



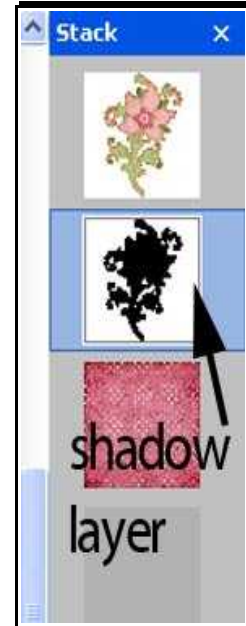
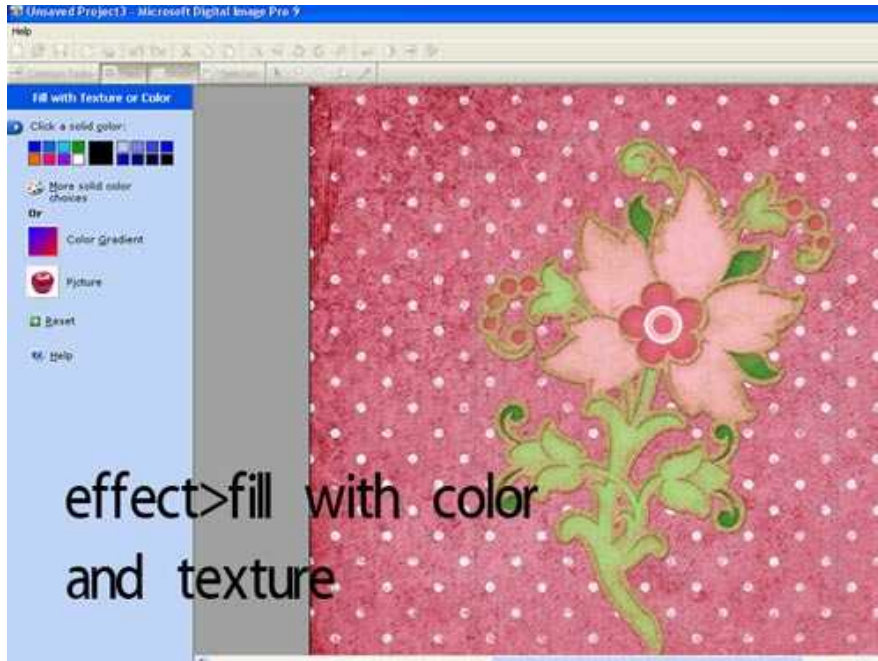
Custom Shadows in Digital Image Pro  
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This tutorial will demonstrate how to create a custom shadow in Digital Image Pro. A custom shadow will give you a bit more flexibility for maximum realism on your pages.

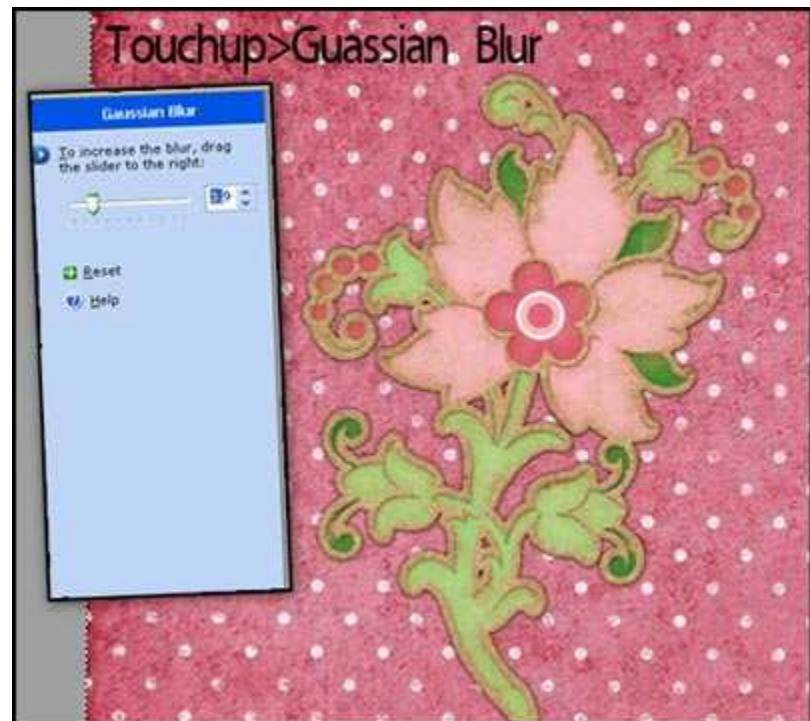
1. On your canvas, select the item you wish to apply a shadow to. Duplicate the item by clicking Cntrl+D.



