

Photoshop Extension - Backgrounds

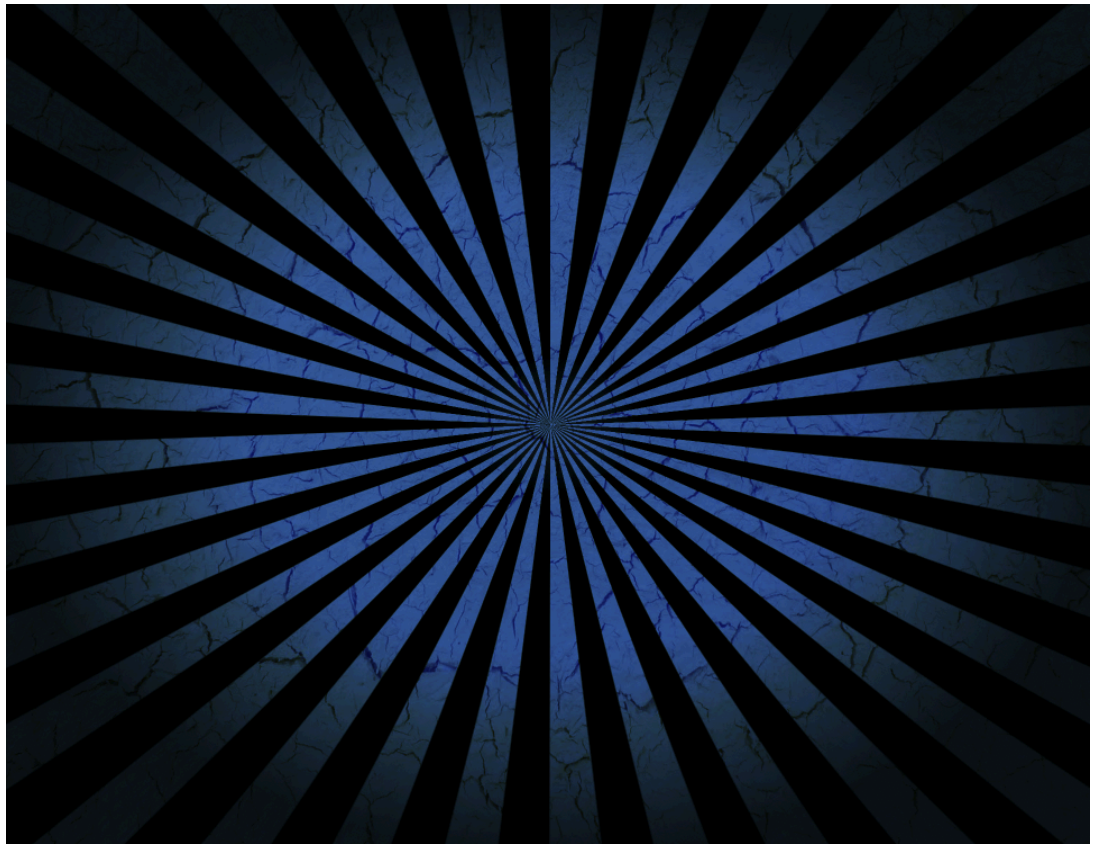
[Download Images Here](#)

Introduction:

This tutorial will teach you how to do the following:

- How to use the gradient tool
- Use Multiple Filters
- Use Blending Mode

You will use these skills to create a design like below.



Step 1 - Create and Save

1. Open Photoshop CC and create a new file with the following settings:

PRESET DETAILS

background

Width

11 Inches

Height

8.5

Orientation

Artboards

Resolution

180 Pixels/Inch

Color Mode

RGB Color 8 bit

Background Contents

White

> Advanced Options


Close Create

Step 2 - Gradients

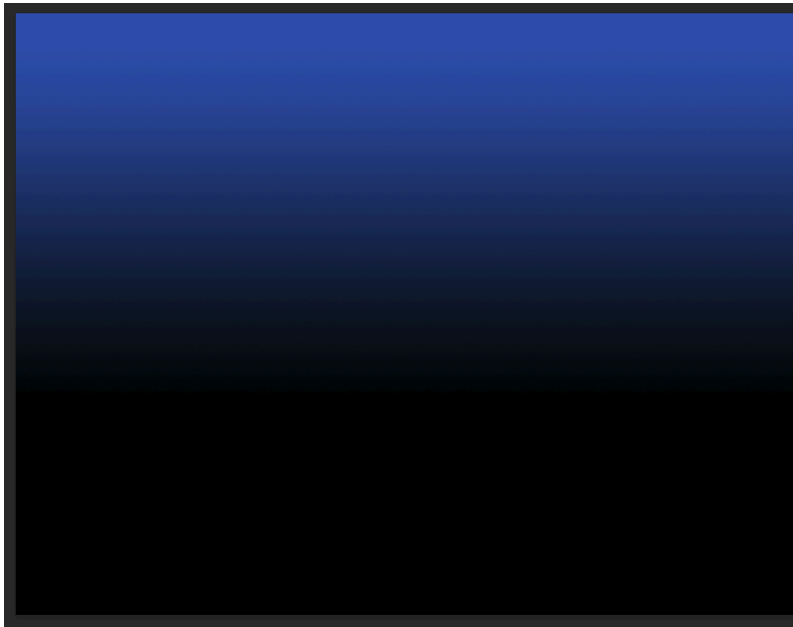
You will use the gradient tool to blend one two colors with a smooth transition.

