

AD Artbox

A Photoshop Panel for Graphic Artists

More than sixty high quality tools for illustrators, including the fabulous watercolour emulation, oils, pencils, inking brushes, blenders, comics panel creation, screentones and much more!

Designed for everyday work, Intuitive and easy to use!

Used at Disney Studios!



Requirements

This Panel was developed and intensively tested with Adobe Photoshop® CC 2015 64 bits, using Windows 10 with a Pc Intel Core I7 3770 @ 3.40Ghz + 8gb RAM + NVIDIA GeForce GTX 960 and using a Wacom Intuos 4 tablet, a Graphire 4 and a Cintiq Companion Hybrid, also tested in an iMac (27-inch) 3,4 Ghz Intel Core i7 with 16 Gb 1600 Mhz DDR3 + NVIDIA GeForce GTX 675MX 1024 Mb - OSX El Capitan version 10.11.3

So basically, to use AD ARTBOX you need a modern computer (PC or MAC) running Photoshop CS6 or a Creative Cloud version without troubles.

How to backup your Patterns

1) Open the Preset Manager:

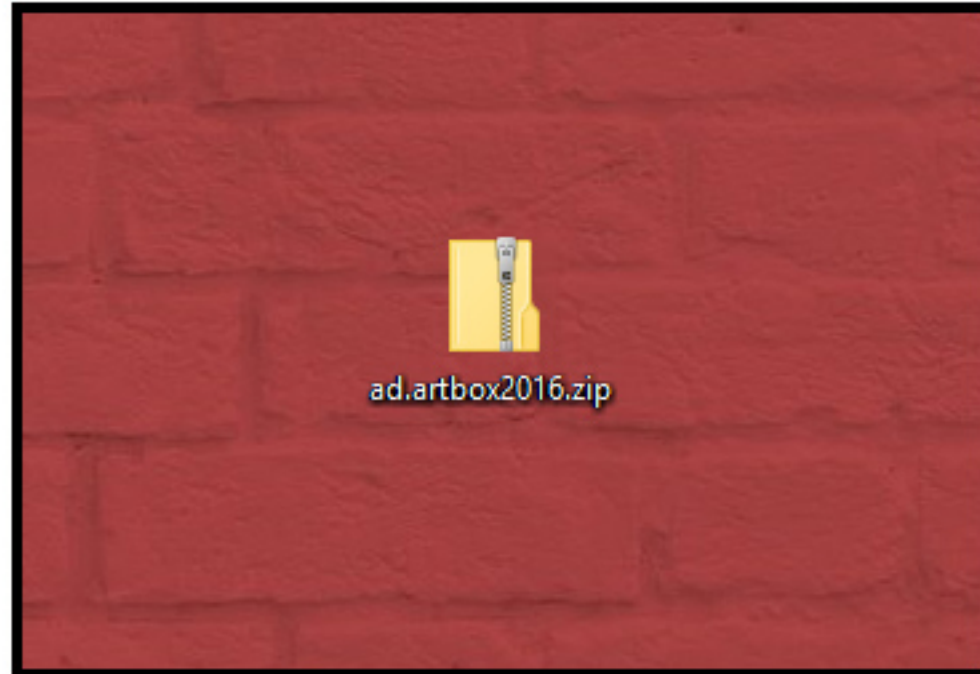
Photoshop > Edit > Presets > Preset Manager

2) From the '**Preset Type**' dropdown menu select '**Patterns**', once the patterns list is loaded click the first pattern, then hold down the keyboard Shift key and Click the last pattern to select All the patterns, then click '**Save Set**', save it to your hard disk and you're done!

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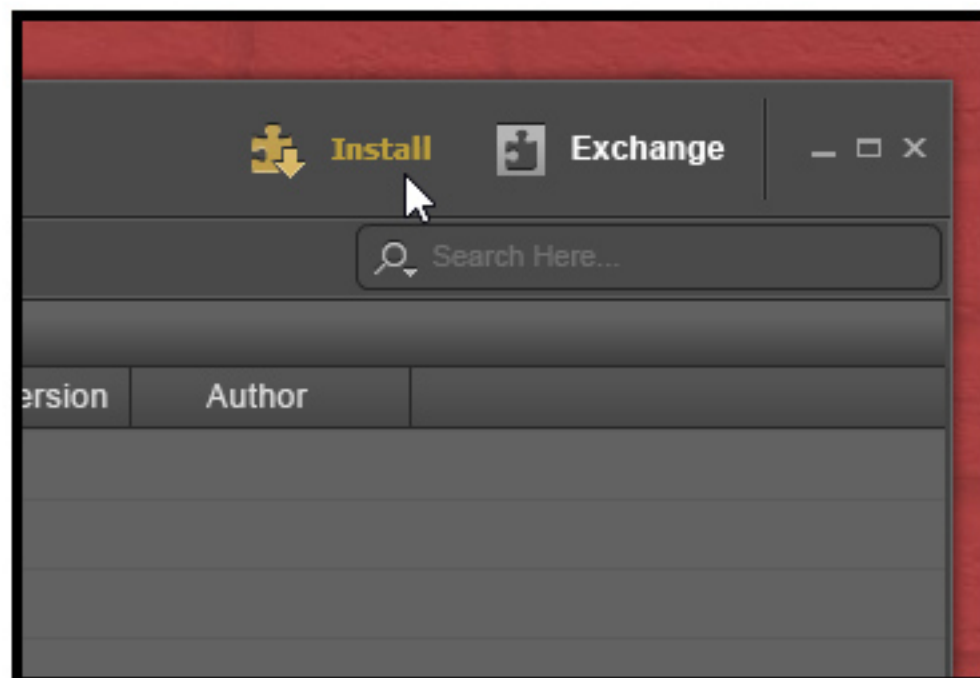
INSTALLING THE PANEL IN PHOTOSHOP CS6 OR CC



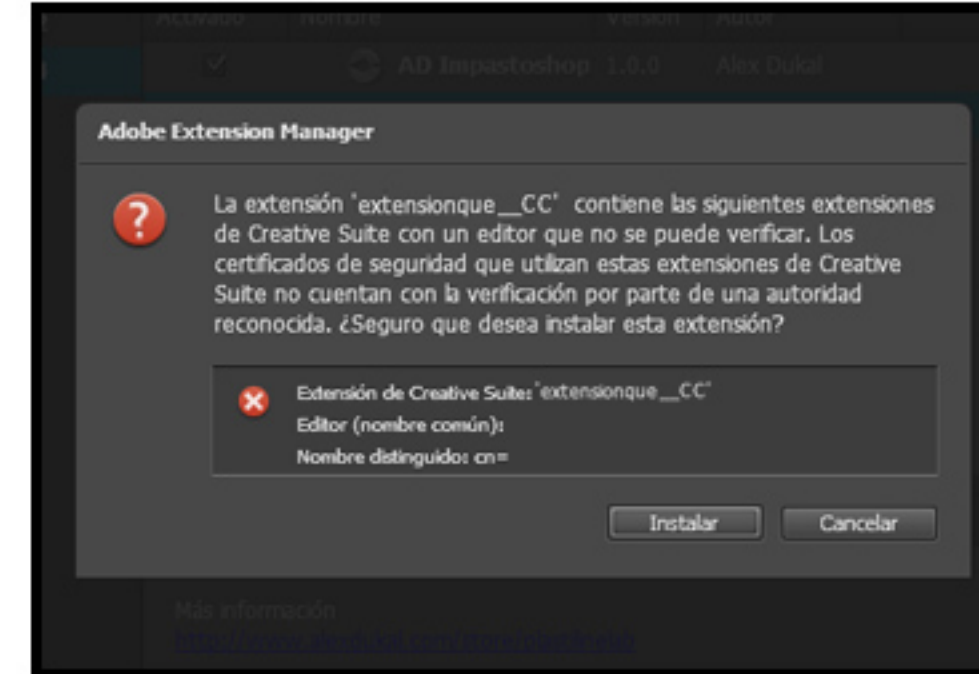
1
Unzip the **ad.artbox2016.zip** file.



