

How to make a mandala in Photoshop!

Follow the steps below to create your own mandala. We will use this to animate with keyframes later on.

How to Video - [How to make a mandala in Photoshop!](#)

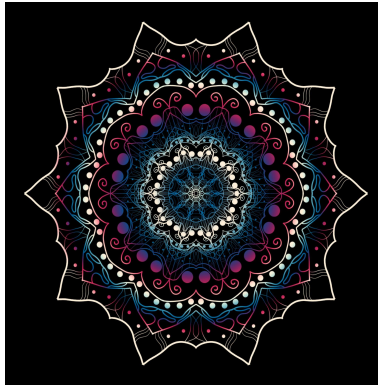
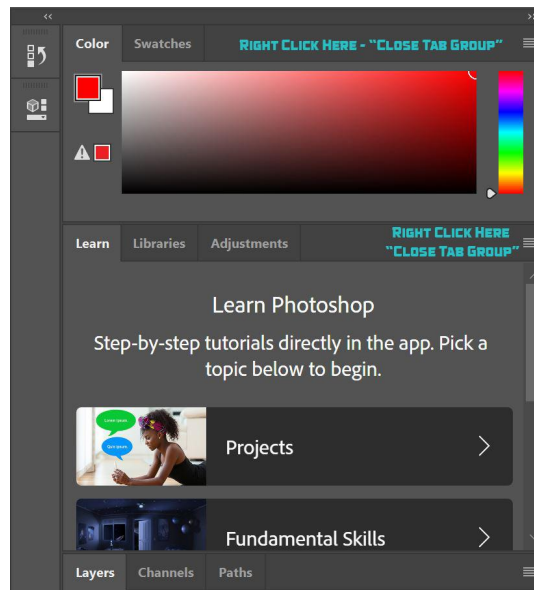


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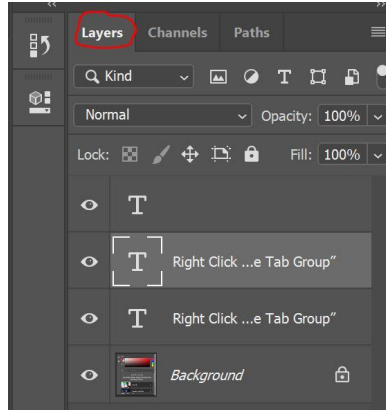
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Setting up Photoshop and a Brush

- 1) Open up Photoshop and create a new document that is **4 Inch x 4 Inch** with a Resolution of **300**. Once you have the correct settings click “Create”.
- 2) Once into Photoshop....Go click on “**Window**” → “**Workspace**” → “**Essentials**”. This will reset your Photoshop to the essentials workspace. Now that we have reset Essentials we need to close and open some other panels.
- 3) On the right hand side of the screen you will see some panels that we need to close. Right click on the 2 top panales and click “**Close Tab Group**”. See Photo below on where to click.



- 4) Once you have closed the 2 unneeded “Tab Groups” click on the “Layers Tab” to open up the Layer Panel.



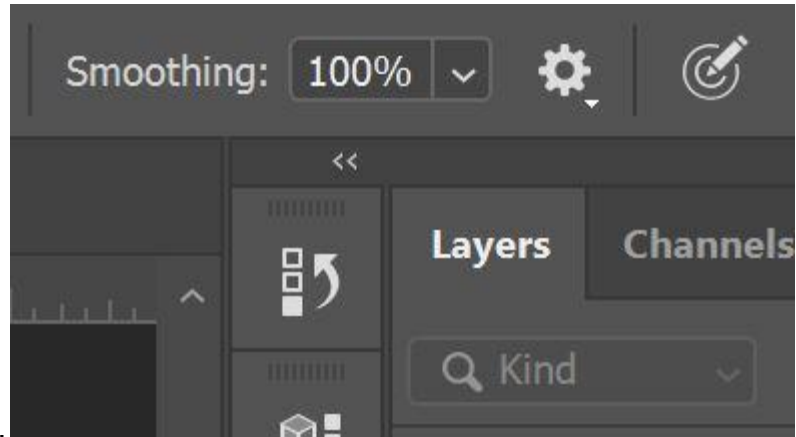
- 5) On the left hand side of the application find the small arrow above the “**Tool Bar**” and click it. This will expand the toolbar to 2 columns.



