



Photoshop CS5 Create Horizontal Gradient

Introduction

This handout contains instructions for creating a background image for your webpage. This image will be 974px wide and 100px high. It will create the effect of a shadow on the right and left edges of the content area of a web page. These instructions assume that the content area of your page is centered and has a fixed width of 950px. The image, though only 100px high will be tiled in the vertical direction.

Create Image

1. Open Photoshop CS5.
2. Click File > New and provide a name for the new image.
3. Enter 974px width and 100px height.
4. Click OK.

Create Gradient

1. Click the rectangular gradient icon in the Tools palette on the left.
2. The Gradient tool bar will appear in the task bar at the top.
3. In the task bar, double click *in* the second dropdown window and the Gradient Editor will display.
4. Towards the bottom of the editor, click the little square box on the left below the horizontal bar.
5. Then, click *in* the box next to Color: (bottom row in the Editor window).
6. Next to the #, enter the hexadecimal number of the background color you chose for your page.
7. Click OK.
8. Repeat steps 4-7 for the little square box on the right. Manipulate the color selectors above it to select a color. Note that the color you select here should be a little darker.

Apply Gradient to Image

1. Click the marquee tool. (second icon from the top on the left).
2. In the marquee task bar at the top, select Fixed Size from the Style: drop down menu.
3. Enter 12px width and 100px height. (This means that your shadow gradient will be just 12px wide and 100px high – the height of your gradient image.)
4. Click the right side of your image and draw a box right at the border. (It can only be 12px by 100px because you fixed the size.)
5. Click the gradient tool and then drag your cursor from the outside to the inside of the box. (In this way the darker part of the gradient will be against your page content border.)
6. Repeat steps 4 and 5 for the box on the left side. Be sure to apply your gradient by dragging across the box from the outside in.

Crop Image and Save

1. Click the Crop tool (5th icon in the tools palette on the left).
2. Select a thin horizontal strip and press enter to crop.
3. Select File > Save.
4. Save gradient image as a .png.
5. Under Interlace, select None.