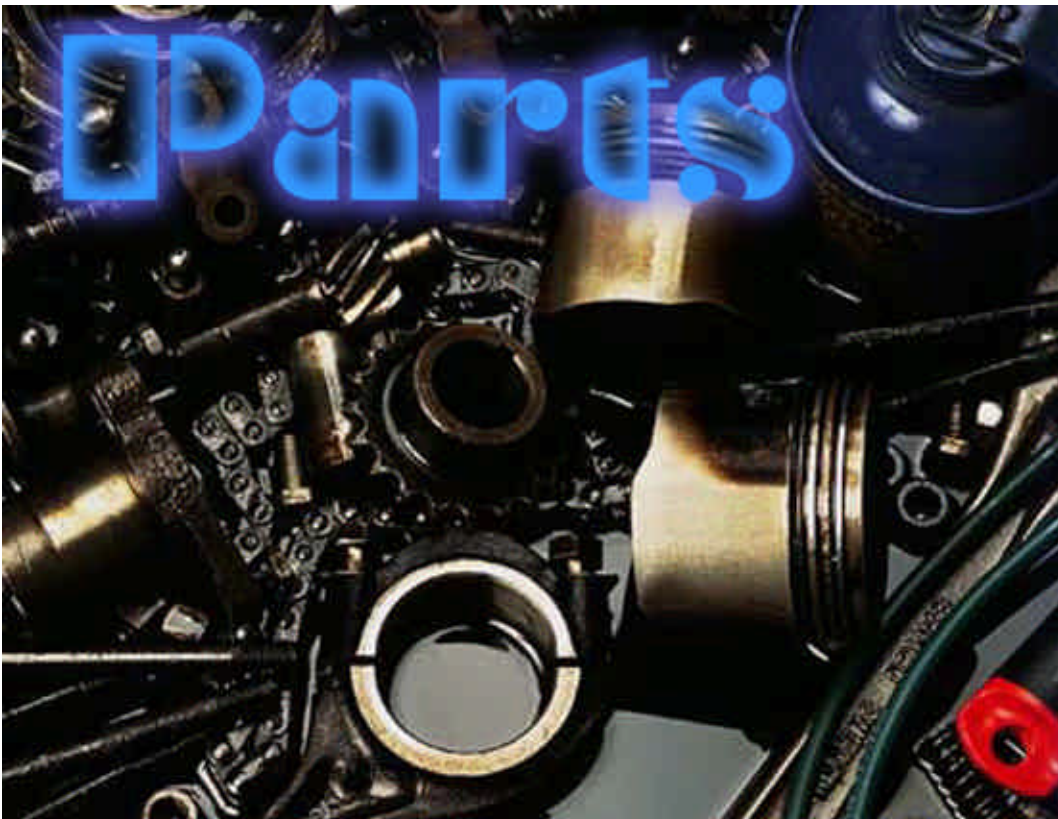


Photoshop 4.0 Tips & Tricks

Some familiarity with the Macintosh and Photoshop 4.0 is very helpful. We also assume, you have a previously created, a scanned image or other image to open.

By following these instructions you will create text with a simple neon effect. You will also be learning a little about Filters, Layers and Layer Masks, as well as a few powerful time saving tricks for less mousing around. Another Text Effect can be found in the [Drop Shadow Tips & Tricks](#).