1. You need to select any two contrasting colors in your foreground and background color. Do this by double-clicking on the color options in the tool bar at the bottom. I selected blue and black.



2. Now select your *gradient tool* .

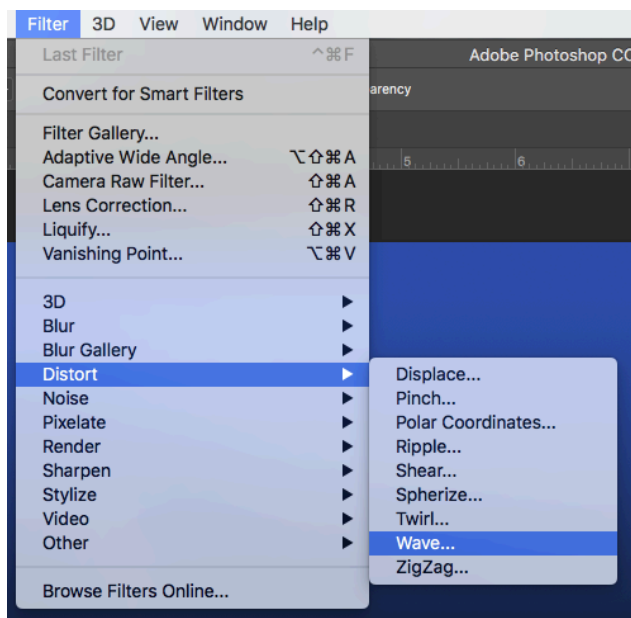
3. Hold down the *shift* key and click and drag down the middle of the canvas vertically. The shift key will allow you to drag a straight line. This will create your gradient on the canvas. If you don't like it, just try again!



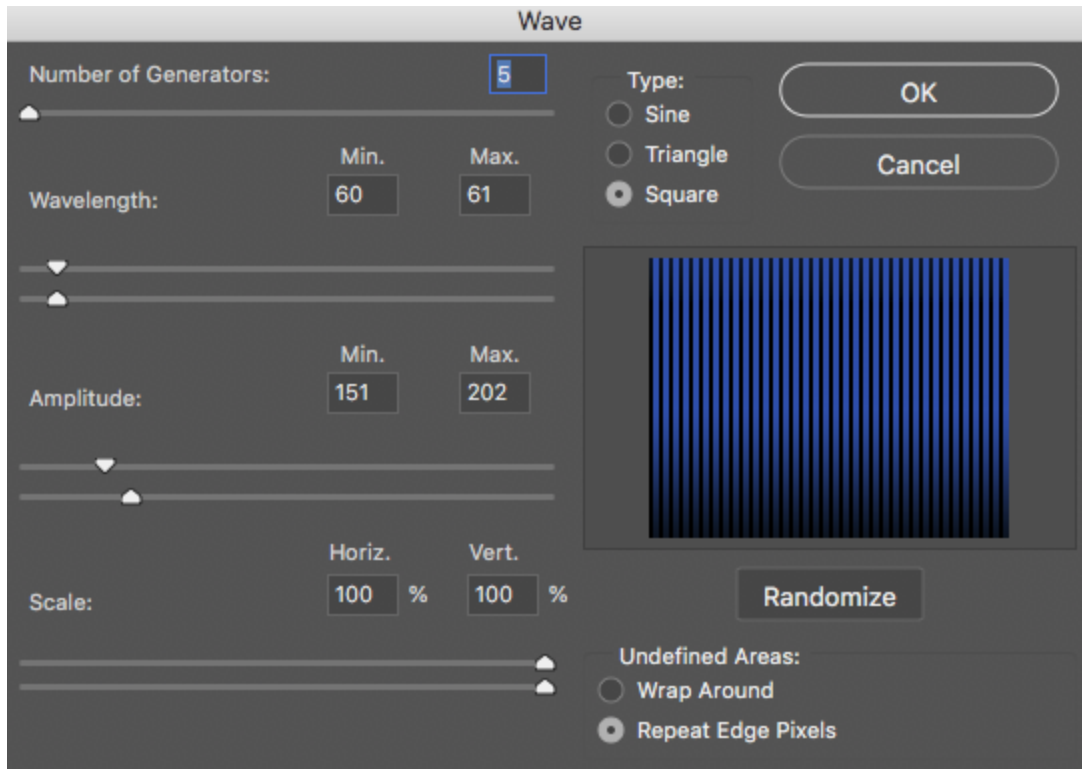
Step 3 - Filters

We will now apply filters to the gradient to create the spiral look. There are tons of different styles of filters in Photoshop. We are going to just focus on two of them.

