



Understanding Brush Settings in Adobe Photoshop

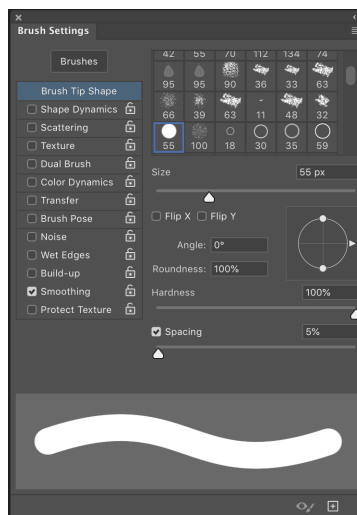
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In this class we modify default brushes in the Brush Settings panel. I thought it might be helpful to take a closer look at what actually happens to the brush when we adjust the various settings.

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've used the Hard Round brush from the General Brushes. And I've set the Size 75, the Mode Normal, the Opacity and Flow to 100%, and the Smoothing to 0.

In order to open the Brush Settings, we must first get the Brush tool, and then click on the Brush Settings icon. I won't cover all the setting because there are so many. I'll concentrate on the ones that we use in this class. I will cover more setting in future brush design classes.



What do these settings do?

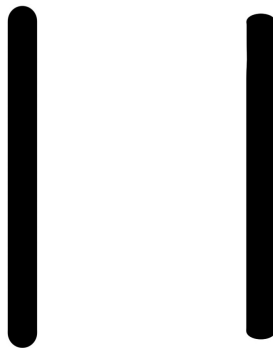
Let me break each setting down. (I am using the Hard Mechanical Pencil brush for the examples below.)

Angle

This works in several different ways, the most common is to rotate your brush, another 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.

Default Roundness 44%



Roundness

This setting affects the shape of the brush tip.

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

Roundness 44%

Angle -60°



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

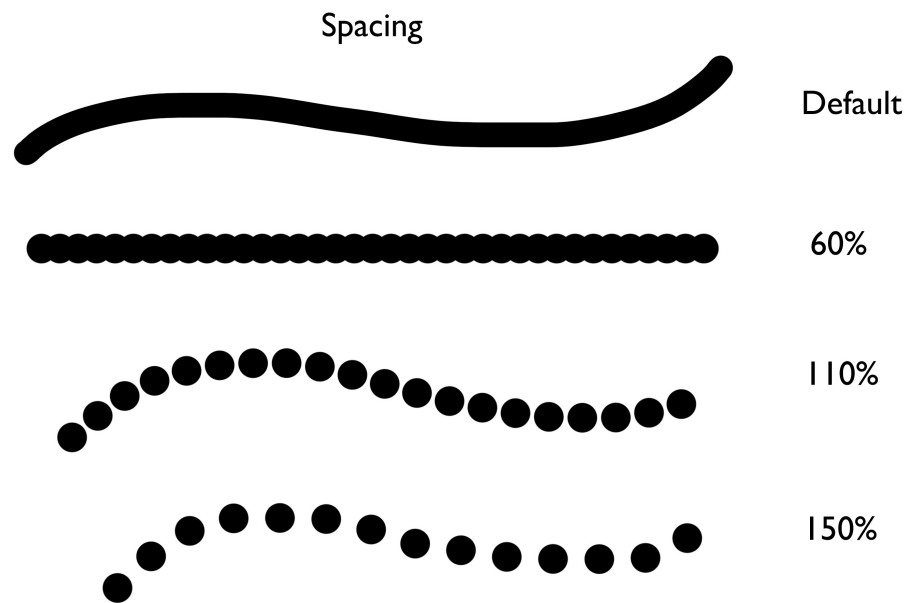
Hardness

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.



Spacing

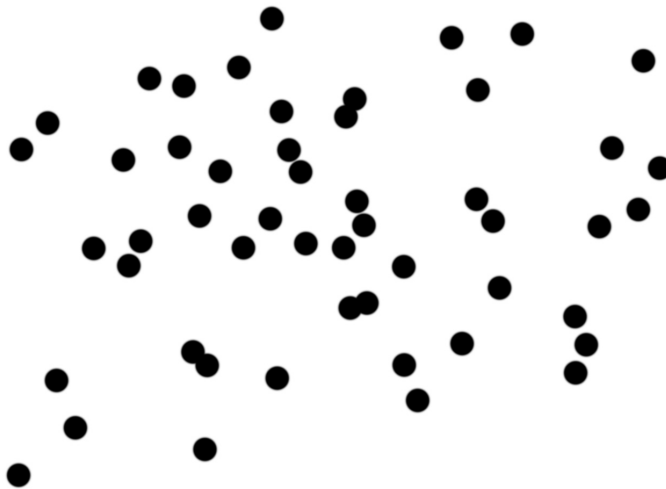
This setting creates gaps in the brush stroke.



Scattering

Click on Scattering on the left side of the Brush Settings panel to get to the Scattering Settings. Adjusting the scatter determines how brush marks are distributed in a stroke. Increasing the Scatter will disperse the brush marks over a larger area.

Checking the both Axes box will distribute the brush marks in a radial direction. Left unchecked, they are distributed perpendicular to the path of the brush stroke.



Color Dynamics

Click on Color Dynamics on the left side of the Brush Settings panel to get to the Color Dynamics Settings.

Foreground/Background Jitter

Adjusting the Foreground/Background Jitter causes the brush to alternate between the foreground and background colors. The higher the number the more frequent the colors switch. The colors I used are Hex #91ac50 for the Foreground and Hex #7dc4b8 for the Background.

Apply Per Tip

When checked the setting varies the color within each stroke. If left unchecked, the color only changes color when a new stroke is painted.



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.