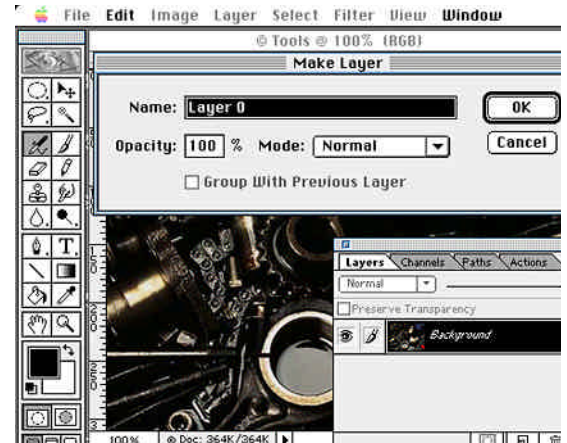
Text With Simple Neon Glow



Photoshop 4.0 Tips & Tricks

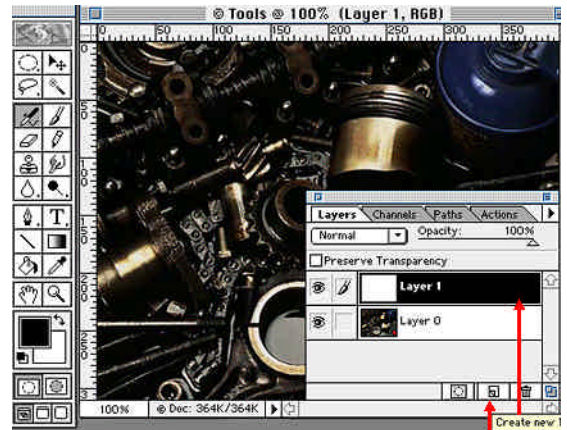
1. Open An Image & Rename The Layer

- Open your image. It will become the **Background Layer** by default.
- Rename the **Image Layer** (background) by double clicking on layer name. A dialog box will appear. Type in the new layer name.



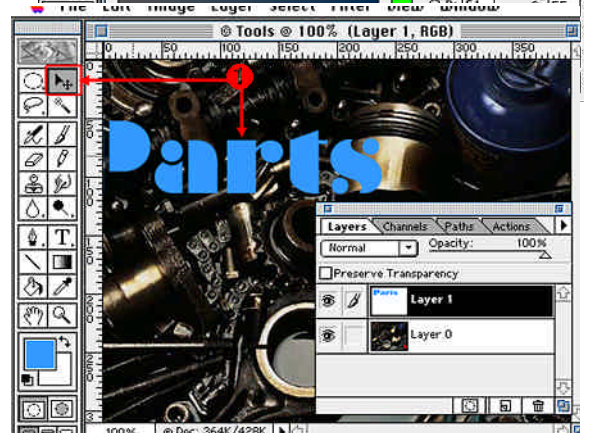
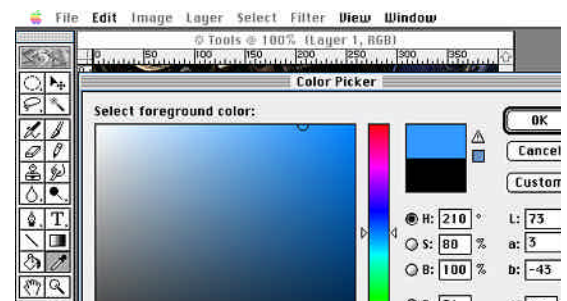
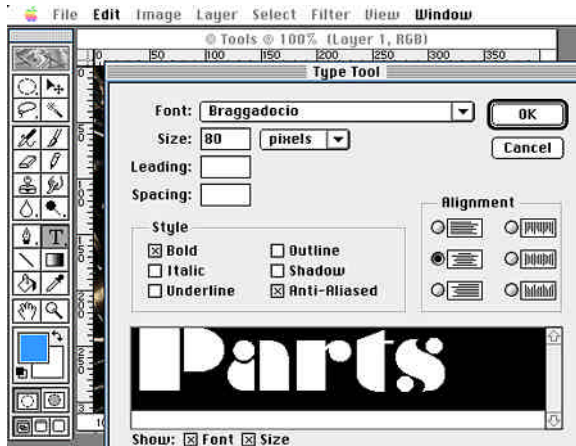
2. Make A New Layer

Click on the **New Layer Icon** at the bottom of the **Layers Window**.



