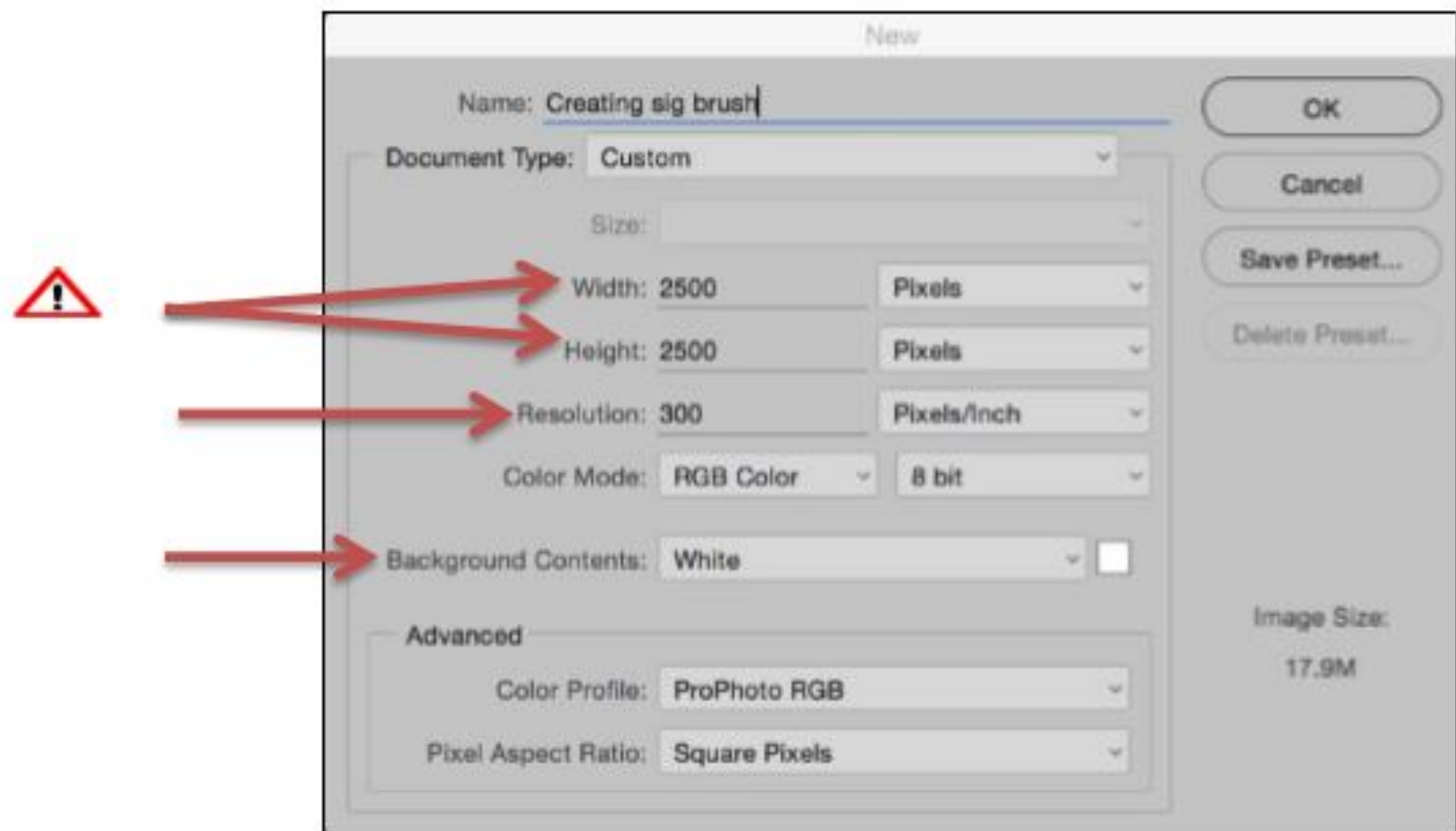


How to Create Signature Brush

by Denise Ippolito

How to Create a Signature Brush

Let's start with the basics of creating a brush in Photoshop. With Photoshop open, go to File > New, in the top menu bar. In the dialogue box that opens, enter the Size as 2500 pixels for both Width and Height, set the Resolution to 300, and set the Background Contents to white (as shown in the screen shot below). Choosing 2500 pixels on the longest edge is important; it is the maximum that Photoshop allows for a brush.



Next, on the Tools panel (on the left side of the screen), click on the Type Tool, and then drag the cursor to draw a text box inside of your newly created white file. Type in your name using whatever font and font size suits you, but be sure to use black as your color of ink.

Alternatively, if you prefer to capture the look of your name as you actually sign it, there are several ways to do that. One way is to write your name on a Wacom tablet, working on a blank new file. Another way is to write your name on a piece of plain white paper and either scan it or photograph it. Then upload the file to your computer, bring it into Photoshop, and resize it. To resize the file, in the top menu bar, go to Image > Image Size. (Note: Some people confuse "image" size with "canvas" size; they are different.) In the dialogue box that opens, set the longest edge to a maximum of 2500 pixels.

If you want to add the copyright symbol to your signature in Photoshop, it's easy. On the Tools panel, go to the bottom directly above the Hand Tool. You may need to right click on the Rectangle Tool (the default tool for this position) to open up the options, scroll to the bottom where it says Custom Shape Tool, and click on that tool. In the Options bar that opens near the top of the screen, look for the Shape drop-down menu, near the right end of the bar (as shown below).



Click on the down-pointing arrow. If you do not see the copyright shape in the menu that opens, click on the settings icon, go down to All, and then hit Append when given that choice. When you see the copyright shape in the menu, click on it and then drag your cursor on the white file to apply the shape. The shape, which appears on its own layer, can be transformed, so don't worry too much about size and placement. You will need to make sure that the foreground fill color is set to black. If you need help adding a shape, please check out the Photoshop Online Help (click on Help in the top menu bar) about drawing shapes with the shape tools. (Alternatively, If you have a good memory, you have another way to get the copyright symbol: with the Type Tool selected, just hit Alt + 0169 on the number keypad (Option + G on a Mac). You can choose the same font as your signature if you want, or pick a font that will give a more "official" look to the symbol.)

Once you are satisfied with the look of your signature and copyright symbol on the white file, you will need to add your creation to your collection of brushes. First, however, you may want to flatten the file; in the top menu bar go to Layer > Flatten. (In older versions of Photoshop, you were required to flatten all layers in order for the steps that follow to be available.) Now go to the top menu bar and select Edit > Define Brush Preset. A small dialogue box will appear and you will be prompted to name your brush. After entering a name, hit OK. Your brush will appear as the very last brush in your Brush Preset picker. When you are ready to use your signature brush, select it from the picker. Scale it to the size you want using the bracket keys ([and]); use with left bracket to decrease the size and the right bracket to increase it. You can also change the brush's opacity in the Options bar. Then simply click where you want to position the signature on your image. (Some people prefer to put the signature on its own layer so that they can re-position, re-scale, etc.)

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