BRM-01-03-el-Brush-Settings-manual
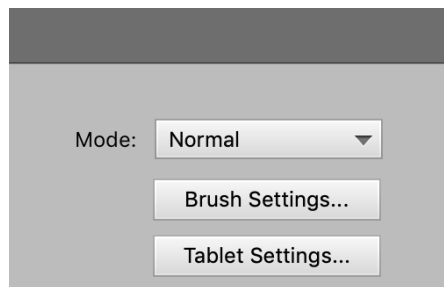

Understanding Brush Settings in Photoshop Elements
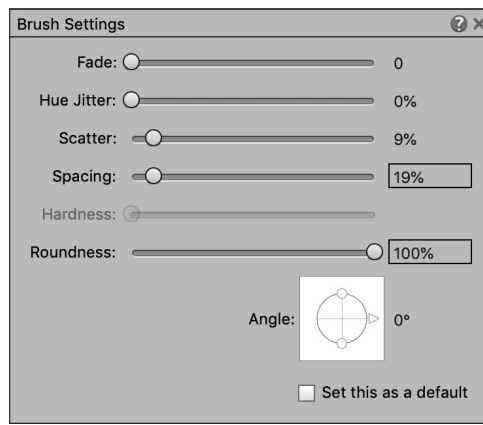© Syndee Rogers
Terms of Use

In this class we modify default brushes in the Brush Settings panel. I thought it might be helpful to take a closer look at what actually happens to the brush when we adjust the various settings.

To demonstrate the various Brush Settings I've created a 6 x 6 inch document at 300 pixels per inch with a white background, reset my Color Chips to the default of black over white, and clicked on the Create a New Layer icon in the Layers panel. I'll be using the Hard Round brush from the General Brushes. I've set the Size 75, the Mode Normal, the Opacity and Flow to 100%, and the Smoothing to 0. I've used the Hard Round brush from the General Brushes. And I've set the Size 75, the Opacity to 100%, and the Mode Normal.

In order to open the Brush Settings, we must first get the Brush tool, and then click on the Brush Settings button.

Brush Settings panel

What do these settings do?

Let me break each setting down. (I am using the Hard Mechanical Pencil brush for the examples below.)
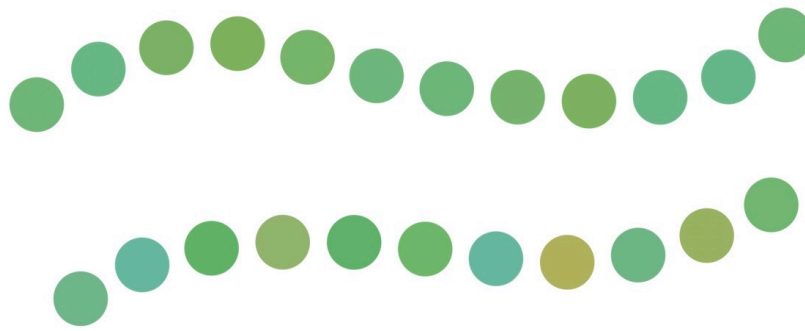
Fade

This setting causes the brush to diminish as you paint. The lower the number the faster it will fade into nothing.

Hue Jitter

Adjusting the Hue Jitter causes the brush to alternate between the foreground and background colors. The higher the number the more frequent the colors switch.
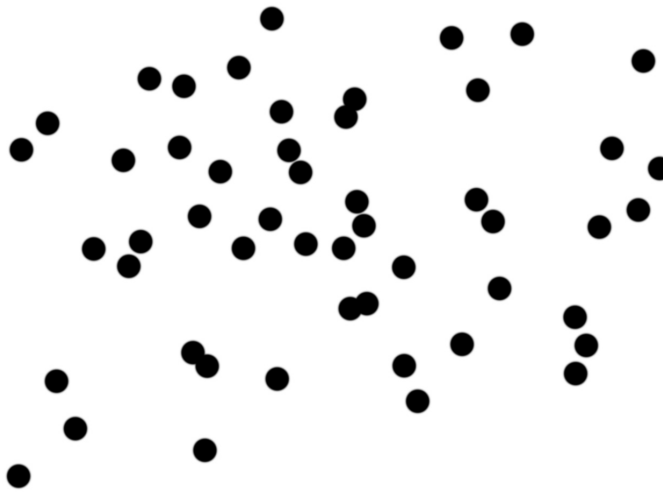

FYI: When it comes to the word Jitter, in the Photoshop-sphere, it's another word for random or randomness. Most commonly used in various Brush Settings.

Scatter

Adjusting the scatter determines how brush marks are distributed in a stroke. Increasing the Scatter will disperse the brush marks over a larger area.
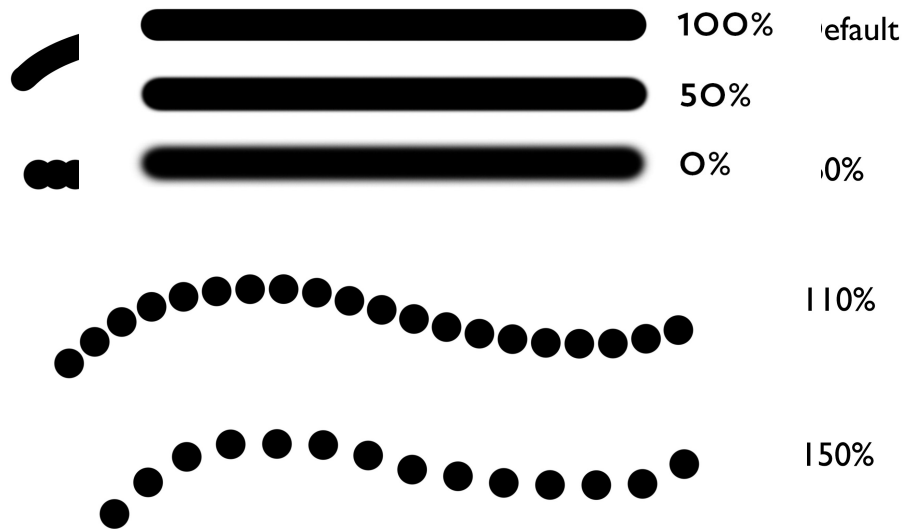
Spacing

This setting creates gaps in the brush stroke.

Hardness

This setting is only available for the Photoshop Round Brushes. At 100% the brush has a crisp edge. While setting it to 0% will result in a completely feathered edge.
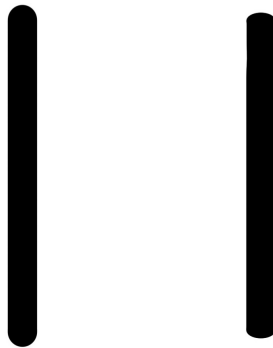
HARDNESS

100% efault

50%

0% 0%

110%

150%

Roundness

This setting affects the shape of the brush tip.

Default   Roundness 44%

Angle

This works in several different ways, the most common is to rotate your brush, the other common use is creating a chiseled stroke.

Changing the angle and roundness settings affect the shape of the brush tip. For example, you could change a round brush tip to an elliptical brush tip.

Roundness 44%
Angle -60°

Adjusting the Roundess
& Angle will give you a
chiseled brush, often
used to mimic calligraphic
lettering.