

Glossy effect

Start by creating a new file of your choice. Fill the background with Linear gradient selecting #2E8FC0 as foreground and #2181BF as background.

Use Ellipse tool to draw a white color circle as shown:-

Select this layer by pressing control and clicking on its layer name in layer palette. Set the foreground color to #ECF1EF & background color to #C5C8C0. Click on gradient tool and fill the selection with these colors. Now, apply inner shadow as shown:-

This will create the base of our lense.

Again create a smaller white color circle

Apply Gradient Overlay in it as shown:-

Create a new layer by pressing shift+control+n together. Now select elliptical marquee tool to draw a smaller oval shape as shown:-

Press "D" to change foreground and background color back to black and white. Press "x" to swap the colors. Now, select gradient tool and fill the selection with linear gradient.

Now, change the layer mode from normal to screen.

Select Rounded Rectangle tool and draw a white colored shape behind the lense base:-

First, rasterize this shape by right clicking on its layer name in layer palette and select rasterize and then control+click on its layer name in layer palette to select it. Set the foreground color to #529FFB and background to #3167E0. Fill the selection with linear gradient. Our glossy lense icon is ready.

If you read this tutorial carefully, you will find that I have used 4 gradients. First for filling the background, second for the lense base, third for lense handle and fourth gradient to have a Glass effect. Basic gradient selection i.e. selecting lighter and darker shades of same color is the key for these kind of objects. You will also notice that I have given the glass shade to the lense by filling it with gradient and then changing its color mode from normal to screen. So, this is the basic technique to create glossy or in other words "XP style" objects.

I hope you enjoy reading this simple tutorial and it helped you to learn something.

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