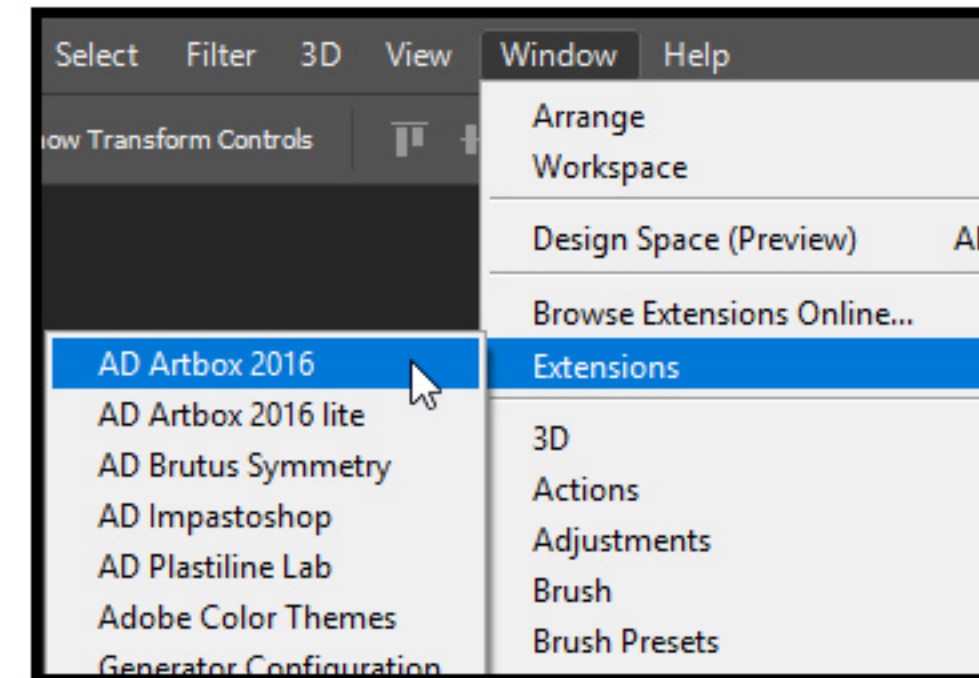
2
If it is not already installed on your machine, please install the **ADOBE EXTENSION MANAGER CS6 or CC** depending on your PS version:
https://www.adobe.com/exchange/em_download/
Once installed, launch it!



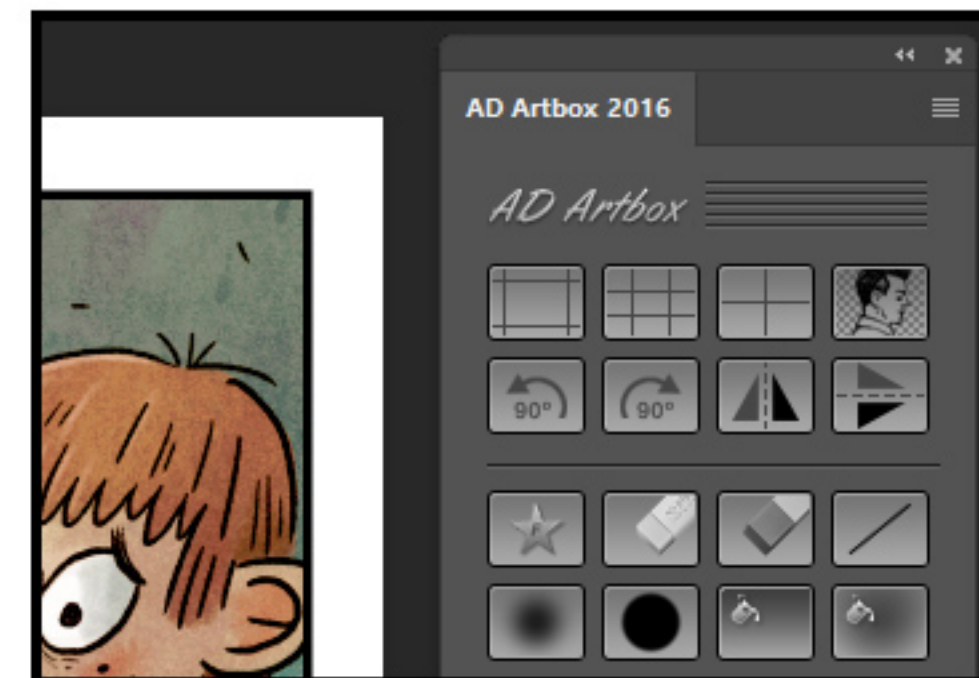
3
Click '**Install**' and search for the '**ad.artboxCS6.zxp**' or '**ad.artbox2016.zxp**' file.



4
Don't care about the message saying it's an '**Unsigned**' Extension, install it anyway!
Once installed close the Extension Manager.