3. Select Color & Type Text

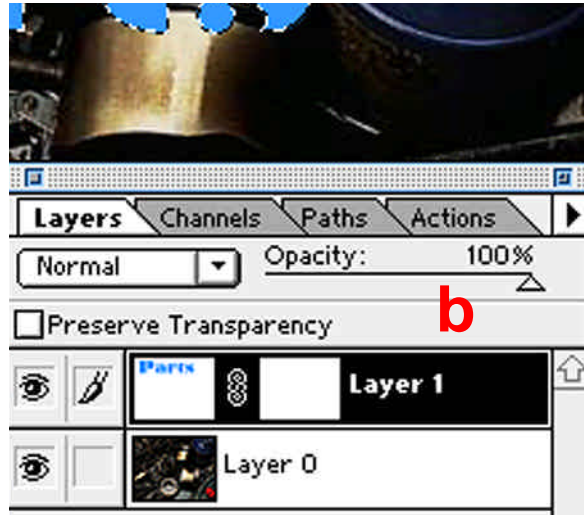
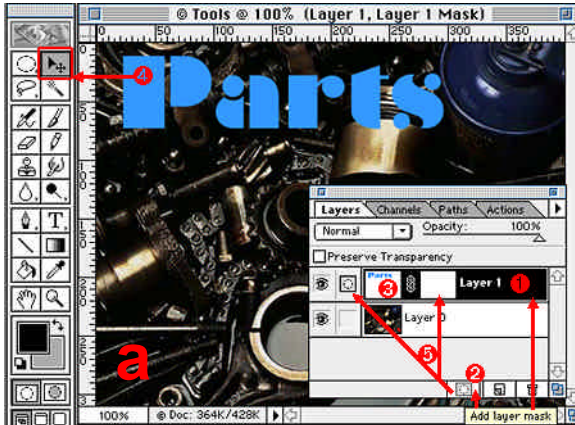
Select a bold, thick font that holds up well in a large size. The brighter the color, the more electric the effect. Position the text with the **Move Tool** in the **Tool Box**.



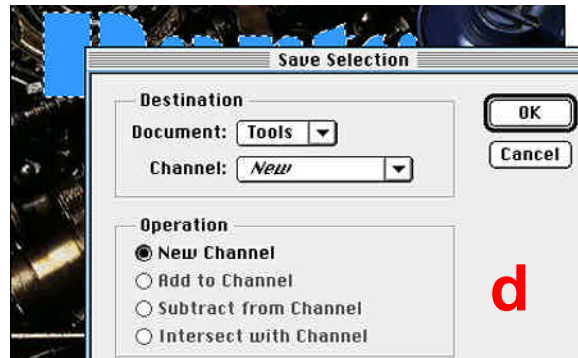
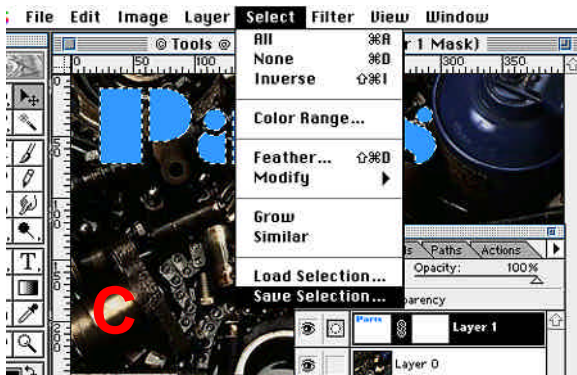
Photoshop 4.0 Tips & Tricks

1. Create Layer Mask & Make Text Selection

- a) With the **Text Layer** active **1**, create a **Layer Mask** by clicking the **Layer Mask Icon** **2** at the **Bottom** of the **Layers Window**.
- b) Make the **Image** **3** (not the Mask **5**) active by clicking on the **Image Icon** (a paint brush appears indicating the image is active).