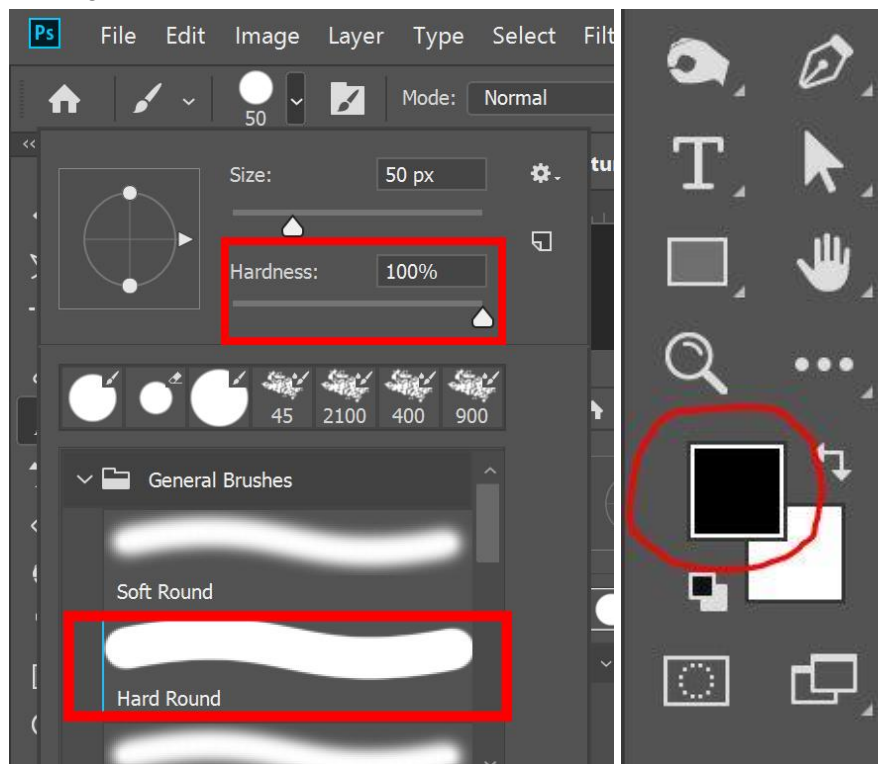
- 6) Now we need to set-up a basic brush to use for this mandala. In the toolbar on the left



click on the “**Brush Tool**”. At the top you will now see some settings we need to adjust. Near the top you will see “**Smoothing**” set that to 100%



After changing smoothing click on the arrow near the brush panel on the left side of the screen. Go to the folder that says “**General Brushes**” and then select “Hard Round”. Size is up to you, 10 is a good place to start. You can always change as you go. Set the **hardness to 100%**. Last thing to do is change the “ink” color to black. Double click on the color to change it.

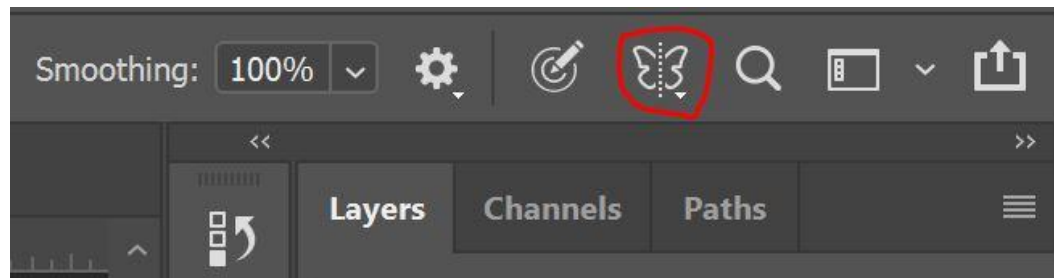


Creating the Mandala!

