

How to create custom gradients using Photoshop CC

Photoshop CC is a great tool for creating gradients. Just mix the two colors together so you can add some visual effects to the image.

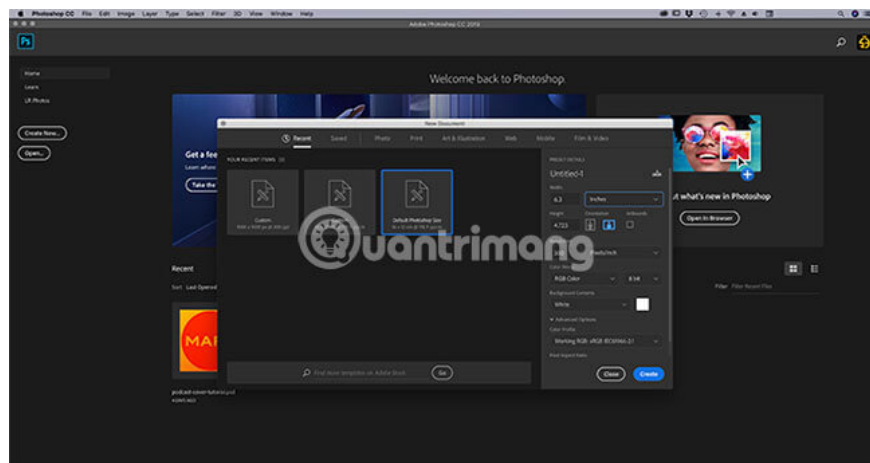
Photoshop CC is a great tool for creating gradients. Just mix the two colors together so you can add some visual effects to the image. Photoshop has some built-in options for this, but what if you want to create a gradient yourself?

In this article, **TipsMake.com** will show you how to create a custom gradient using Photoshop CC with 4 simple steps.

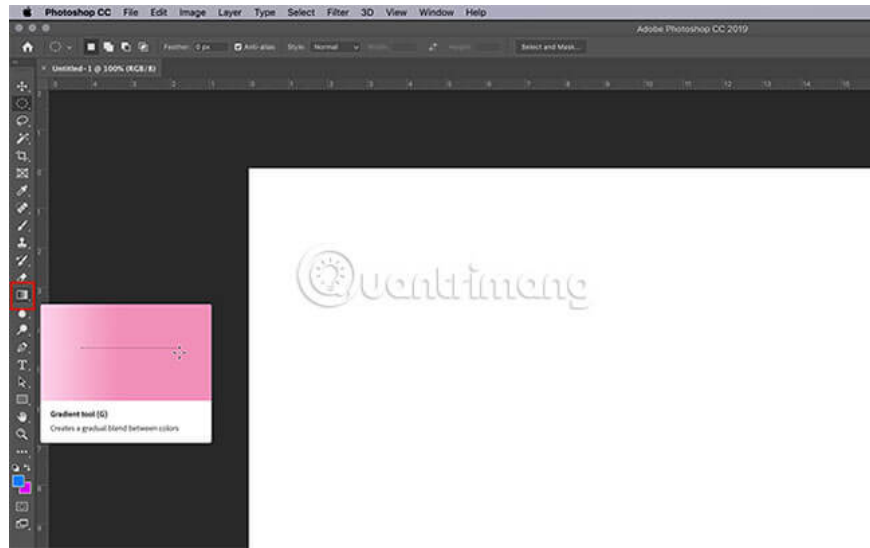
Detailed instructions on how to create custom gradients using Photoshop CC

1. Step 1: Set the canvas
2. Step 2: Use the Gradient Editor
3. Step 3: Create a Solid Gradient
 1. Try different types of gradients
4. Step 4: Create Noise Gradient
 1. How to save the gradient as a preset

