



Creating Reflective Text By Kim

- 1. Create a new file 500 pixels wide by 100 pixels high. Make the background black.**
- 2. Activate the channels palette by clicking on the channels tab. Make a new channel by clicking on the new channel icon (looks like a piece of paper with a folded corner) on the bottom of the palette, or by using the pull-down menu on the top right corner of the palette. Name this channel "original text". Using the text tool, add some text to this new channel. Make sure you use a thick and bold font, otherwise the effects you will create won't show up very well. If you want your letters to have some more space between them, adjust the tracking in the text dialog box. Start at a value of 100 and move up until you have the desired amount of space in between each letter. Use the move tool to arrange your text and deselect the text. We are using channels in this exercise to make text selections. The white area (text) is what is being selected. At this point, if you would go back to the layers palette, the image area would still be blank.**
- 3. With the "original text" channel still active, duplicate the channel by using the drop-down menu. Name this channel "thickened text".**
- 4. Go to Filter|Other|Maximum. Choose a radius of 2 or 3 pixels and click OK.**
- 5. Activate the layers palette by clicking on the layers tab. The image area should be your black box. Go to Select|Load Selection. Under source, choose thickened text in the channel drop down menu. Hit OK. You should now see the selection made.**
- 6. Choose a new foreground and background color. I used a dark and light blue from the swatch palette. Make sure the two colors are far apart enough in value.**
- 7. Select the gradient tool, and apply a linear gradient to the selection, starting at the top and ending at the bottom of the selection. You can ensure a straight gradient by holding down the shift key while making your gradient. Deselect the text.**
- 8. Using the lasso tool, start outside the text and draw a wavy line through the middle of your text. Extend the wavy line past the text and finish the line by continuing under the text and closing up by connecting where you first started drawing the line. In other words, you are basically drawing a circle around the bottom half of your text with the top part of the circle being wavy. Once you have done this, go to Select|Save Selection. Name this selection "wavy line". Deselect.**
- 9. Go back to Select and choose Load Selection. Choose original text under the channel drop down menu. With this selection still active, go to Select|Load Selection again and choose the wavy line channel. Under Operation, click on Subtract from Selection. Hit OK. You should see a selection of the top portion of your text.**

10. Apply a linear gradient to this selection, using the same colors you used in the last gradient, only reversing the direction. That is, if your first gradient started out with the light color on top, then start this gradient with the dark color on top. Deselect.

11. Go to Select|Load Selection. Choose original text under the channel drop down menu. With this selection still active, go to Select|Load Selection again and choose the wavy line channel. Under Operation, click on Intersect with Selection. Hit OK. You should see a selection of the bottom portion of your text. 12. Apply a gradient to this selection, reversing the color order once again. Deselect. Your text should now look somewhat reflective.

13. LAST STEP!! I promise! Go to Selection|Load Selection, and this time, choose the thickened text channel. Hit OK. You should now see the entire text area selected. Go to Filter|Render|Lighting Effects. Under Style, choose Blue Omni. Under Light Type, leave it at Omni and the default color should be blue. Use these settings, or experiment on your own:

Intensity Full

Gloss Shiny

Material -25

Exposure -25

Ambience 2

Texture Channel Blue

Height Mountainous

Hit OK, and check out your results! Save as a .psd file for your own use, and then to save as a .jpg, you will need to delete the channels you made and flatten the image.