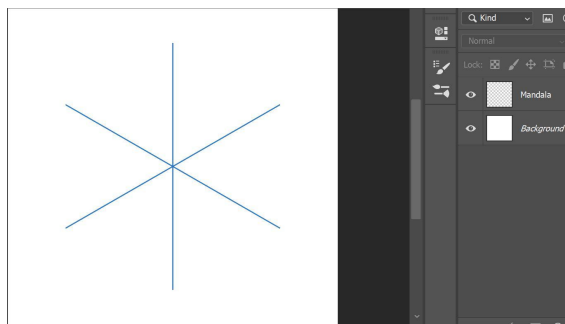
- 1) In the “Layer” panel near the bottom click the “**Create a new Layer**” button and then rename this new layer “Mandala”. Double click on the name of the layer to change it.

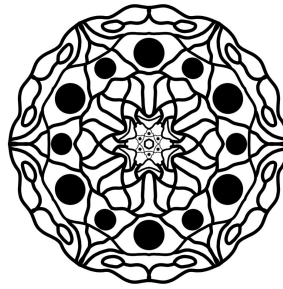


- 2) With the brush tool selected near the top, find the “**symmetry**” button. Then select “**mandala**” and pick how many sections you want. I will usually do 5 or more sections



- 3) In the middle of your canvas should be something that looks like the below image. Anything you draw in one section, will be mirrored to the opposite side of the section and then to all the other sections. Go ahead and create your own Mandala. Try and play with line weights and different shapes. Once you have your Mandala, made in the next section we will color them.





Coloring the Mandala.

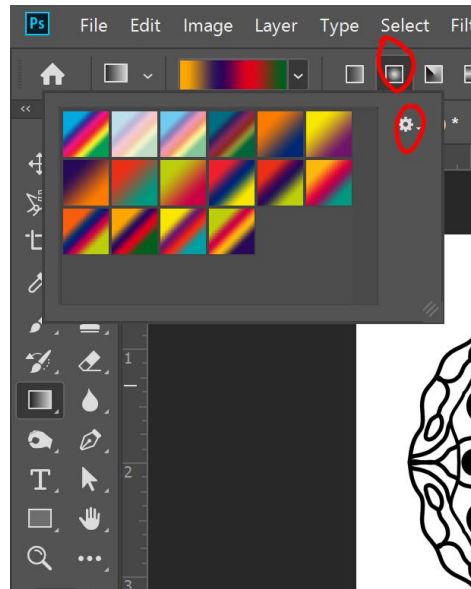
There are 2 different ways I show how to color the Mandalas. Pick either way, you do not need to do both of them.

Technique 1 - Gradient Tool

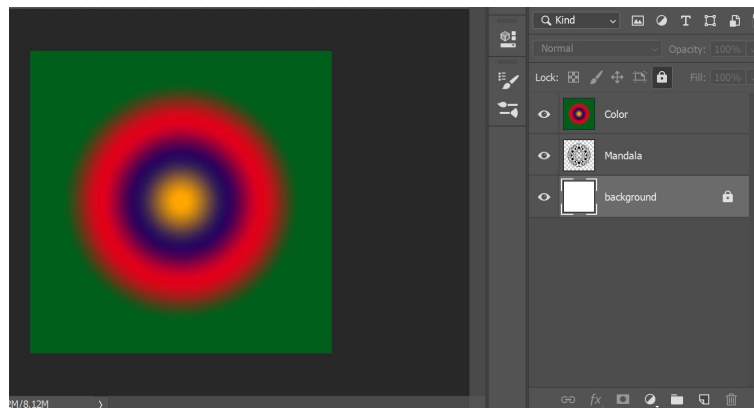
- 1) Create a new layer and name it "color".