Step 1: Set the canvas

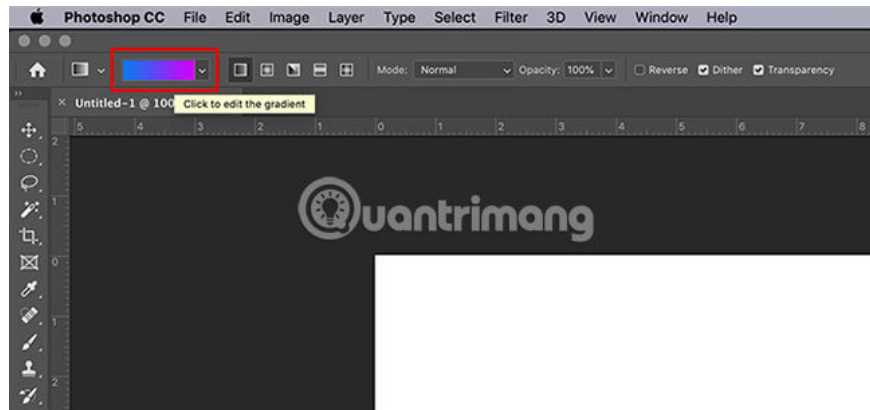


First, open Photoshop CC. For this tutorial, you don't need a custom template, so you can use the default Photoshop canvas.

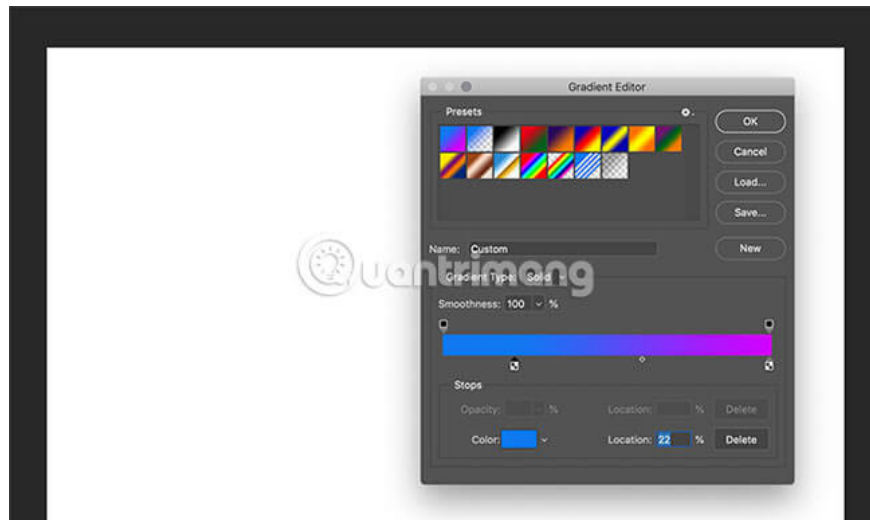


After opening the canvas, make sure the gradient tool is active (the part highlighted in red in the picture). After activating this tool, select the two colors you want in the gradient, using the color patterns at the bottom of the toolbar. For this tutorial, we will use two colors: light blue and purple, to create neon effects.

