

Embossed and Beveled Text in Adobe Photoshop 7

by Phil Russell

What follows is a fairly simple way to create embossed and beveled text in Photoshop. Start by opening an image for the background. It should not be busy, because we are going to overlay some embossed beveled text on the background. A rock surface, a field, an ocean view... anything that will serve as a decent background will do nicely (Fig. 1.).

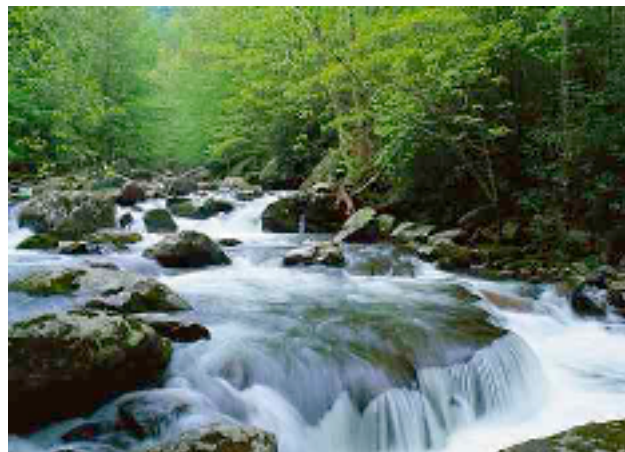


Fig. 1. Background image

You can put any words you wish on this background. For our sample, we are going to use the two words, Mouse Droppings, as the text. Open Layers palette if it is not already open. Drag the Background Layer onto the New Layer icon. A Background copy layer appears above the Background layer. It is the now the active layer (Fig. 2.).

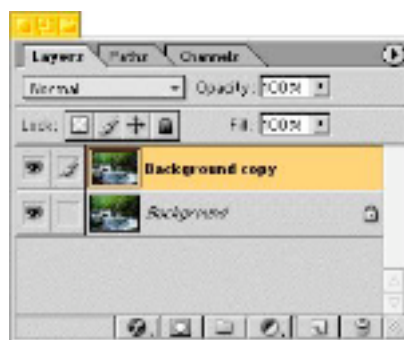


Fig. 2. New Background copy layer

Press t (to bring up the Type tool). Go to the Options bar (at top of screen) and choose a heavy font, like Arial Black or Futura Extra Bold. Choose a font size and click on the Centered icon. If the font size or text placement is wrong, you can

always back off a step or two (Command + Option + Z) and choose another size. Click in the center of the image, possibly a little high for typing two lines. Type your text (Fig. 3.).

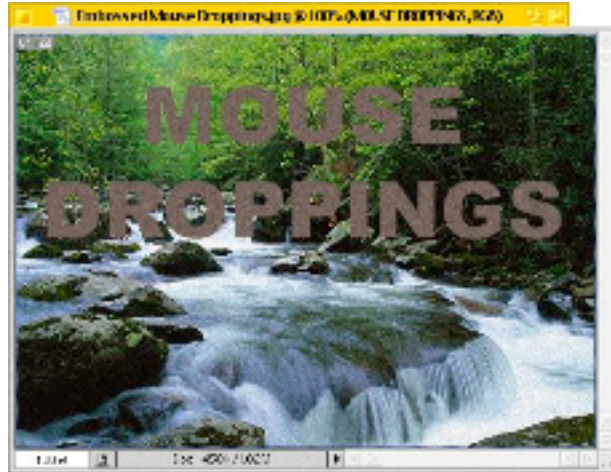


Fig. 3. The text

Click the eye icon next to the Type layer (mine says MOUSE DROPPINGS) in the Layers palette. This hides the Text layer. Command-click the Type Layer to make it active (Fig. 4.).



Fig. 4. Text as active selection

Click the Background copy layer in the Layers palette. The Background copy Layer will now be highlighted. Press Command + Shift + I to invert the selection. Press Delete which removes the excess background from the Background copy Layer. Don't worry, you will not see anything happen. Press Command + D to deselect. The crawling ants text has disappeared.