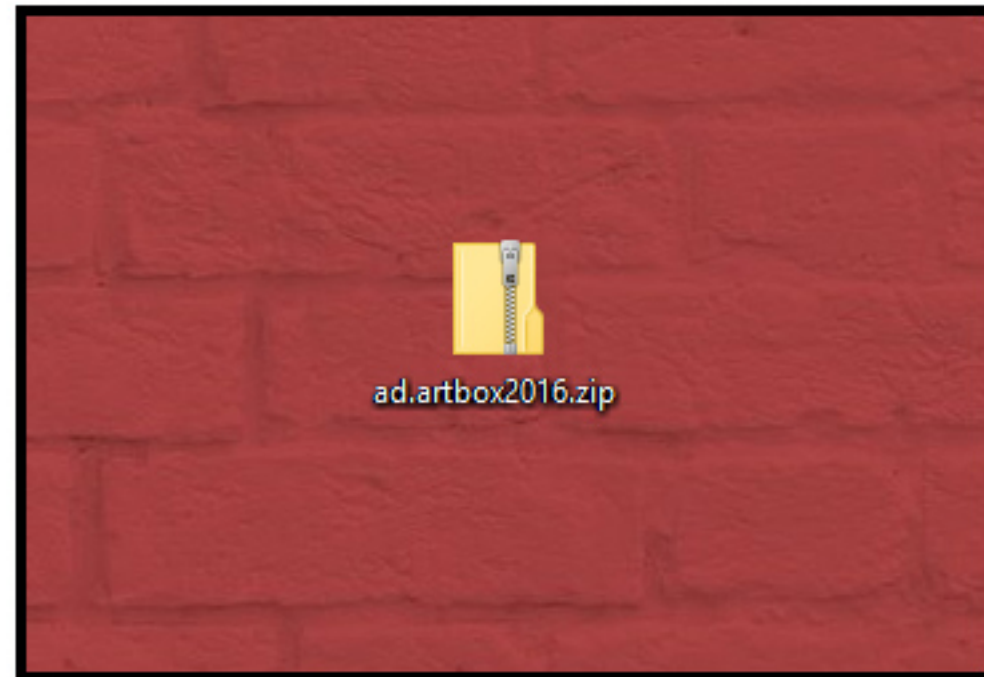


5
Then, open Photoshop and access the Panel from the Photoshop Menu:
Window > Extensions > AD Artbox 2016

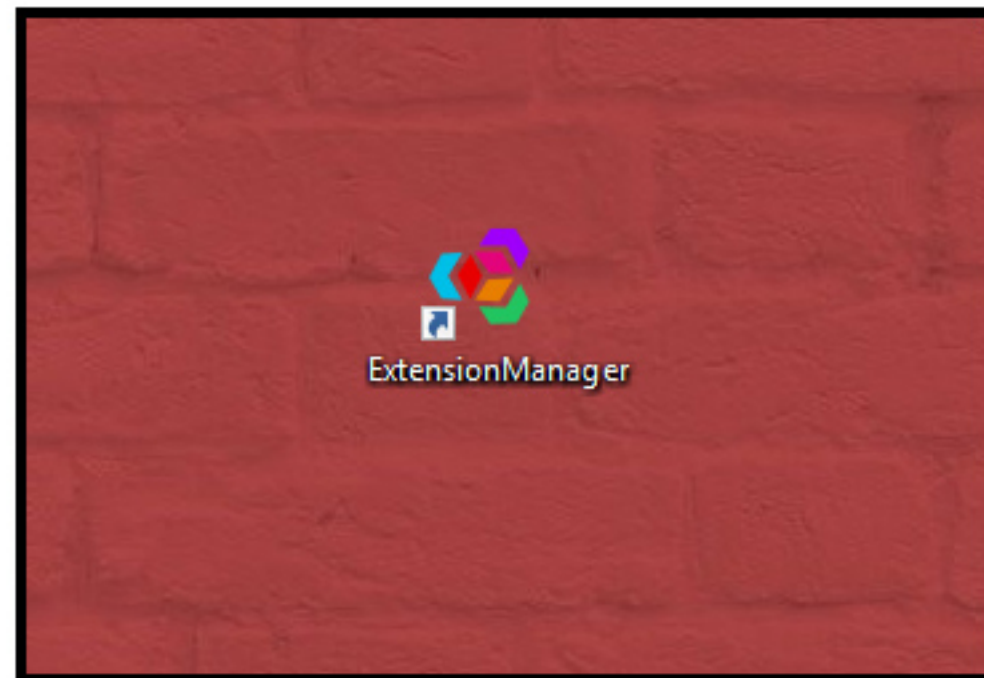


6
Finally Enjoy it!

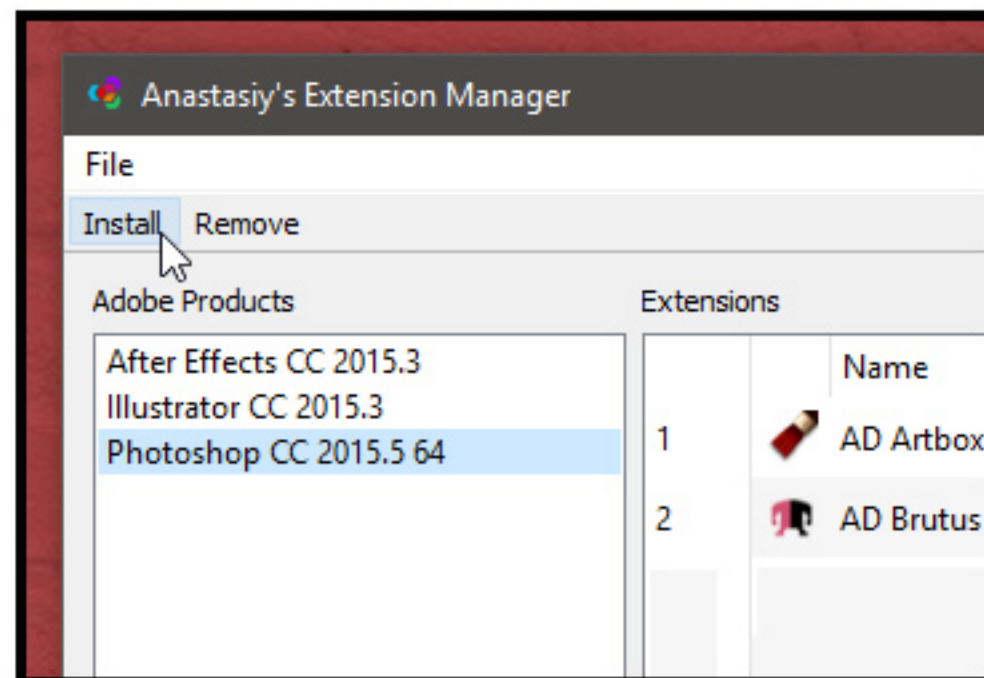
INSTALLING THE PANEL IN PHOTOSHOP CREATIVE CLOUD (CC 2014, 2015+)



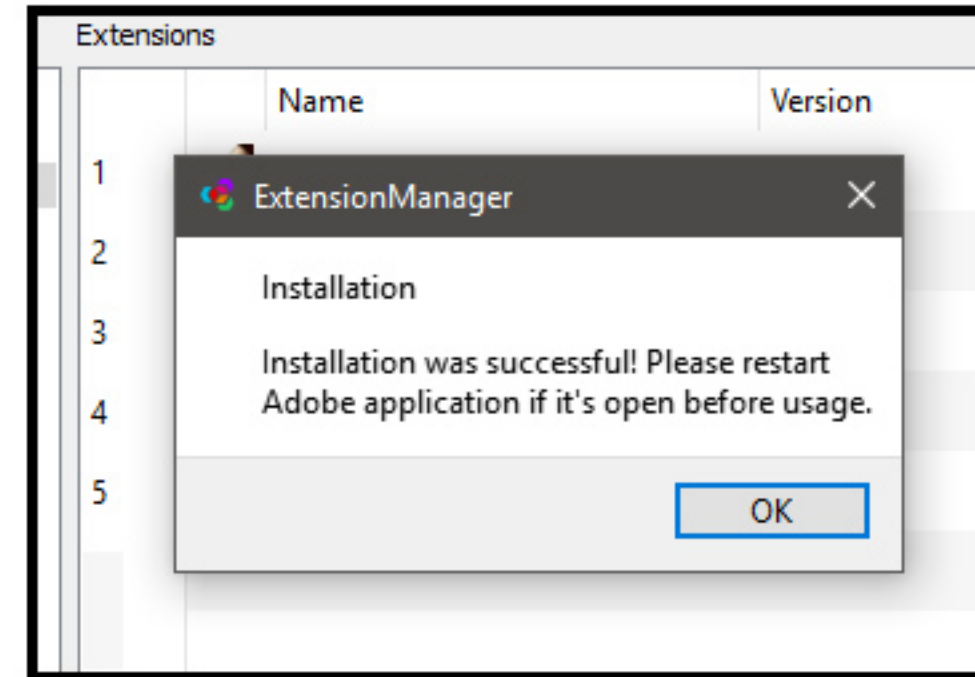
1
Unzip the **ad.artbox2016.zip** file.