Step 2: Use the Gradient Editor



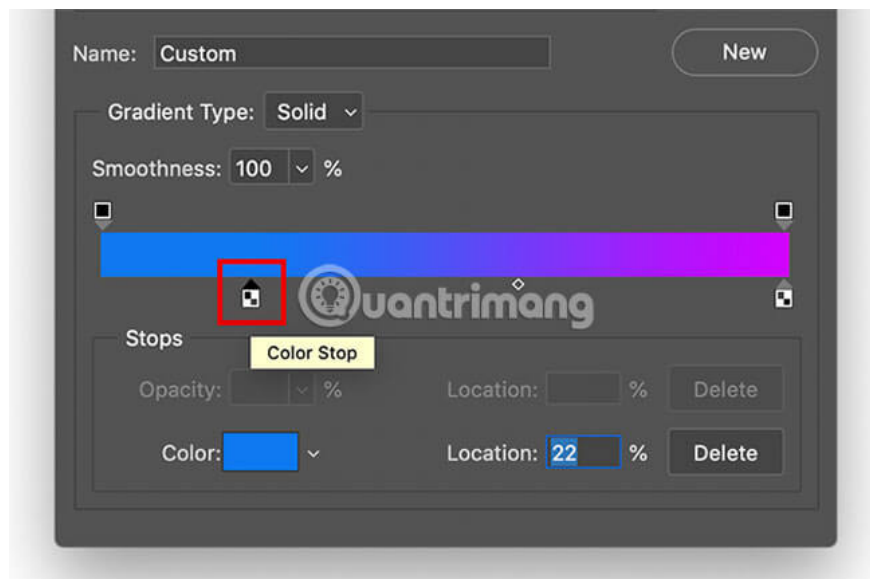
To customize the gradient, go to the top left corner of the workspace and double-click the color bar to access the **Gradient Editor**. The Gradient Editor is a simple, powerful tool and contains all the options for customized needs.



At the top of this editor, you will see a row of **Presets** included with Photoshop CC. Along the right side of the editor are **Load** options (use existing gradients), **Save** (save gradients) and **New** (create new gradients). At the bottom of the editor are tools to customize the gradient.

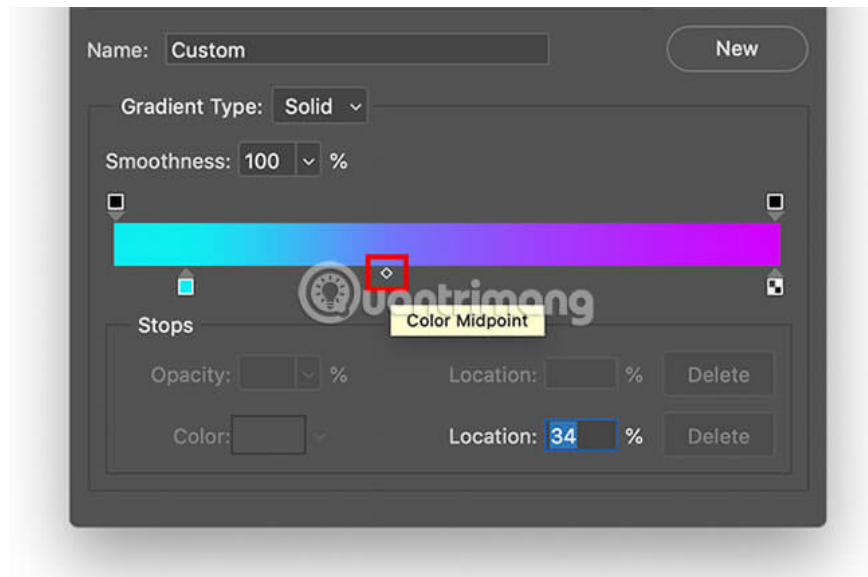
There are two different types of gradients you can create. The first type (designed in this lesson) is called **Solid Gradient**. You can see this option in the **Gradient Type: Solid** drop-down menu in the middle of the editor. Make sure this option is selected before starting.

