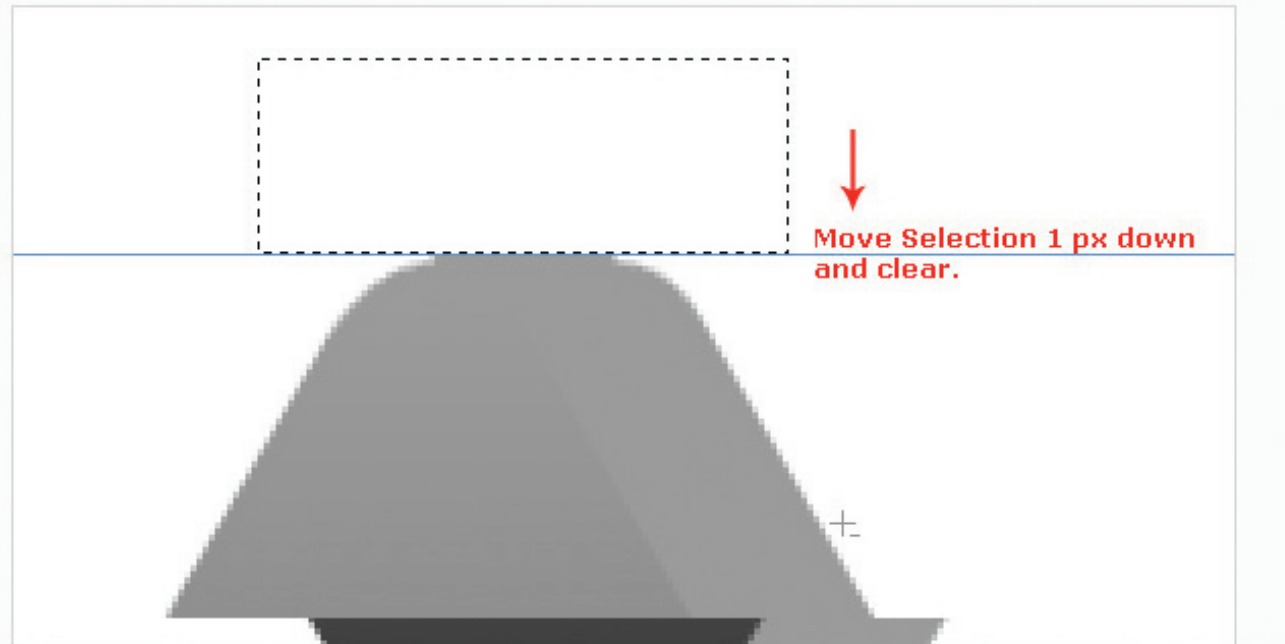
Each paragraph must be enclosed in <p> </p> tags or else our blogging software will squash them together into one super paragraph!

# 4 Formatting Your Tutorial

## Step 6 <sup>1.</sup>

There are some unwanted pixels, lets get rid of them. Grab the Rectangular Marquee Tool, set the Style to Normal, and make a selection, as shown below. Move the selection 1 px down and hit Delete to clear the area. You can move the selections by using the Arrow Keys on the keyboard as long as a Marquee Tool is active. Now make a rectangular selection this time at the bottom. Move the selection 1 px up and hit Delete again. **2.**

**3.**



### NOTE 1

All tutorials at PSDTUTS are in Step-by-step format. Each image should have its own step except in special cases. Each step should have a “Step #” heading. Try to break your tutorial into as many steps as possible but avoid stating the obvious (i.e. “*Step 1, Open a blank .PSD file.*”)

### NOTE 2

Use notes, graphics and cropping to draw attention to focus-points in your instructional images.

### NOTE 3

Your tutorial should be written as a set of instructions for the reader, not an account of what you are doing.

- ▶ “*Drag and snap guides to all edges*” = correct.
- ▶ “*I drag and snap guides to all edges*” = incorrect.

# 5 Formatting Your Tutorial

## IMAGES

Images are the most important part of your tutorial. They should be no wider than 600px and saved to balance quality and compression.

The `<div class="tutorial_image">` tag encloses the image in a special border that adds space between it and its surroundings.

The `<img src="">` tag refers to the URL for your image. Your images won't have a URL yet, but they will have one soon. For now, you should use ``. The PSDTUTS Editor will use 'Find and Replace' to add the correct path. Finally, add the file-name of each image to the end of this, i.e. `server/folder/1.jpg`. Your images should be named by numeral in order of appearance. The image on the left is the first image in the tutorial, so it is called 1.jpg. The last appearing image in a tutorial of 50 images would be called 50.jpg, and so on.

**Don't forget the closing tags!**

```
<div class="tutorial_image"></div>
```



```
</div>
```



# 6 Submitting Your Tutorial

## QUALITY CONTROL

Before you begin packaging your tutorial for submission to the PSDTUTS Editor, make sure you have carefully proofread it, ironed-out spelling and grammatical errors and that each instruction in your tutorial is clear. If your tutorial doesn't look like it has been proofed or checked over for accuracy you will be asked to fix it and resubmit, so you may as well get it right the first time. Run through your tutorial once following your own instructions to make sure there are no errors.

## PUTTING IT IN A BOX

You must submit the following in a ZIP file: .HTML formatted tutorial, all images no wider than 600px and saved as JPGs, a 200 x 200 preview image of the finished product, and a .PSD file of the tutorial end result. The .PSD file will be made available as a download with your tut, so keep it tidy.

## SUBMISSION + PAYMENT

When you've completed all of the above you can submit your packaged tutorial here: <http://psdtuts.com/write-a-tutorial/> (See under 'How to submit'). If your tutorial is accepted the PSDTUTS Editor will provide you with instructions on how to receive payment. ■

# HAVE FUN CREATING YOUR TUT!