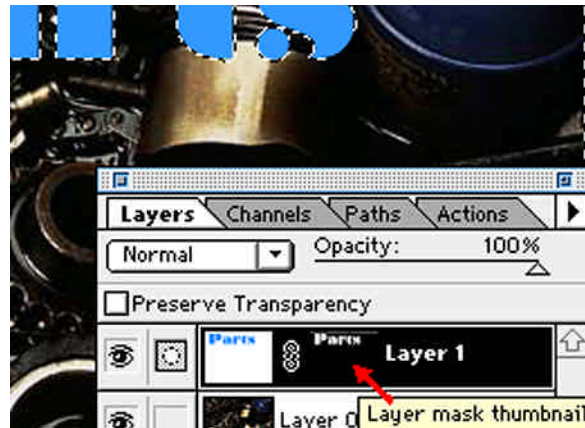
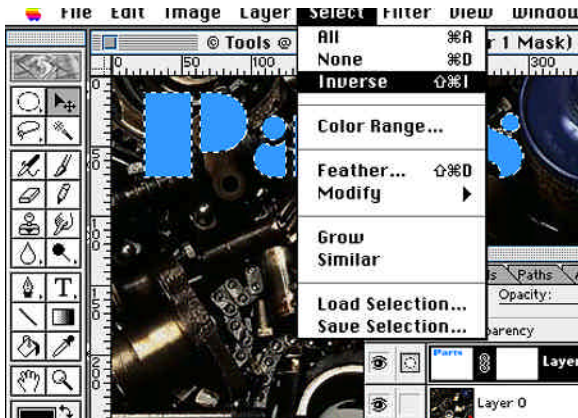
- c) With the **Move Tool Selected** **4**, **Option Click** on the **Text Icon**. Your text becomes selected.
- d) **Select - Save Selection - Channel New - OK**
- e) With the selection still active, **Click on the Mask Portion** **5** of the **Text Layer**. The **Mask Icon** appears.



Photoshop 4.0 Tips & Tricks

5. Inverse Selection and Fill Layer Mask

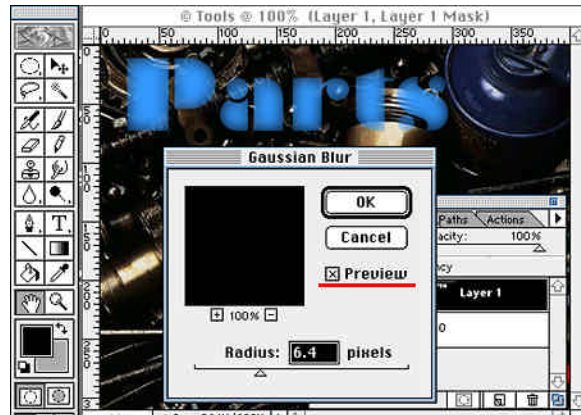
- With the Mask still selected, **Select - Inverse**.
- Make sure that black is the foreground color.
Use the **Option** and **Delete Keys** to **Fill the Mask with black**.
- Deselect** the selection by hitting the **Command** and **D** keys.



6. Apply Gaussian Blur

Be sure that the **Mask Icon** is still active.

- Go to **Filter - Blur - Gaussian Blur**. The **Blur Controls** window appears.
- If it's not selected, select the **Preview Option**. (This way you'll see your changes)