Step 3: Create a Solid Gradient



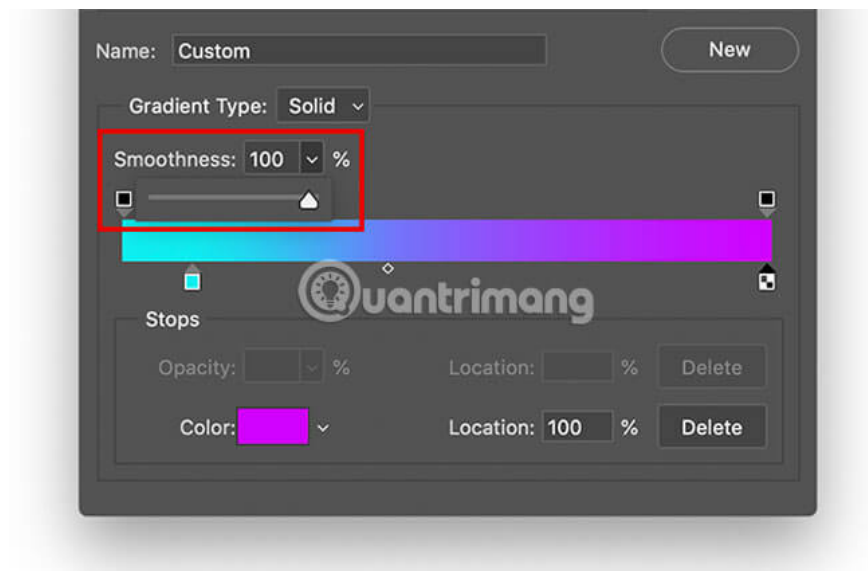
Photoshop converts the default gradient between two colors, but what if you want to switch between the three colors? To do this, click on one of the **Color Stop** located at the left and right ends of the color slider. This guide will adjust the **Color Stop** by dragging it to the center of the bar, where the third color will blend with the other colors.

To select the third color, double-click **Color Stop**. The **Color Picker** will open and allow you to select a theme (hue) for that color. After selecting, click **OK**. Photoshop will add a third color to the slider.



These colors look pretty, but what if you want to adjust the blending point of the colors on the page? To do this, click and drag **Color Midpoint** through the slider to change the scale.

You can also adjust **Smoothness** when blending these colors together. This guide will keep **Smoothness** at 100%.

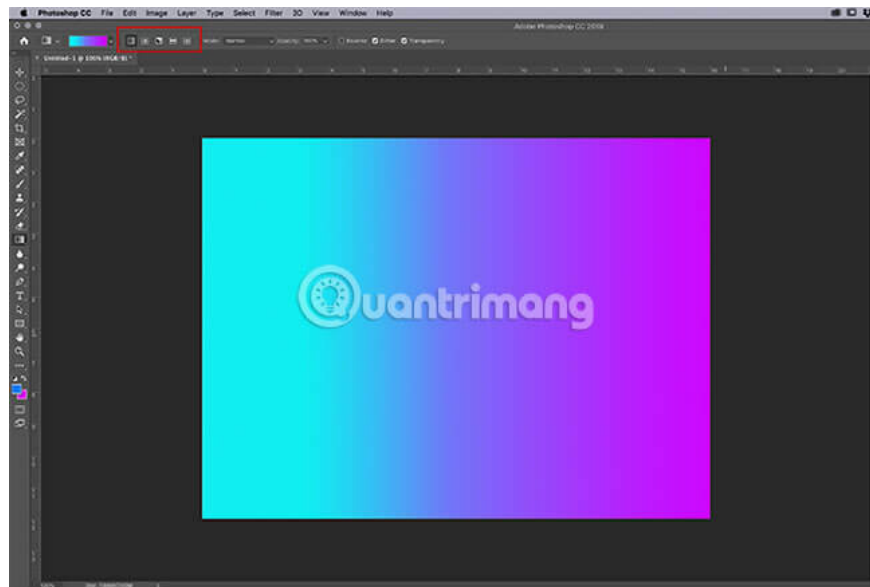


Next, click **OK** to exit the Gradient Editor. Then go to the gradient style buttons, found in the top left corner of the workspace, next to the color bar. There are 5 different types you can use, but all work similarly.

To apply them to the image, click on the gradient type you selected, then click and drag on the page. After releasing the mouse, Photoshop will apply the gradient in the direction you indicated. **TipsMake.com** talked about this technique before, when instructing how to create podcast covers in Photoshop.

