Learn How To Make an Awesome Looking Orb

pienose – Thu, 12/18/2008 - 09:29

In this tutorial our member Pienose will show you how to create a nice awesome glossy orb using several techniques.

This is what you can achieve follow this tutorial
Step 1

Start by creating a new document (File → New). Set the image size at 600X600 pixels then click on Advanced Options set the Fill with: option to Transparency.

Now, grab your ellipse select tool and make a 500X500 selection in the middle. I set some guides to help me out. Just grab the ruler and drag across to 300.
Step 2

Now, let’s get some nice blue colors. I used 194f92 and 1c72dd but you can use whatever you want. Then draw a radial gradient from the center to the edge of the selection.
**Step 3**

Now make a new layer (Layer ➔ New Layer) and name it 'glow'. Right click on the circle layer and select “alpha to selection” (Layer ➔ Transparency ➔ Alpha to Selection). Now make a circular selection near the bottom of your circle, but make sure you hold CTRL. Now, invert the selection (Select ➔ Invert).

Click on the glow layer. Now, go to Select ➔ Feather and feather it by 100 pixels. Choose white as the foreground color. Then fill with white (Edit ➔ Fill with FG Color). Again, right click on the circle layer and select “Alpha to Selection” (Layer ➔ Transparency ➔ Alpha to Selection). Now, invert the selection (Select ➔ Invert). Click on the glow layer. Now, you must press delete or Edit ➔ Clear. You should end up with something like this.
Step 4

Ok, now “alpha to select” (Layer → Transparency → Alpha to Selection) the glow layer. Invert (Select → Invert) and make a new layer (Layer → New Layer) named 'glow2'. Choose black as the background color. Fill this with black (Edit → Fill with BG Color). Then do as before and select the circle layer (Layer → Transparency → Alpha to Selection), invert (Select → Invert) and delete (or Edit → Clear) on the new glow2 layer.
Step 5

Make a new layer (Layer → New Layer) called 'shine' and make a circular selection at the top of the circle. Now get the gradient tool and select the transparent gradient. Make sure the foreground color is white. Now make the gradient from the top of the circle to the bottom of the selection. You should end up with this.
Step 6

Ok, now duplicate that layer (Layer ➔ Duplicate Layer). Here is where the magic starts to happen. Set the glow, glow2, and both the shine layers to overlay. Ooh! Now that's different huh? But, it's not quite as nice as the preview. Wait for the next step!
Step 7

Here's the really cool bit! Go to Filters → Distorts → Lens Distortion. Use the following settings: 10, 60, 1, 1, 0, and 0 for the fields from top to bottom. Do this for all of your layers. You will notice that the circle layer is slightly transparent now. Duplicate the circle layer (Layer → Duplicate Layer) and merge it down (Layer → Merge Down).

The final result!

See more of my stuff at- http://pienose.deviantart.com/