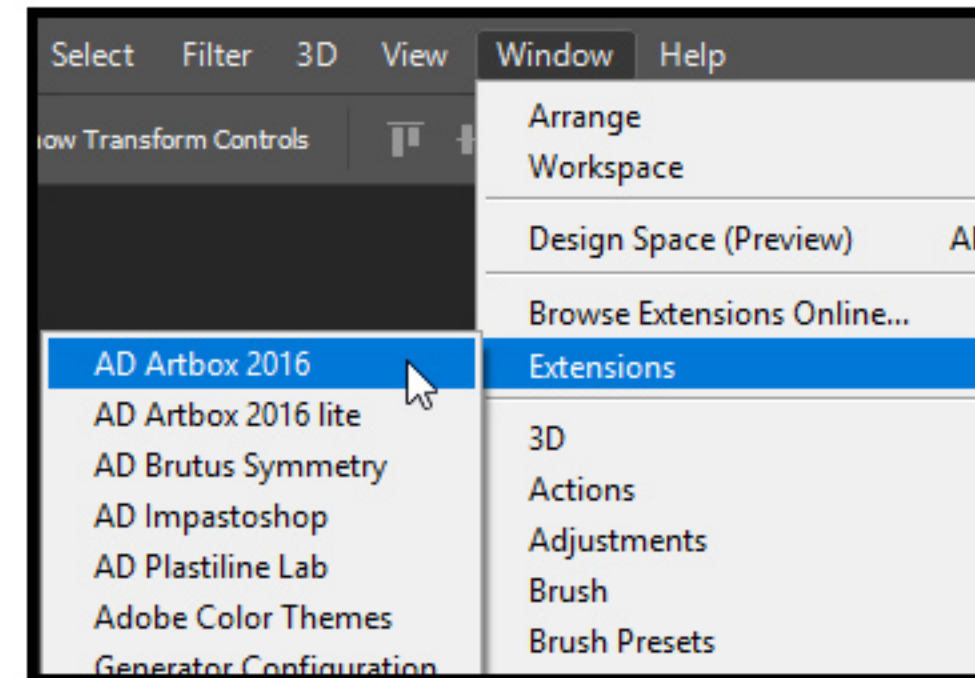
2
Download the free **Anastasiy's Extension Manager** from <http://install.anastasiy.com>
Launch it!



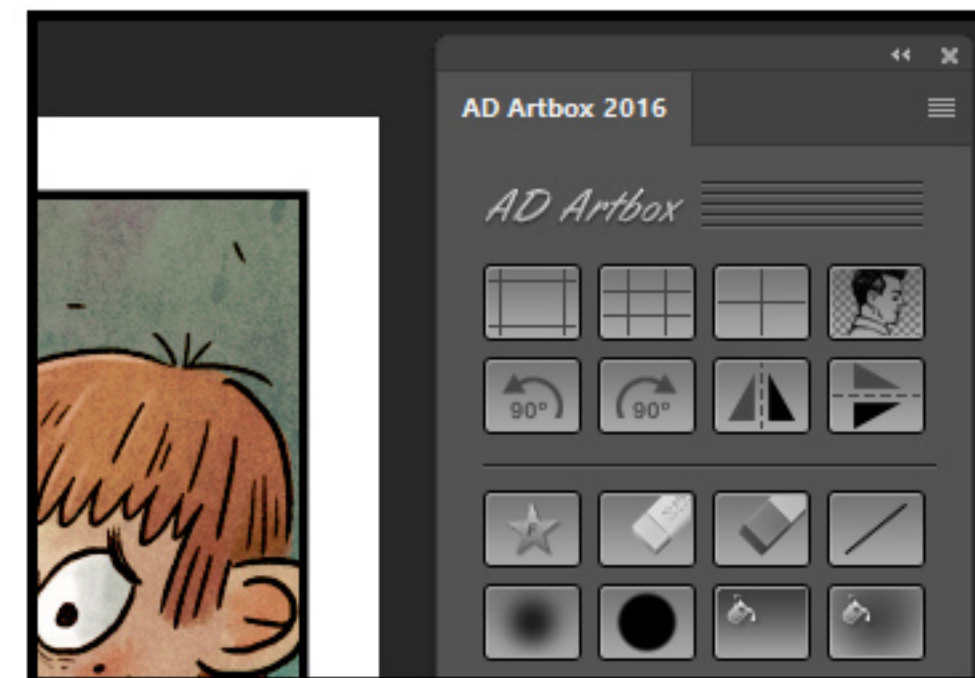
3
Click '**Install**' and search for the '**ad.artbox2016.zxp**' file.



4
The Installer will place all the required files and after a couple of seconds a message will tell you **the Extension was Installed Successfully!**
Close the Installer.



5
Then, open Photoshop and access the Panel from the Photoshop Menu:
Window > Extensions > AD Artbox 2016



6
Finally Enjoy it!

Guidelines: Bleed, Thirds and Middle



1. BLEED

This button will create four guidelines at 1 cm. from the edge of the paper inward.

2. THIRDS

This divide the document into 'thirds' with vertical and horizontal guidelines.

3. MIDDLE

It creates guidelines at the vertical and horizontal center of your document.

Tips:

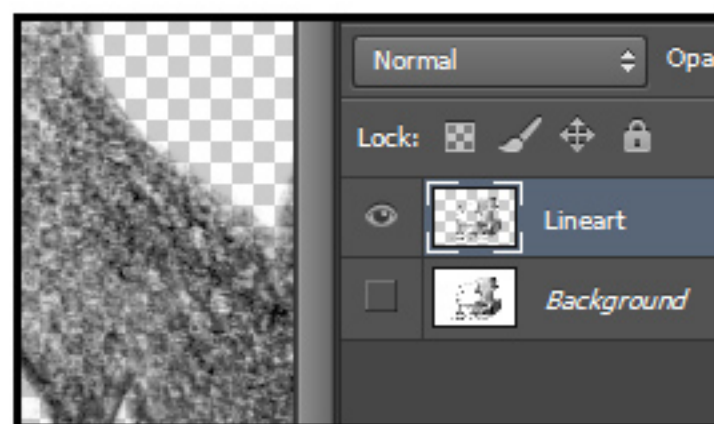
When working with guidelines it is recommended to lock them from the menu:

View > Lock Guides

also, from the same menu there's an option to Clear all the Guidelines.

To delete or move individual guides you must enable the rules, then drag the guide to the ruler to delete it or drag from the ruler to the document to create it.

Separate lines from background

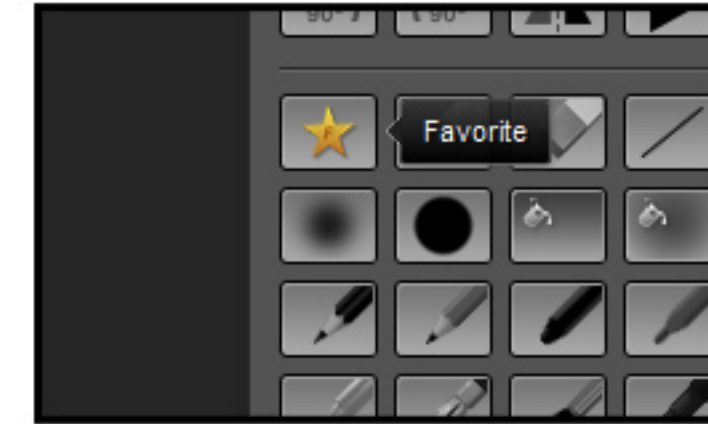


4. Open an scanned drawing, clean it, adjust the levels and then apply this action. Quickly the background will be removed from the artwork in a new (grayscale) layer!