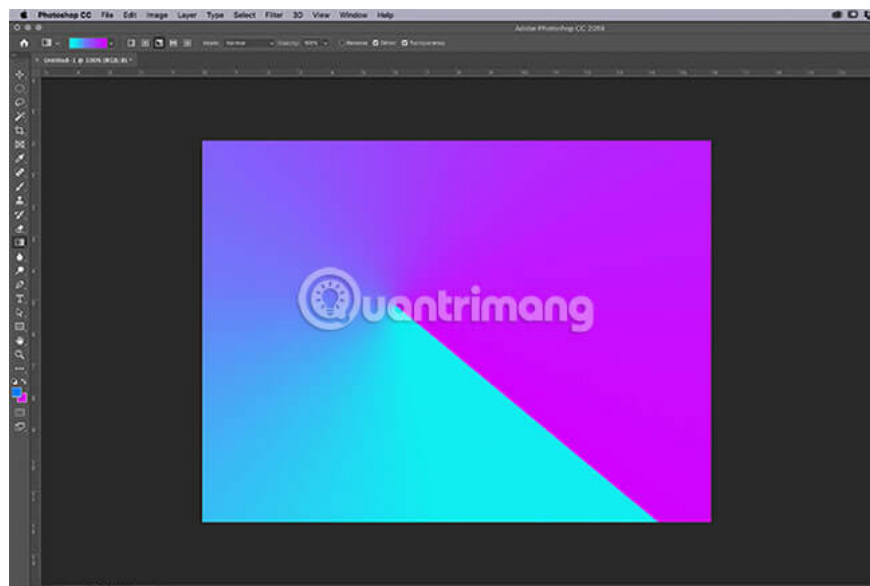
Try different types of gradients

The first type of gradient that the article will try is **Linear Gradient**.

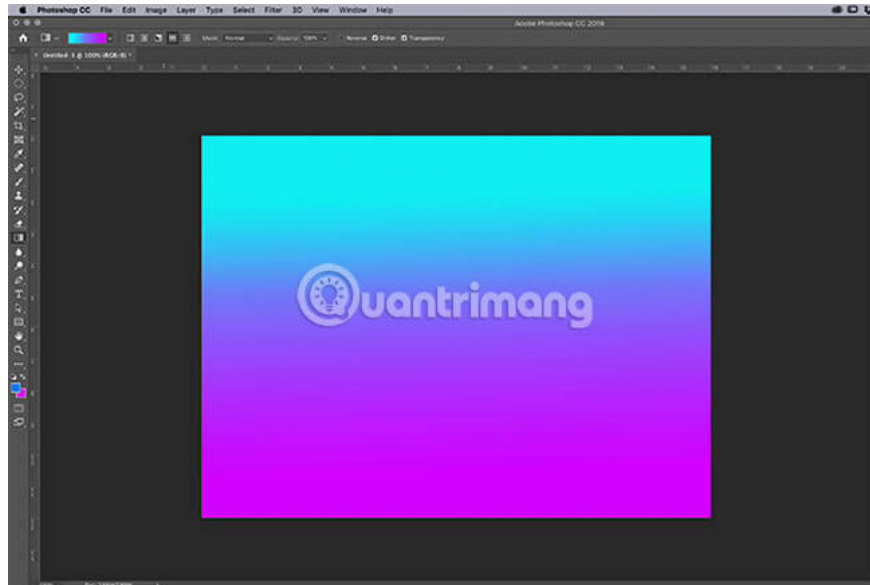


You can also try the **Radial Gradient**, which looks like the light emitted from the light. The article will use this type of gradient to create the glow you see around a star in space.

