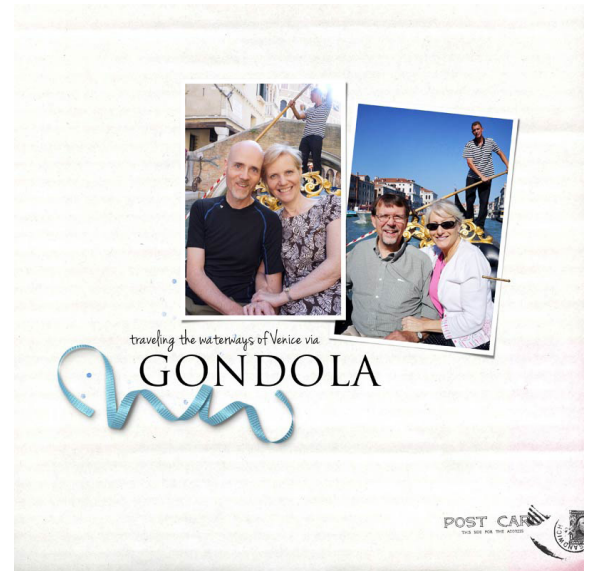


Custom Shadow Mastery 1 | Module 3

Video 03-01 Double Custom Shadows

In Module 3 we'll focus entirely on custom drop shadows for elements. The ribbon on my page about a gondola ride in Venice is a good example of an element with a custom shadow. When I showed my husband this scrapbook page, he asked me if I had photographed the ribbon with the shadow. I told him it was a double custom shadow that I created in Photoshop, which was why it looked so real.

Up to this point in class, we've only made single custom shadows. The ribbon looks good with a single custom drop shadow, but when you add a second custom shadow, the ribbon looks even more real. It just looks yummy. You won't use a double shadow on every element, or even on most elements, but for the right element, a double shadow can add a level of depth and reality that is truly amazing.



Create a Custom Shadow

- Create a custom shadow on a layer below the ribbon. I already taught you how to do this manually in Module 1, or you can use my Custom Shadow action to create it.
- Use the Smudge tool to drag the shadow out following the direction of your chosen light source, which, in my case, is 120°.
- Here's where you have to make decisions on how far out to drag the shadow, but knowing the direction ahead of time will take some of the guesswork out.

Create a Manual Double Shadow

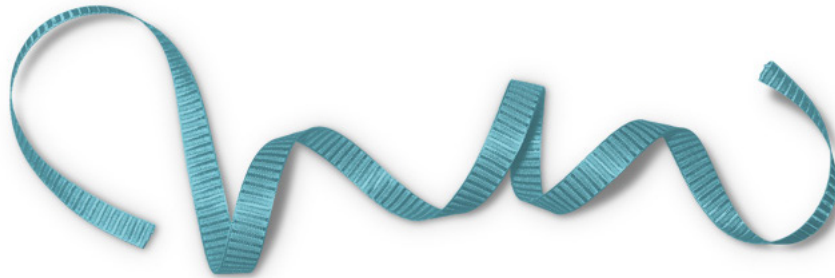
- Press Alt (Mac: Opt) and click and drag down on the custom shadow layer in the Layers panel to create a copy of the shadow below the original.
- Choose Filter > Blur > Gaussian Blur. Enter 10 to 20 pixels for the Radius, depending on how large your element is. Click OK.
- Get the Move tool.
- Press the number 2 to reduce the second shadow opacity to 20% and use the Arrow keys to move the second shadow away from the first one until it looks good to you. Sometimes it's easiest to deselect Auto Select Layer in Tool Options so you can click and drag the second shadow without accidentally making the wrong layer active.
- You may need to activate the original shadow layer in the layers panel and reduce the opacity to 40% or less.

Double Custom Shadow Action

It's faster and easier to use my double custom shadow action.

- Open the Actions panel and click on either the black or brown double custom shadow. I used black.
- Click the Play button.
- The action will create a custom drop shadow on a layer below the element.

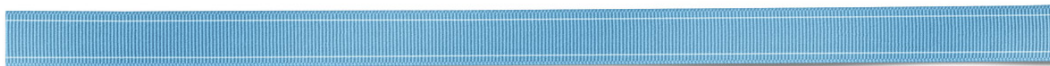
- The action will stop and instruct you to customize the shadow and then click the Play button to finish the action. Click Stop to follow the directions.
- With the Smudge tool, make your adjustments.
- Click the Play button.
- When the Gaussian Blur dialog box appears, enter a large amount of blur, usually between 10 to 20 px, depending on the size of the element. Click OK to the dialog box.
- Return to the Layers panel if you need to make any adjustments. You may want to change the opacity of the one or both custom drop shadow layers.



Video 03-02 Dodge and Burn

Part of what makes a custom shadow real are the corresponding shadows and highlights on the element itself.

- Create a custom shadow on a new layer below the element (see Module 1).
- Use the Smudge tool to customize the edge of the shadow.
- In the Layers panel, click on the element layer to make it the active layer.
- Get the Burn tool. In Tool Options. Set the Range to Midtones and the Exposure to 10%.
- On your document, brush on your element where you want the object to appear shaded or further away.
- Get the Dodge tool. In Tool Options set the Range to Midtones and the Exposure to 10%.
- On your document, brush on your element where you want the object to appear lighter or closer to you.



Video 03-03 No Shadows Please

Here is a list of elements that do not need drop shadows.

- Overlays
- Stamps
- Scattered elements
- Chevrons can sometimes have shadows but often not
- Word Art
- Most Type—only use a drop shadow if you're intentionally making the type 3D, as in chipboard letters
- Flourishes
- Stitching
- Grunge
- Paint

You may be able to think of additional elements to add to the list.