Photoshop 4.0 Tips & Tricks

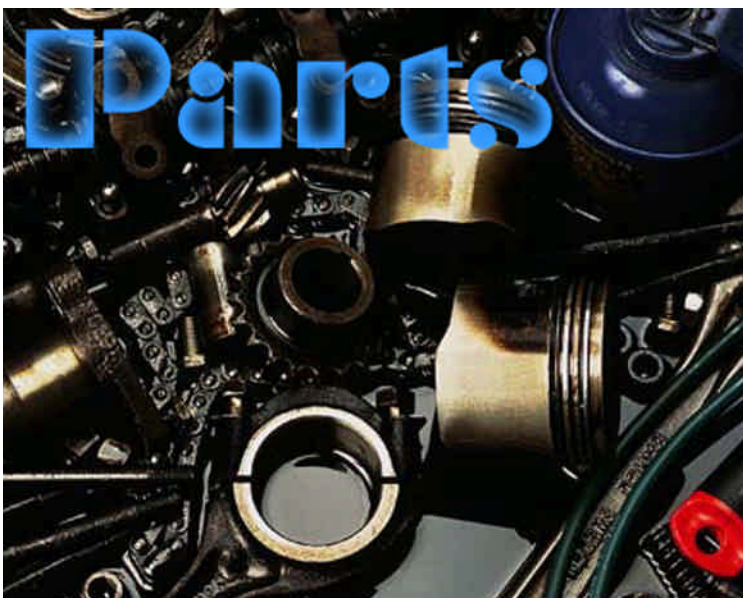
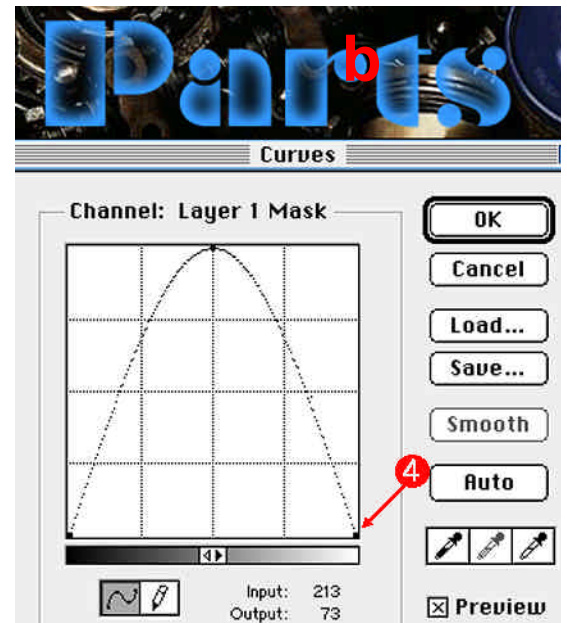
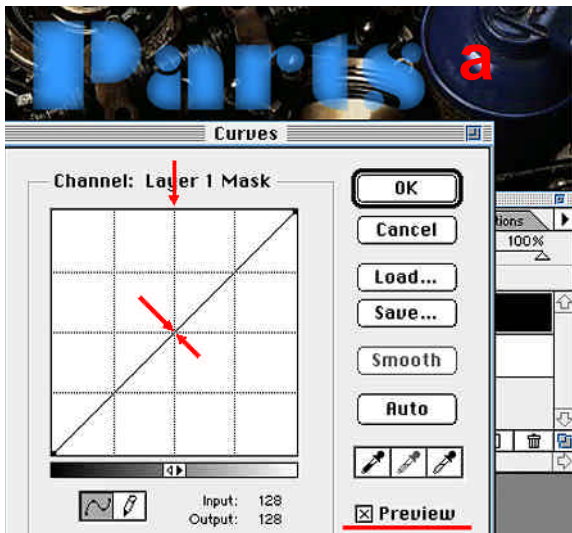
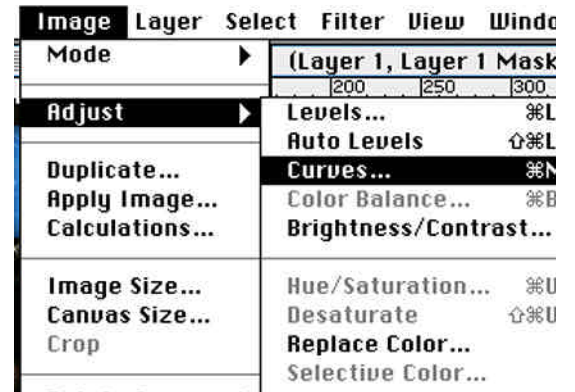
7. Adjust Curves

Now we must adjust the curves of the blur effect on the text.