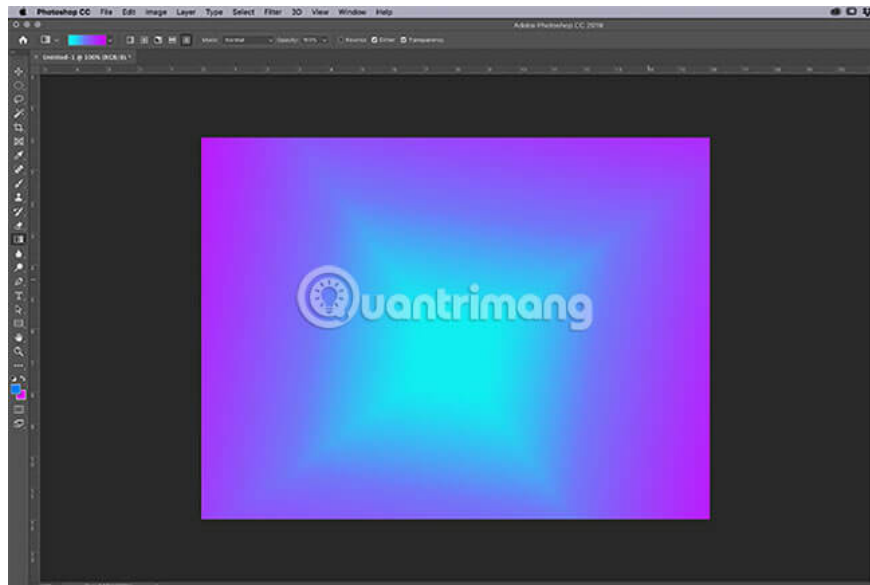
If you want to create a hard edge for the light part, **Angle Gradient** is a consideration worth considering.



Reflective Gradient is suitable for liquid and sunset surfaces.



Diamond Gradient looks quite fun, but can be used as a glare or edge reflected on gems.



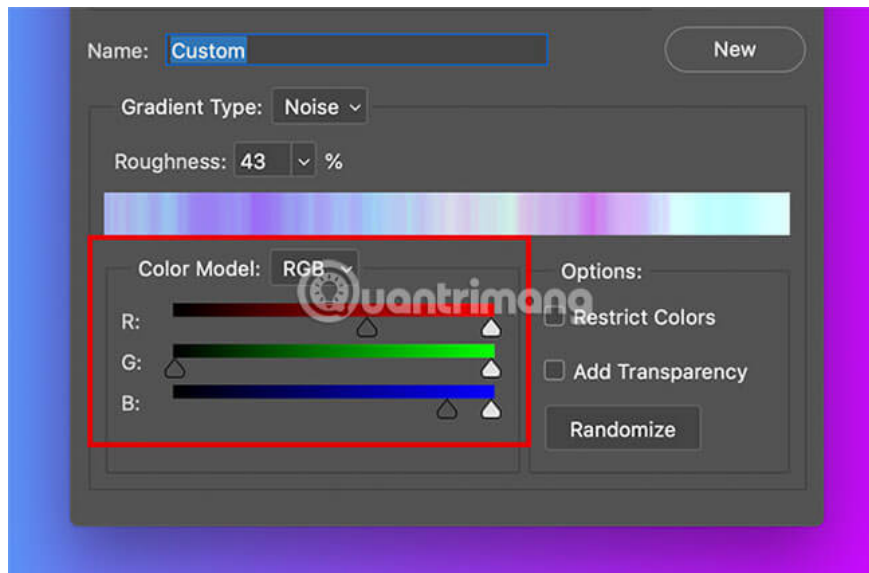
This is all you have to do to create a custom gradient in Photoshop. The operations are simple and easy to remember. However, before the end of this tutorial, you can create another gradient, called **Noise Gradient**. Let's find out in the next section!

