

# ADOBE PHOTOSHOP Elements TECHNIQUES

## Make a Retro-looking Background Using Stripes

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A simple technique for creating a retro-looking background for text or a photo.

1. Create a new document that is 8 inches by 8 inches, at 100 resolution.
2. Create a new blank layer.
3. Select the **Rectangular Marquee** tool. Go to the tool options bar and change the mode to **Fixed Size**. Type in .25 inches for the width and 8 inches for the height.
4. Click inside your document once to produce the fixed size selection. Move it over to the far left of your document.

5. Choose your foreground color, fill in your selection (**PC: Alt+Backspace, Mac: Option+Delete**), and deselect (**PC: Control+D, Mac: Command +D**).
6. Duplicate this layer (**PC: Control+J, Mac: Command+J**).
7. Go to the **Filter** menu, than to **Other** and choose **Offset**.
8. In the Offset dialog box, for Horizontal type in 50 pixels.
9. Merge down (**PC: Control+E, Mac: Command+E**) and duplicate this layer.
10. Go to the **Filter** menu, than to **Other** and choose **Offset**.
11. In the **Offset** dialog box, for **Horizontal** type in **100 pixels**.
12. Merge down and duplicate this layer.
13. Go to the **Filter** menu, than to **Other** and choose **Offset**.
14. In the **Offset** dialog box, for **Horizontal** type in **200 pixels**.
15. Merge down and duplicate this layer.
16. Go to the **Filter** menu, than to **Other** and choose **Offset**.
17. In the **Offset** dialog box, for **Horizontal** type in **400 pixels**.
18. Merge down.
19. Go to your background layer. Select a new foreground color (this will be your second stripe color) and fill in the background layer (**PC: Alt +Backspace, Mac: Option+Delete**).
20. Duplicate the background layer. Go to your top layer and merge down.
21. Go to the **Filter** menu, than to **Distort** and choose **Polar Coordinates**. Select **Rectangular to Polar** and press ok.
22. You can lower the opacity of this layer to fade the colors into your background layer.
23. Duplicate your background layer and move this duplicate layer to the top of your layers palette.

24. Select your **Eraser** tool. Make your eraser very large, around 1000 pixels, and make sure it has a very soft edge. Click a few times in the center of your image to let the stripes show back through.
25. Create a new blank layer and fill it with 50% gray (**PC: Shift+Backspace, Mac: Shift+Delete**).
26. Go to the **Filter** menu, then to **Noise** and choose **Add Noise**. Change the amount to around 5 to 10% and check the **Monochromatic** box.
27. Change the blend mode of this noise layer to **Overlay** or **Soft Light**.
28. To use this background, make a composite of all your layers (**PC: Shift+Alt+Control+E, Mac: Shift+Option+Command+E**). Now you can copy and paste it to another document, but still have the ability to edit the original image.