Click on the Add a Layer Style, which is the black circle with the *f* in it at the bottom of the Layers palette and choose Inner Shadow.

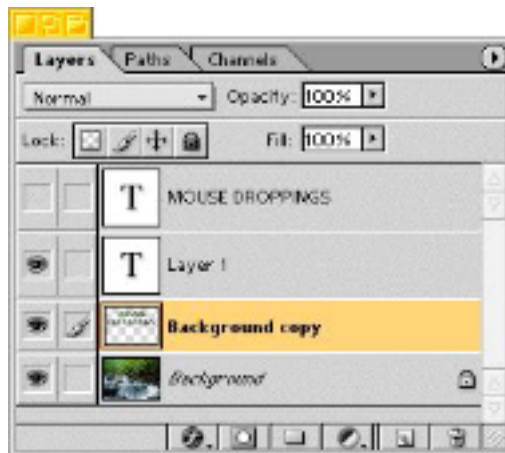


Fig. 5. Click the small *f* at bottom left



Fig. 6. Select Inner Shadow

In the large dialog box which appears uncheck Use Global Light. Drag the Angle indicator to 143°. Make Distance 10 and Size 8. Choose Bevel and Emboss on the left side of the dialog box.



Fig. 7. Layer Style Dialog

Your text now looks something like this (Fig. 8).

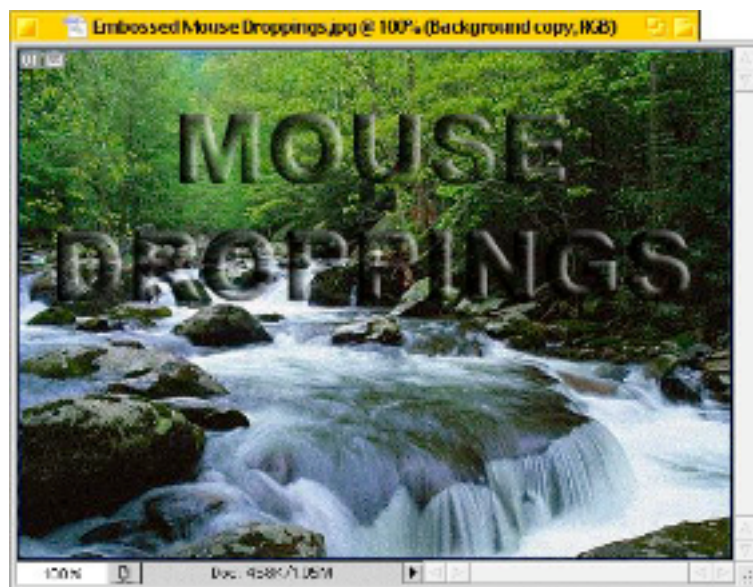


Fig. 8. Text at this point

This is where the fun begins. Check Stroke. Look and uncheck it (Fig. 9). Check Color Overlay. Look and uncheck it. Try each item in the checkmark list at Dialog box left. Then try multiple checkmarks. When you like the result, click OK. In Fig. 9, I selected Stroke and Color Overlay.