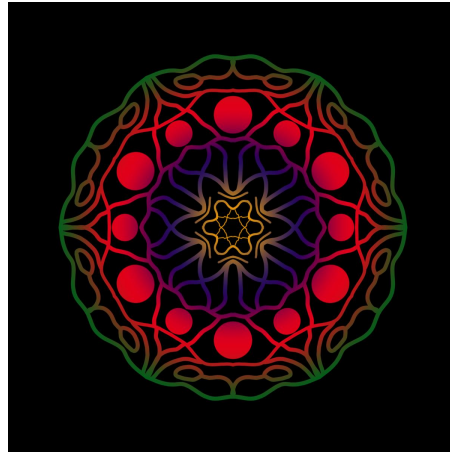
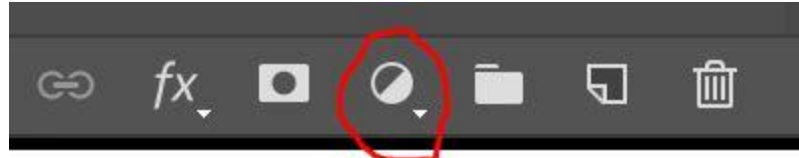
- 2) Find the "**gradient**" tool . If you can not currently see it, if you click and hold on tools they expand and let you select another tool.
- 3) Now we need to select our gradient we are going to use. Near the top there is a panel for the gradient. You can pick any type of gradient you want. I like using the "**Radial Gradients**" for my mandalas. If you click on the gear icon, you can change the gradient type. The different types are near the bottom of the menu. "**Color Harmonies 1**" is the first one on the list.



- 4) Click on the layer you named **"Color"**. We will apply the gradient here. Click in the middle of your canvas and holding shift, drag out to the right and then release. This will apply the whole gradient to your canvas.



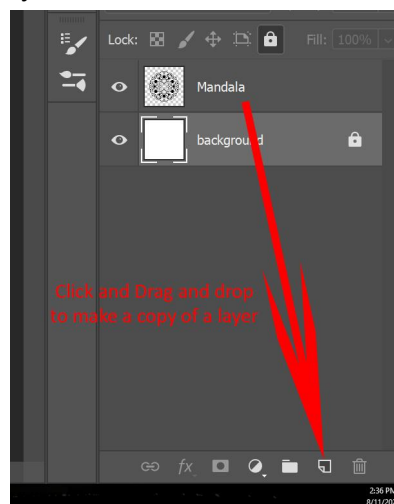
- 5) In your **"layers"** panel right click near the words **"color"** and then select **"create clipping mask"**. A clipping mask will apply the above layer to only the layer directly below it. So by creating a clipping mask it will apply the gradient to just the lines of the Mandala.
- 6) Last thing I do is apply a different color background, For these I will usually pick black, as it makes the colors pop. Color choice is up to you! In the layers panel at the bottom click the **"Adjustment Layers"** Button and then select **"Solid Color"**. Select the color you want and then drag that layer below your Mandala layer.



You have finished Technique 1! The last section will be on how to save your Mandala when you are complete!

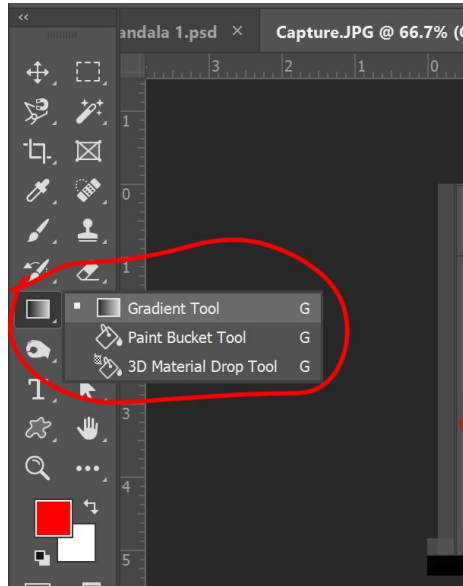
Technique 2 - Paint Bucket

- 1) In the layers create a new copy of Mandala by clicking on the mandala layer and then dragging it down to the new layer button.