Step 4: Create Noise Gradient

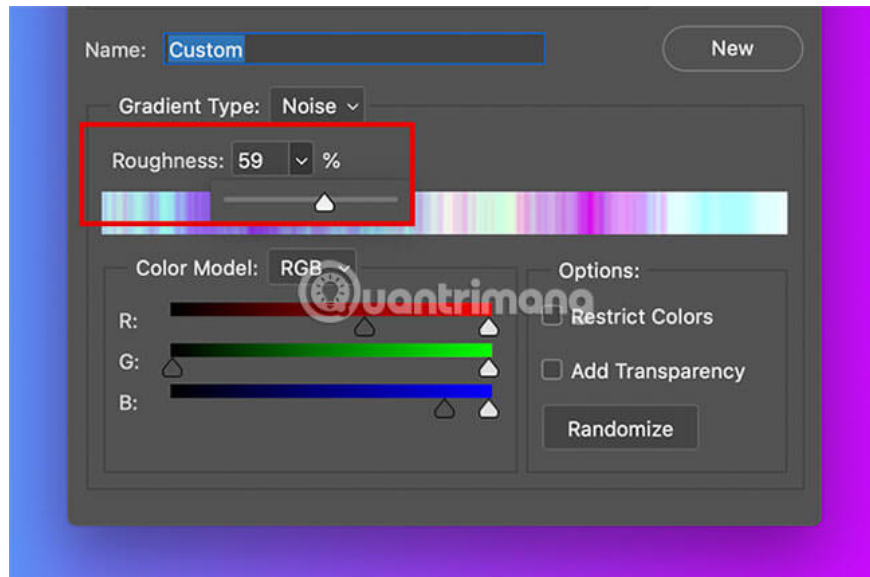


To create a **Noise Gradient**, double-click the color bar to access the **Gradient Editor**. Next to the **Gradient Type**, click the drop-down menu to select **Noise**. You immediately see a new color slider appear at the bottom of the editor, along with two sections to adjust the **Roughness** and **Color Model**.

The Color Model below is 3 sliders for individual color channels. By sliding the markers along each channel, you can adjust the number of colors displayed in the gradient, their shades and brightness.



You can also adjust the contrast between these colors by using **Roughness**. The high percentage of **roughness** means that the gradient will have very distinct color lines. Low percentage means that colors will be mixed together.

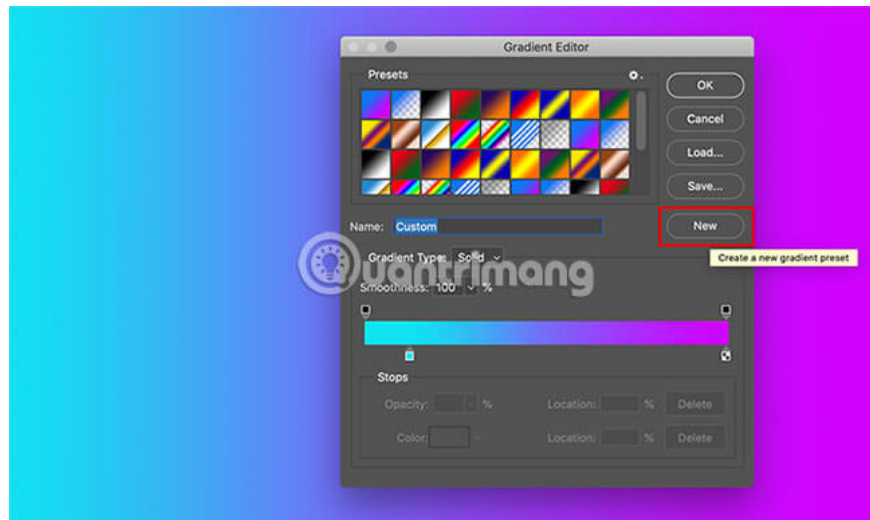


When these specifications are adjusted, press **OK** to exit the **Gradient Editor**. Select the gradient type in the left corner of the workspace, then click and drag the gradient tool on the canvas to try different results.