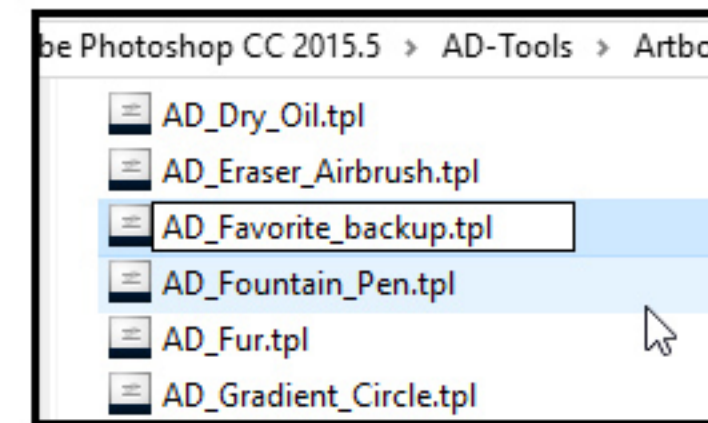
Tip:

Instead of using the eraser to clean your drawing, try to use the dodge tool (set Range to 'Highlights' and the Exposure to a low number).

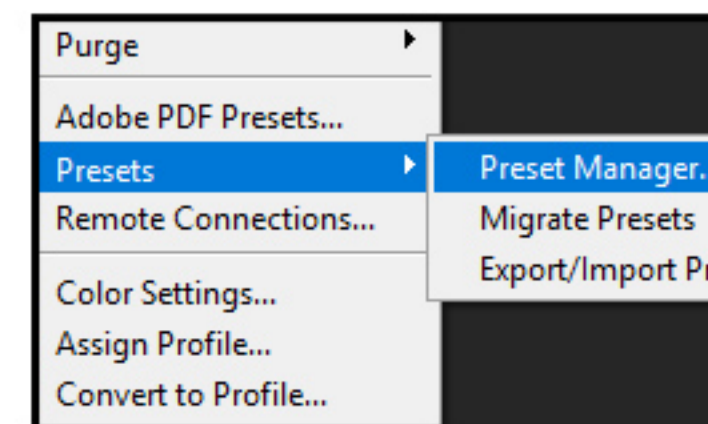
Favorite Tool (Tools modification and replacement)



By default the **Favorite tool** is a 'Soft Oil' brush but it's easy to change it, here is the how-to:

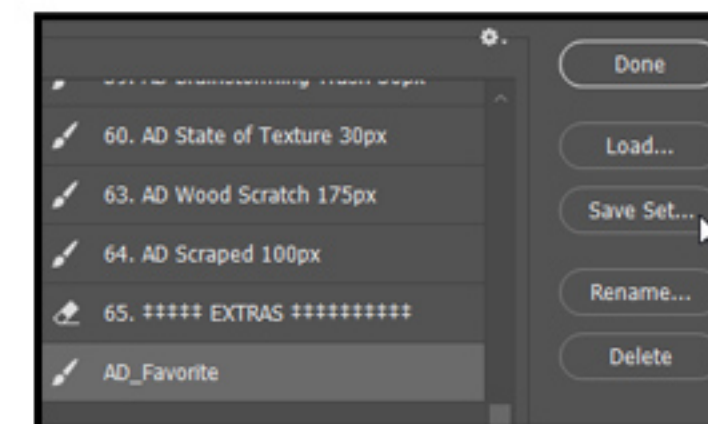


1. Go to your Photoshop folder, open the **AD-Tools/Artbox** folder, search for the **AD_Favorite.tpl** file and rename it (F2) adding something like **_backup** at the end.



2. Open Photoshop and launch the **Tool Presets Window** (Window > Tool Presets). Load the Tool Preset you want as Artbox Favorite and rename it exactly to **AD_Favorite**

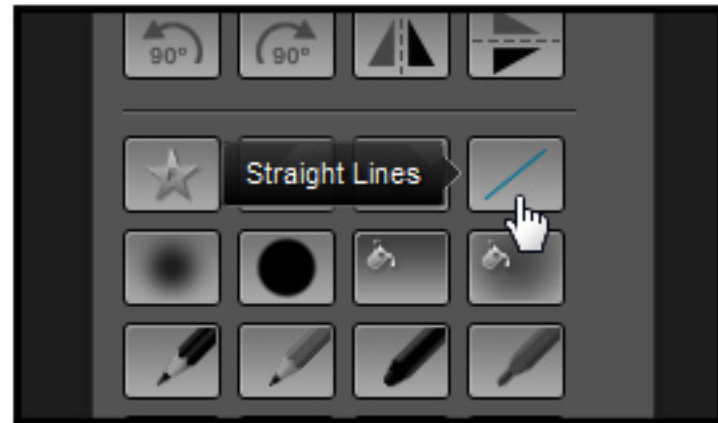
3. Go to **Edit > Presets > Preset Manager** and from the dropdown menu select **Tools**, then select **AD_Favorite**, click 'Save Set' and save it as **AD_Favorite.tpl** inside your **Photoshop/AD-Tools/Artbox**



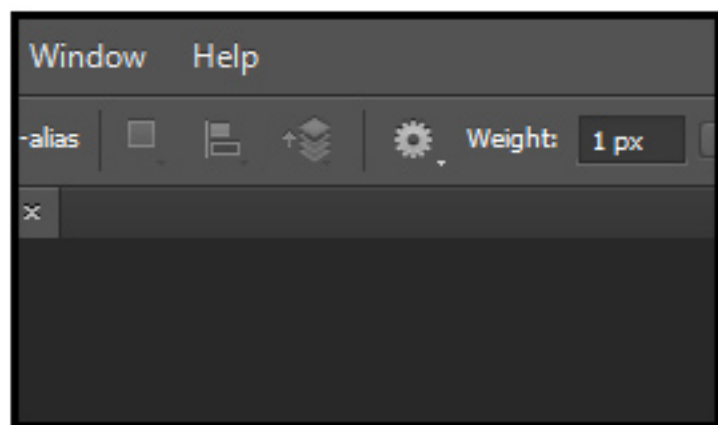
Done!

Note: You could do this with any brush from Artbox but the Tool Presets names must remain intact, otherwise AD Artbox will not work properly.

Straight lines



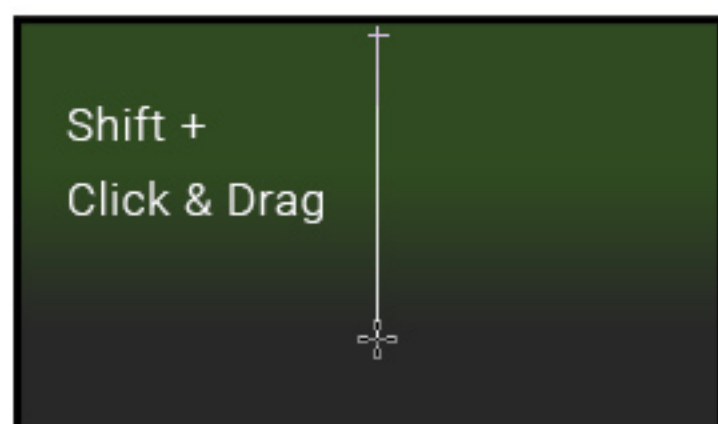
1. There is no mystery with this tool, as its name suggests it draws straight lines, but like many other tools this one has some options that you can access from the top bar (Figure 2). By default the line thickness is **1px** but you can change that from that options.