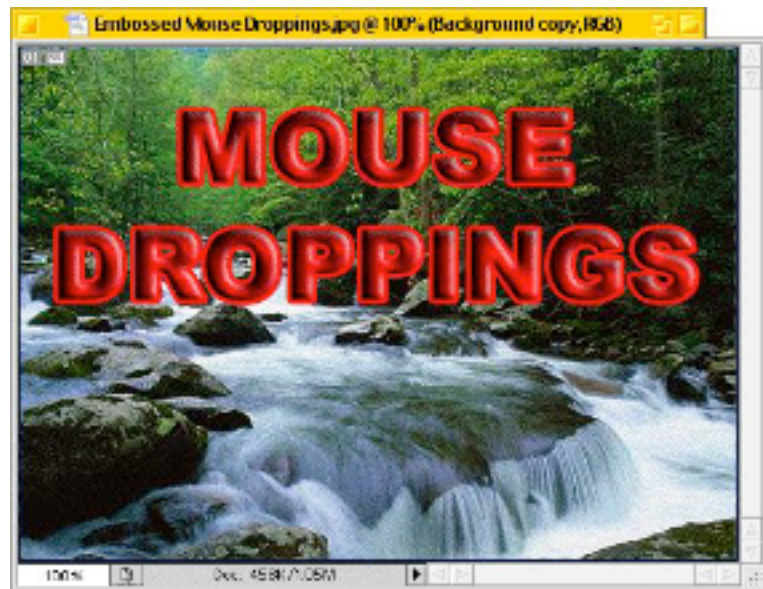


Fig. 9. Finished text

Another interesting way to further modify your text is to Command-click on the little *f* at the right of the Background layer in the Layers palette.

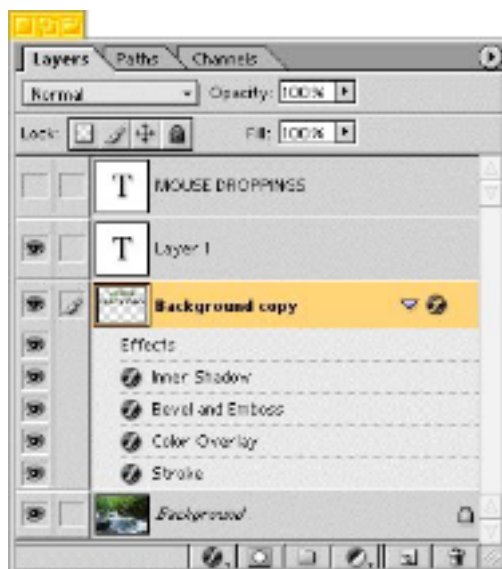


Fig. 10. Click the little *f* at the right

Select the last item, Scale Effects.... Change the Scale to 150 and observe the results.

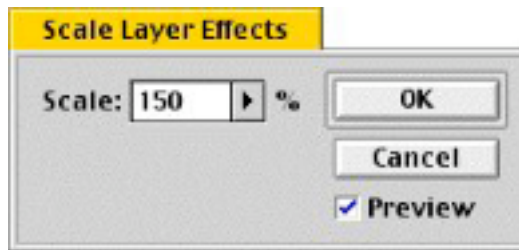


Fig. 11 Scaling Layer Effects.

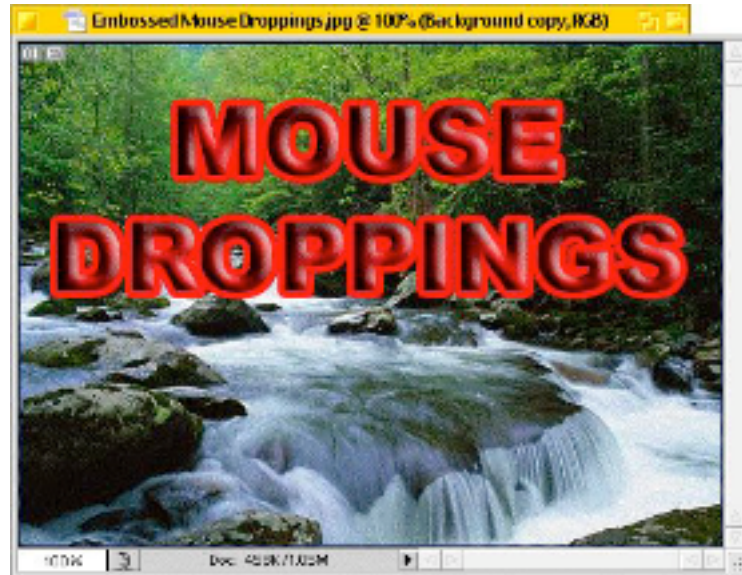


Fig. 12. Text with Scaling Effects added

This is your basic introduction to beveling and embossing text in Photoshop. Remember that we have only scratched the surface in this tutorial. Have fun playing.