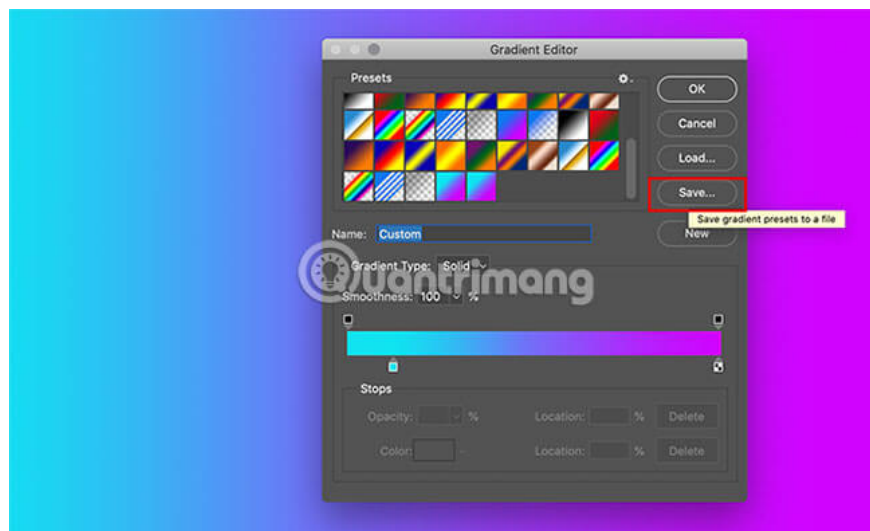


You immediately notice that **Noise Gradient** looks very different from **Solid Gradient**. **Radial Gradient** is an example that clearly illustrates this.

How to save the gradient as a preset

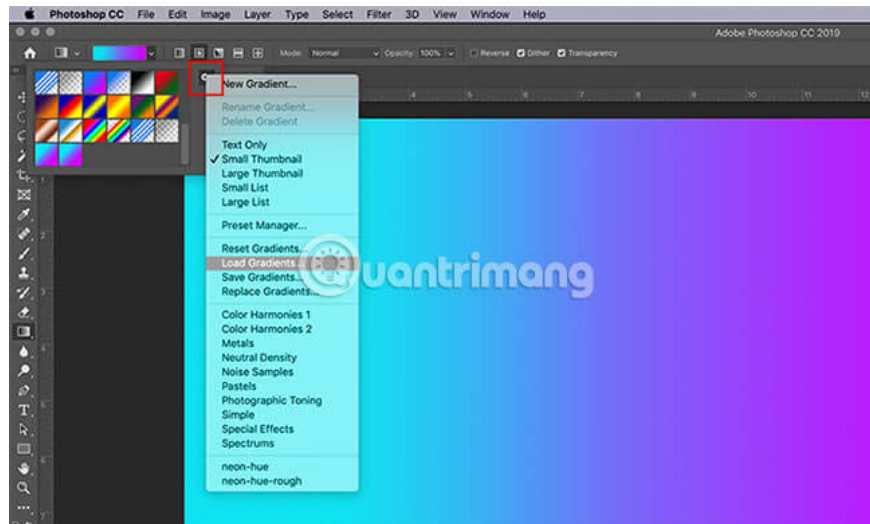


If you really like the gradient created and want to re-use it on another image, go to **Gradient Editor**> **New** . This will add a new color template to the gradient created in the **Presets** window .



After creating your color swatch, click **Save**. Name the new gradient, then click **Save**.

Now that the preset is saved, how to access it in other projects? Make sure the **Gradient** tool is active, then click the color bar to access the **Presets** window . Then, click on the gear icon (highlighted in red in the picture).



Next, click **Load Gradients**, then the list of gradients will appear, and you can choose your custom color swatch. After selecting, click **OK**.

Now you know how to create a custom gradient in Photoshop. But gradients are not the only tool you can customize with this program. Please refer to the article: [Instructions for installing Brush in Photoshop](#) for more details.

Hope you are successful.

You finished reading the article "**How to create custom gradients using Photoshop CC**" edited by the [TipsMake](#) team. We hope this article has provided you with many useful tech tips and tricks. You can search for similar articles on tips and guides. Thank you for reading and for following us regularly.