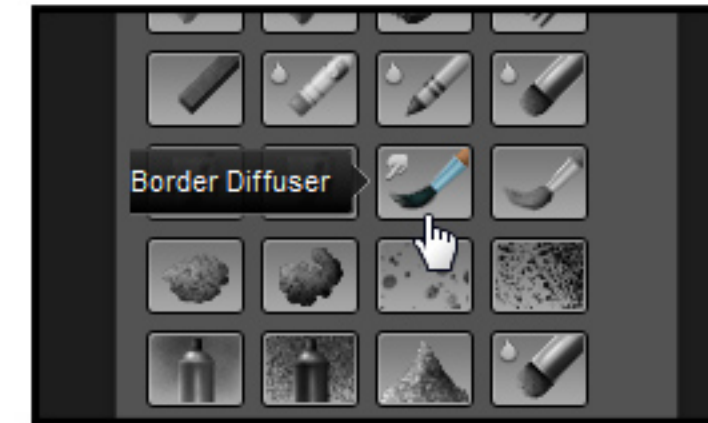
Linear and radial gradient



1. These two buttons provide quick access for creating linear and radial gradients. The usage is as simple as click and drag, to achieve perfectly vertical or horizontal gradients just hold down the Shift key while dragging.



Laggy or Slow tools



It is important to understand that not all this tools allways work smoothly, the proper functioning depends of certain conditions, mainly on the power of our hardware.

Eg.: the **'Border Diffuser'** tool could by quite slow if it's used as any other brush, but if used without enlarging and slowly it produces great results (Figure 2). What it does is smudge the lines creating the effect of "wetness" or wet ink.



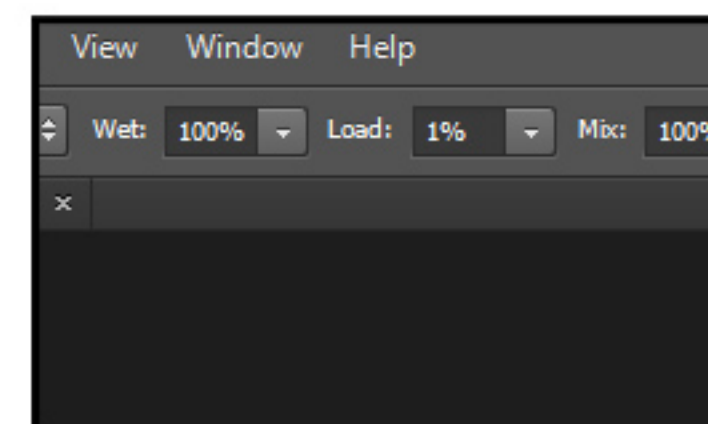
Blenders



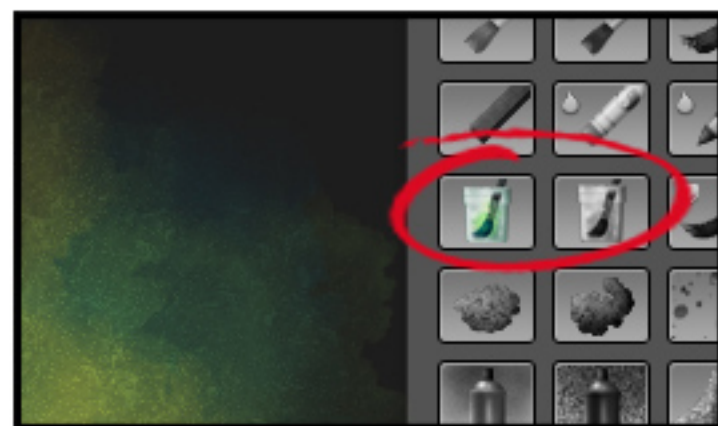
There are two blenders in this panel, the first one (Pink) named "Pastel blender" mix the colors using an 'artistic' and textured brush.

The second one (Blue) is called "Soft blender" and works very smoothly.

In both cases all the options can be changed from the top bar.



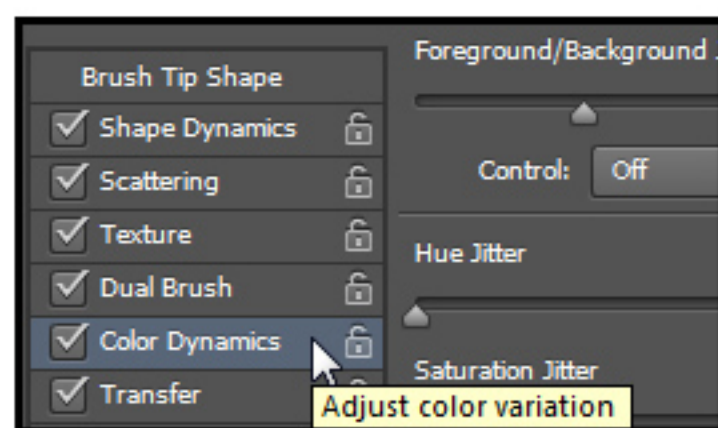
Watercolours



These two fantastic brushes produce a real effect of water-based paint, complemented very well one with each other.

Tip: Sometimes it is very useful to tweak the settings a little bit, this way:

1. Select the brush (Watercolour 1 or 2)
2. Open the Brushes configuration window (F5)
3. Tick the **"Color Dynamics"** option (Figure 2), and change the Foreground / Background to a number between 30 and 50, leaving the remaining options in 0. Then, when painting, select a foreground and a background color that automatically will mix together.



Tint



This is a brush that instead of 'painting' what it does is 'dyeing' with the color you've selected.

Leaves and Fur



1. **LEAVES:** It produces an effect similar to the foliage of a tree.

2. **FUR:** In this case the effect is similar to the fur of an animal or creature, but also could be used as grass.

Note: In both cases it is essential to select a foreground and a background color.



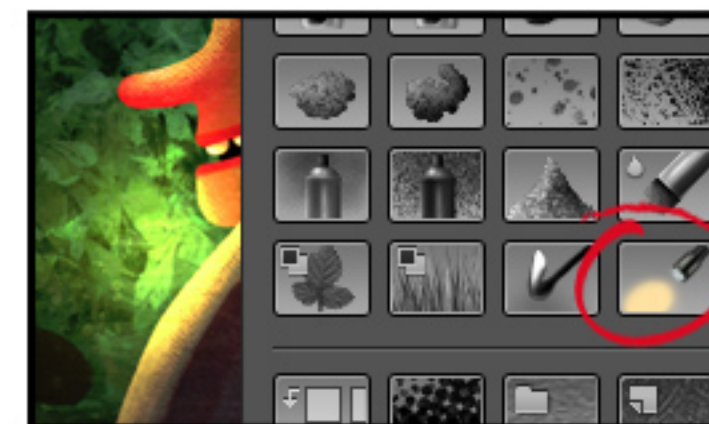
Incinerate colors (Burn tool)



Although I have changed the name is a PS classic tool that works pretty well for certain kinds of paint or effects, Darkening and saturating the colors.

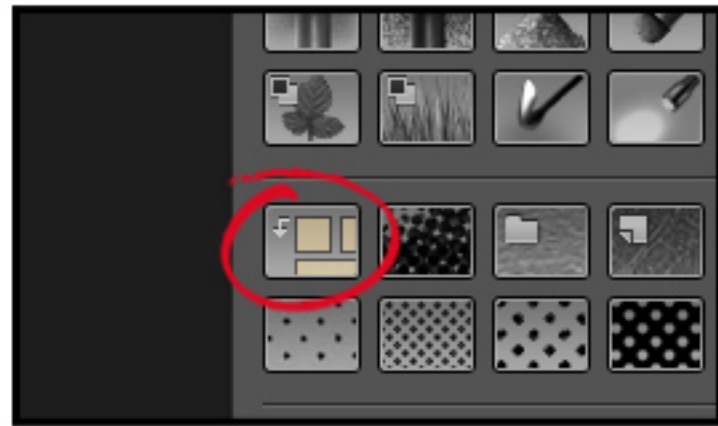
Just use it on any painted surface to understand how it works.