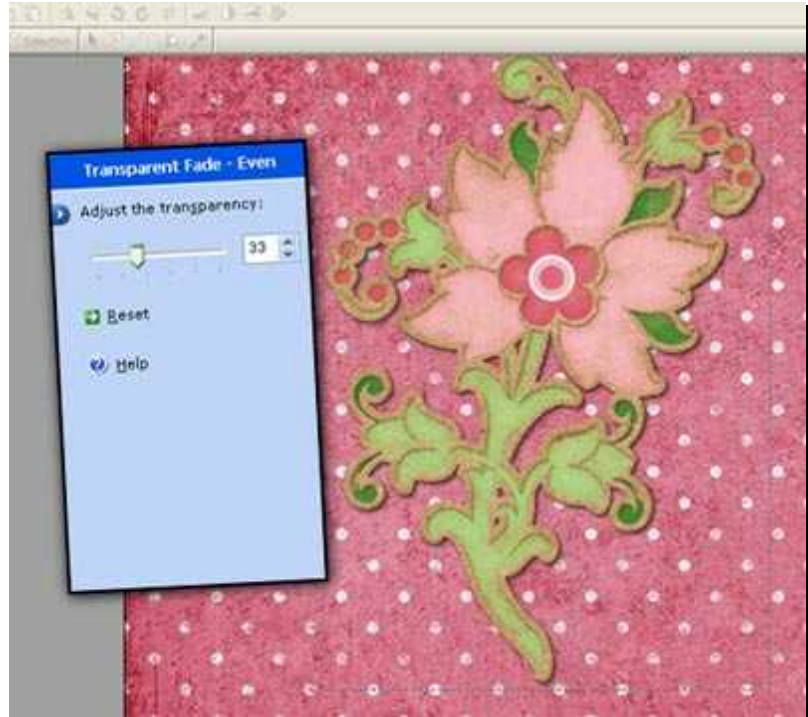
2. Select the bottom duplicate to work with. From the tool bar choose, Effects>Fill with Texture or Color. In the box that appears, choose a dark solid color for your shadow. Black or dark gray often works well for a shadow. After you've chosen the color, select Done. See below for an example. When you are finished your stack should look like the image on the right, with the shadow on the bottom.



3. With the black/shadow layer active, choose Touchup>Gaussian Blur. Adjust the slider, until you are satisfied with the level of blur. You will see a preview of the effects in the window. Choose Done.



4. Make sure the shadow is selected. You may need to click the shadow on the canvas. Now use the arrow keys to move the shadow slightly down and to the right.
5. Choose Effects>Transparency>Even. Adjust the slider until you are satisfied. View the preview in the window. Choose Done.



6. Now that you have a shadow, you can choose to manipulate it further. One option is to use the skew filter. Go to Effects>Skew Object. The dialog box will appear where you can skew the object to your liking by dragging the handles with the mouse. You can see those effects below.



7. You may also wish to use the transparency brush on the shadow. Real shadows that do not lay perfectly flat against a surface have areas of varying transparency. To do this, choose Effects>Transparency>Transparency Brush. You will want to use a small brush (in comparison to the shadow) and a soft-edged brush. Set the transparency low. I've used a transparency setting of 18.

With the transparency brush, brush along the edges of the shadow. Some parts should be reduced in transparency while others should be left intact.