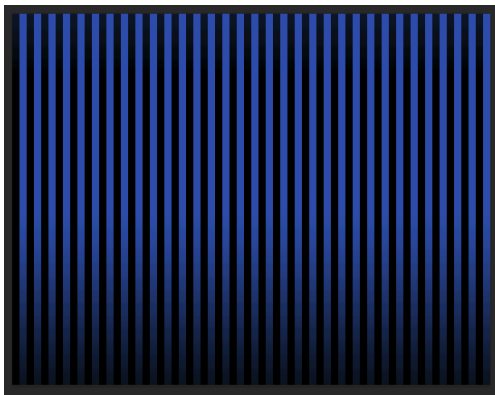
1. Go to *Filter>Distort>Wave*. You can find Filter in your Menu Bar at the top.



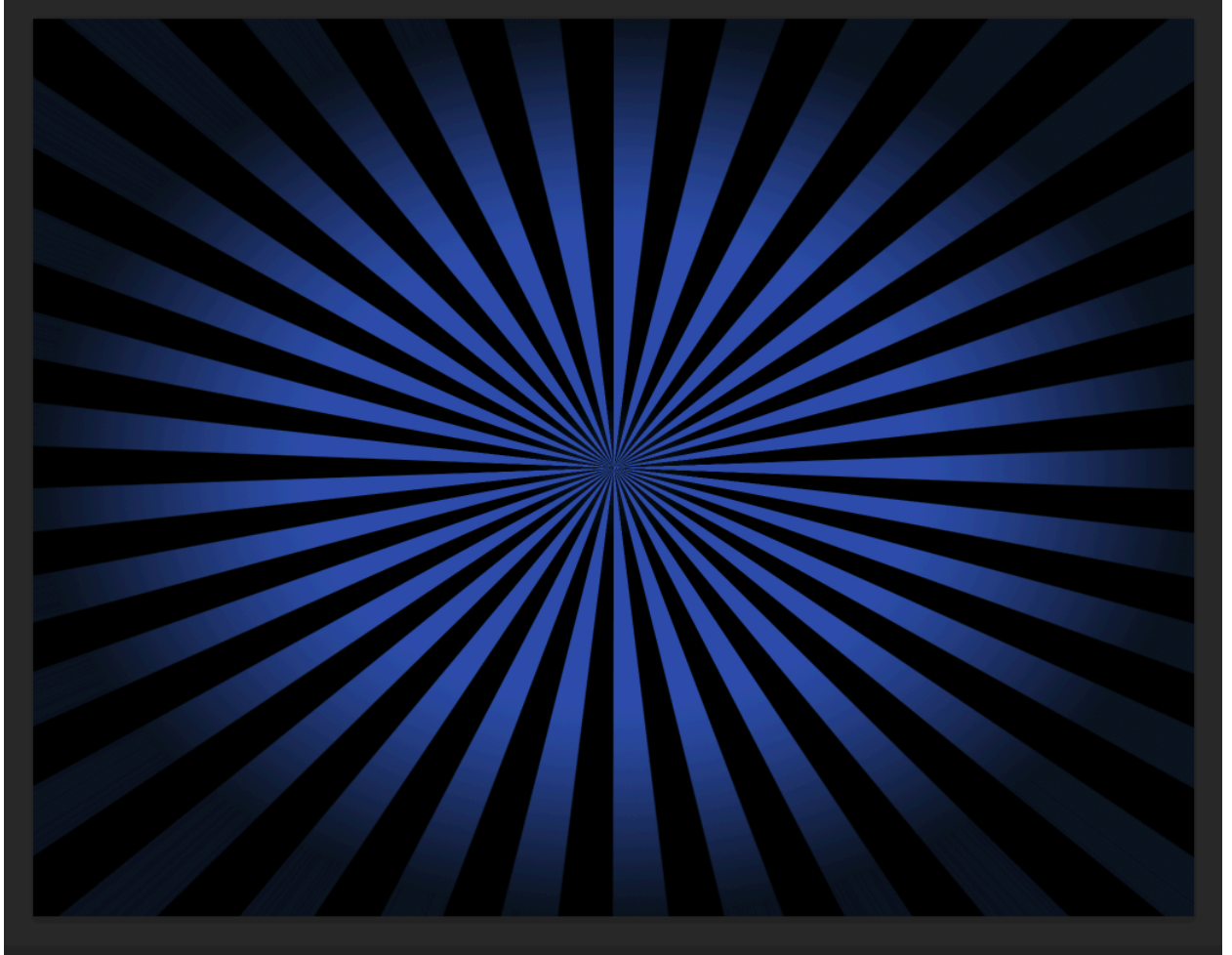
2. Put in the settings below. Make sure you select Square under Type!