Burn light

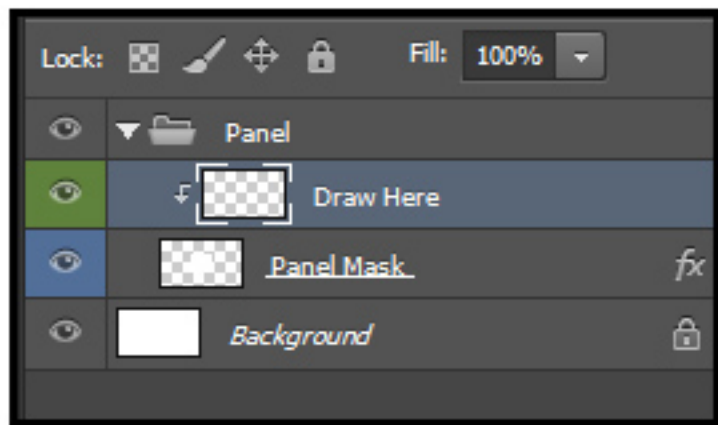


Don't confuse this brush with the **'Dodge Tool'**. The effect is *-in some way-* similar but this one is just a smooth brush with a special effect to generate some kind of luminosity. Use it with white or very clear colors over a dark surface.

Create comic panels



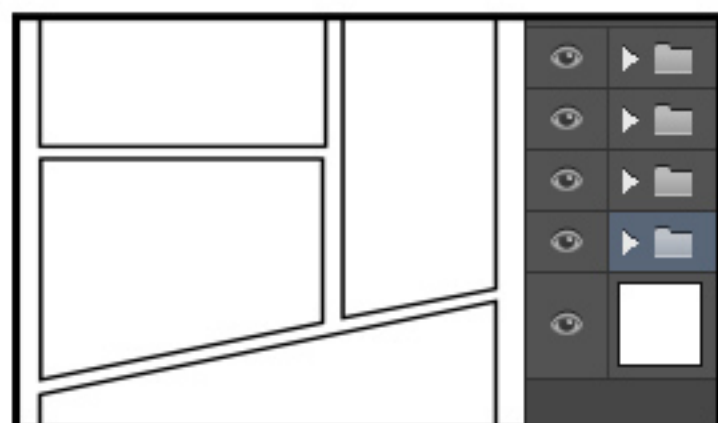
1. One click, one panel.
What this button makes is to create a **'clipping mask'** (the panel shape) that hides everything outside the panel, so we have two layers inside a folder (Figure 2): one named **"Draw Here"** where obviously we draw, and the other with the shape of our panel, both layers are inside a folder to facilitate the movement and relocation of our panels.



How to create multiple panels

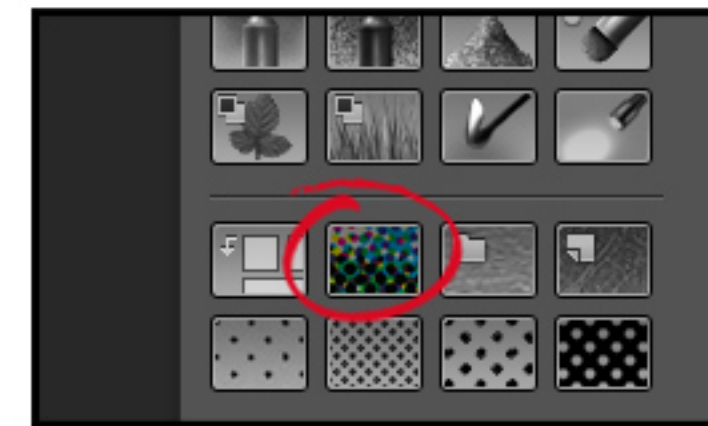


1. Create a new blank document.
2. Create your first Panel and rename it to something like **'Panel 1'**. Place your panel where you want it.
3. Select the Background and create a New Panel. Rename it. Place it in place.
4. Repeat steps 2 & 3 until you have all your panels created (figure 3).

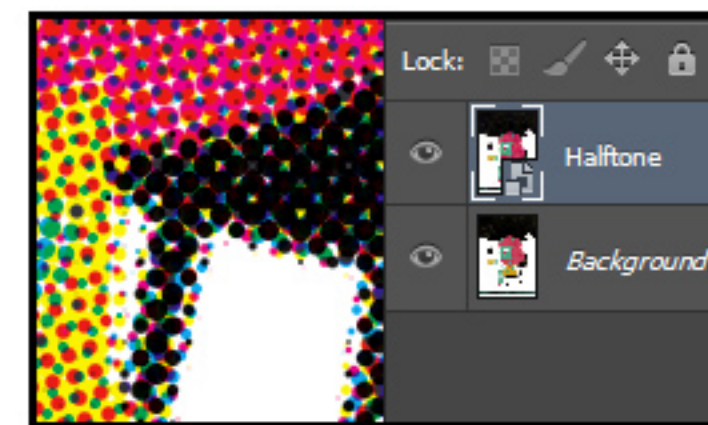


Tips: 1. To change the size and/or shape of a panel just select the layer **'Panel Mask'**, Enable the transformation tool (Ctrl + T) and Rescale, distort, rotate, etc., your panels.
2. Also you could change the border size and color editing the **'Panel Mask'** layer fx.

Halftone & Editing the Halftone

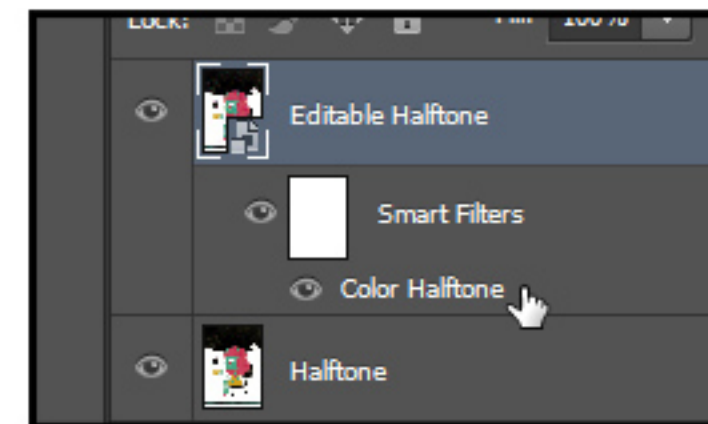


This button will create a new Smart Object layer with a flattened version of your document with editable CMYK Halftone.

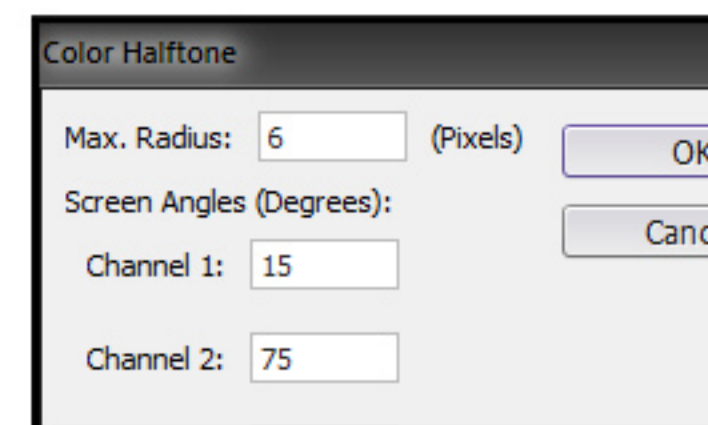


1. Double-click the small thumbnail in the 'Halftone' layer (figure 2) to open the editable object.

2. Inside that **'Smart Object'** you'll find another Smart Object called **'Editable Halftone'** with a filter applied. Just double-click **'color halftone'** (Figure 3) to open the 'Color Halftone' window (figure 4).

