



Making a Metallic Button

by Michael

1. Open a new file 300 by 100 pixels, 72 dpi, and RGB colour.

2. Fill your canvas with whatever colour you want, remember, metallic buttons don't have to just be silvers and golds. This effect works well with any colour. You can fill the canvas by either selecting Edit|Fill|Foreground Colour (assuming you've already made your colour the foreground colour. Or, after selecting your foreground colour, you can use the paint bucket to paint the canvas. I used RGB 125, 83, 156 for the background.

Before you go to the next step, set your background colour in a darker purple, I used RGB 105, 27, 98.

3. To give the button surface a bit of character, I applied the Noise filter. However, before doing this, reverse your foreground and background colours so the darker purple is on top. You do this by clicking on the double-sided arrow outside the foreground/background boxes. Now, click Filters|Noise|Add Noise. I used settings of 15 pixels and Gaussian, select okay.

4. Using the text tool on the toolbar, click inside your canvas so the text box opens, allowing you to type the name of the button. I'm making an ABBA button, so I used the News Gothic Bold font (which matches the group's logo) and I sized it at about 80. Click okay, and then, position your text wherever you'd like it on the button.

5. Now, we're going to do some things to the text to help us with the metallic effect we're looking for. Select Layer|Effects|Bevel and Emboss. In the popup window, under the Highlight section, set the mode to "Colour Dodge" and 60% opacity, and select white in the colour box. (If white does not appear in the colour box, simply click the box and a colour palette will open.)

6. Under the shadow section set the mode to "Normal" and 100% opacity. The colour box should indicate black.

7. Change your Style section as follows: "Pillow Emboss" with an angle of 120, depth 5, blur 5. You can experiment with these to see what you like the best, these are simply guidelines.

8. That's it. Your button is done. However, it's probably a bit large, so crop it. With the marquee tool, draw a rectangle around your text. Then, select, Image|Crop. Then, save it in whatever format you want. I've saved mine as a jpeg.