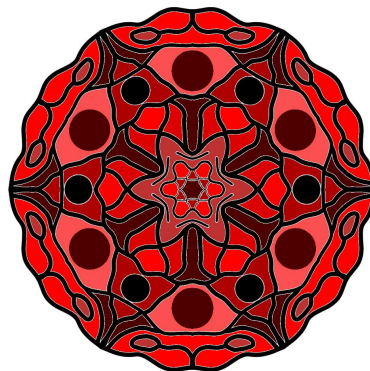


- 2) Now that you have a copy made, the copy is the one you will actually paint. We will be using a paint bucket to paint. The paint bucket tool will fill a closed space with a color.

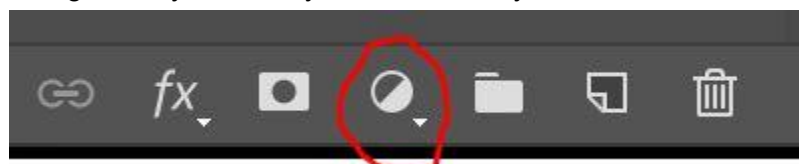
Select the “**paint bucket**” tool. You will find the paint bucket under the gradient tool. You will have to click and hold to see it.

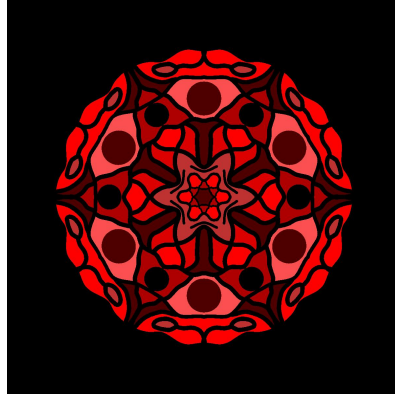


- 3) Using the paint bucket tool select colors you want to paint and then just start painting in the spots.



- 7) Last thing I do is apply a different color background, For these I will usually pick black, as it makes the colors pop. Color choice is up to you! In the layers panel at the bottom click the “**Adjustment Layers**” Button and then select “**Solid Color**”. Select the color you want and then drag that layer below your Mandala layer.

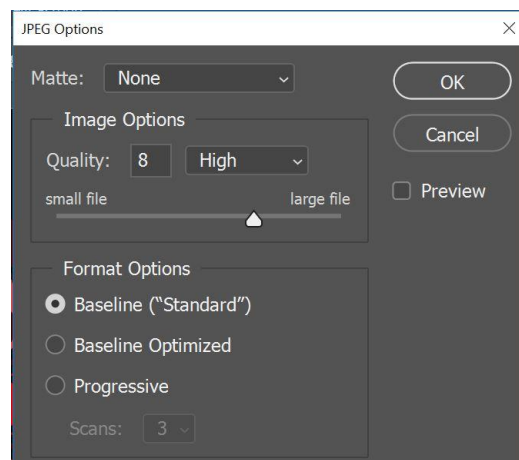




Saving your Artwork!

When saving you will want to save your document as a Photoshop Document(PSD) and a JPEG(a format for compressing image files). By saving as a PSD it will allow you to edit your artwork. By saving as a JPEG it will allow you to publish your artwork online.

- 1) Go up to File in the top right corner, then “save as” name your file. Notice the Save as type...default should be PSD, and then hit save.
- 2) Go back up to File in the top left corner, then “**save as**” name your file. Change the file type to JPEG, and then hit save. This will open up another window. In this other window set your setting to the one seen below and then click ok and you are done!



Next Lesson: [How to Animate using Keyframes.](#)