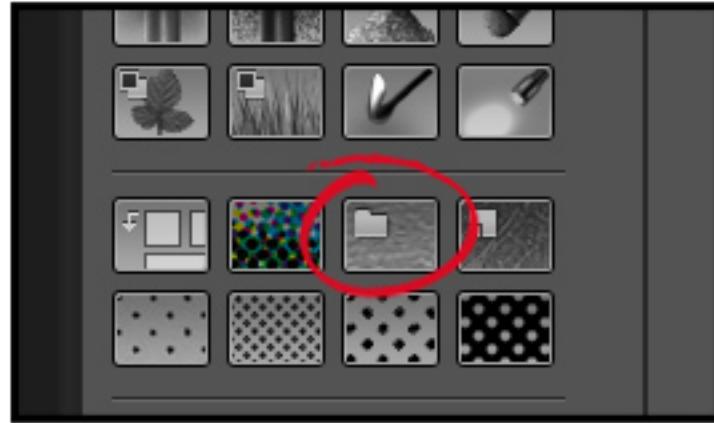


I recommend to leave the Screen Angles without altering but to play with the Max. Radius using a number between 4 and 127 (small to big dots).
When satisfied, save that document (just Ctrl + S, don't save it to other place) and close it. Your original 'Smart Object' layer will be automatically updated.



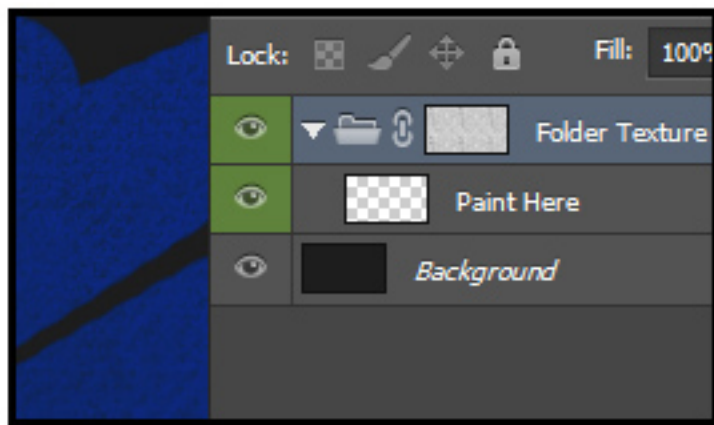
Tip: Change the mode of the Halftone layer to **Soft Light** and reduce the opacity to mix the halftone with the original.

Folder texture

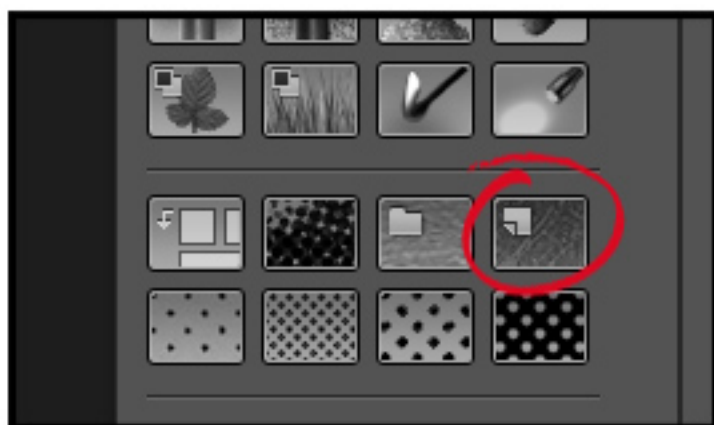


This will create a new folder with a mask containing a texture (figure 2), so everything you draw or paint inside that folder will receive the effect of the texture.

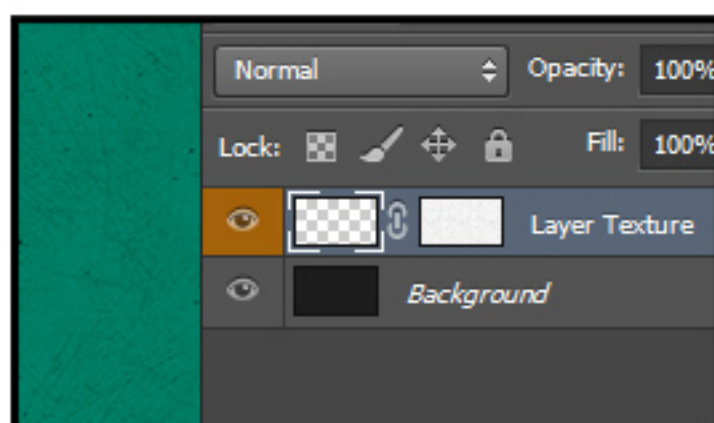
Tip: To change the texture just copy a new texture to the clipboard, press the Alt key and click the texture thumbnail, paste your texture and click the folder icon to return the normal mode.



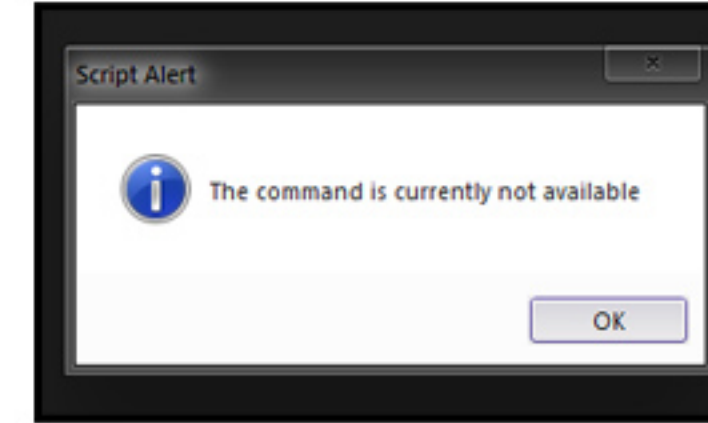
Layer texture



It creates a new layer with a textured mask, so everything painted in that layer will be textured. As with 'Folder texture' you could change the texture, the same way.



Solution for common troubles



This panel was tested and used intensively, so following the instructions you may work without any trouble, but let's see some things to take care of...

1. **AD Artbox** work and requires basically three sets of tools: the AD Artbox Patterns, Actions and Tool Presets, without any of those sets you will receive error messages like the one in **Figure 1**. Then if you are using **AD Artbox** take care of not replacing any of those sets!

2. **What if I want to work with AD Artbox and another set of brushes?**

AD Artbox 2016 loads its brushes individually so you could use any other set of brushes in the default brushes window or even other set of presets. There's no conflict with that.

3. If you modify any of the tools provided with AD Artbox don't forget to save it because each time AD Artbox is loaded it replaces the tools with the ones from the Artbox folder.

4. **ERROR: The command "Select" is not currently available.**

Usually this happens when we have activated the option **"Current tool only"** in the bottom of the Tool Presets window (Window > Tool Presets). So, keep that option unchecked!