Your design should look similar, but it probably won't look exact and that is OK.



3. Next, you will go back to *Filter>Distort* and select *Polar Coordinates* and then click OK. Your design should look similar to below.



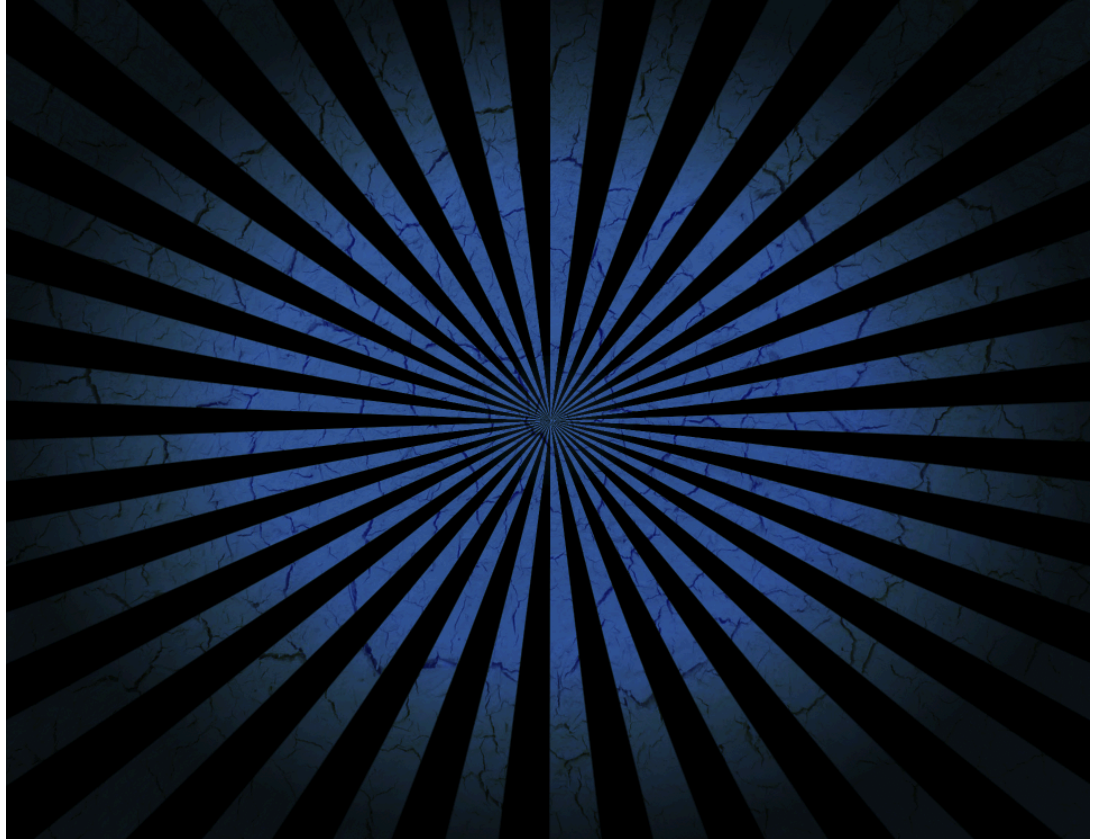
Step 4 - Blend Modes

1. You need to open up the plaster.jpg image in Photoshop, which can be downloaded at the top of this tutorial.
2. Drag the plaster.jpg image into your background design. You will need to resize the plaster to entirely fill the background. Make sure you use the *shift key* while you use the *free transform tool* (command + T) while resizing the image so you don't stretch the image. It is OK if the image is slightly larger than the background as well, like below.



Once you have the plaster image correctly placed, set the image by double-clicking.

3. Open the layer window and select the plaster image layer. At the top of the layer window, next to Opacity, is the Blending Mode. Right now it just says Normal. Click on the Blending Mode and change it to *Overlay*. Your background image should look similar to the image below.



4. You are done! Save your work.

If you have more time, play around with other Filters and/or Blending Mode. Just explore Photoshop to get a better understanding of the tools!