Image - Adjust - Curves or use **Command and M** keys to activate the **Preview Option** if it's not already checked.

a) Pick up the line in the center and move it to the top of the grid.

b) Move the **Top Right** dot down to the **Bottom Right**.



Photoshop 4.0 Tips & Tricks

Other Things to Try

You can play with the curves to get different results. The font chosen and the amount of blur applied will vary the effects of the curve adjustments. Experiment to get the effect you want.

You can give the neon effect an added glow by duplicating the Layer.

a) Drag Layer to the **New Layer Icon** at the bottom of the **Layer Window**.

Move it by **Dragging the New Layer Below** the **Original Text Layer**.

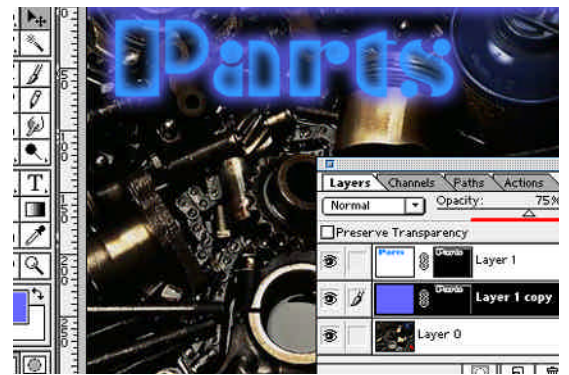
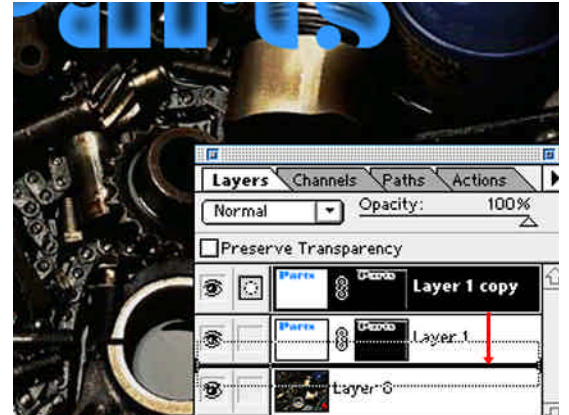
Working in the **Text Copy Layer**:

b) Select the Image icon (paintbrush showing).

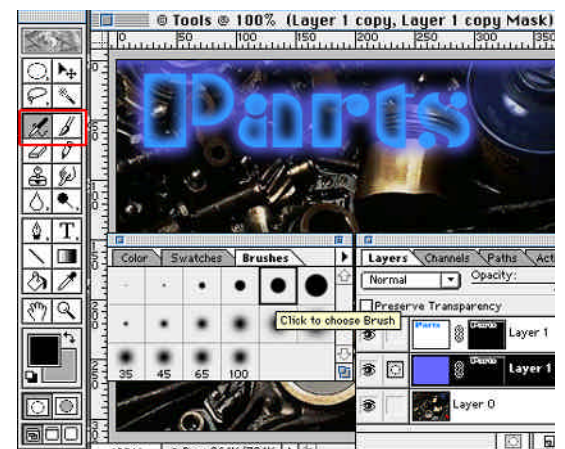
c) Select another bright color.

d) Press the Option and Delete Keys to **Fill the Image Layer**.

Note: Experiment with this extra glow by adjusting the opacity levels of the second layer. Doing so will give a more glowing effect.



Note: To remove any unwanted areas of color from the image, select a **Paint Tool** in the **Tool Box**, and choose a paint brush size. Choose black and paint over the areas in the **Layer Mask**.



End
Simple
Neon