

# Lightning Boltz Tutorial

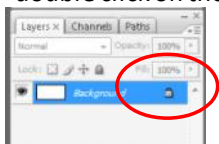
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This is a sample tutorial on how to create basic bolts of lightning/thunder by using Photoshop.

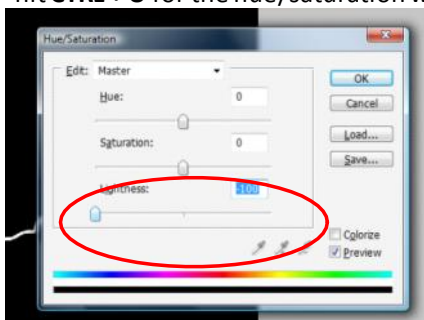
1. Create a new document.
2. Make the background layer black.  
We'll need a dark background to see the lightning effects clearly

-double click on the lock icon at the background layer to unlock it first.



Now the layer is unlocked. We proceed to make the background black.

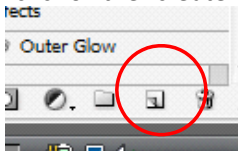
-hit **CTRL + U** for the hue/saturation window. Adjust the Set the Lightness to -100.



-hit ok upon completion.

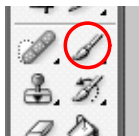
3. Now create a new layer. We will draw something in that layer.

-click on the "create new layer" buttons:



4. Now we'll draw a crooked white line across the black canvass in the newly created layer by free hand using brush/pen tool.

-select the brush tools or hit **B**.

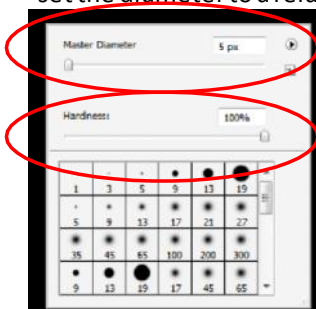


we need a white line with sharp defined edges. Therefore goes for this settings:

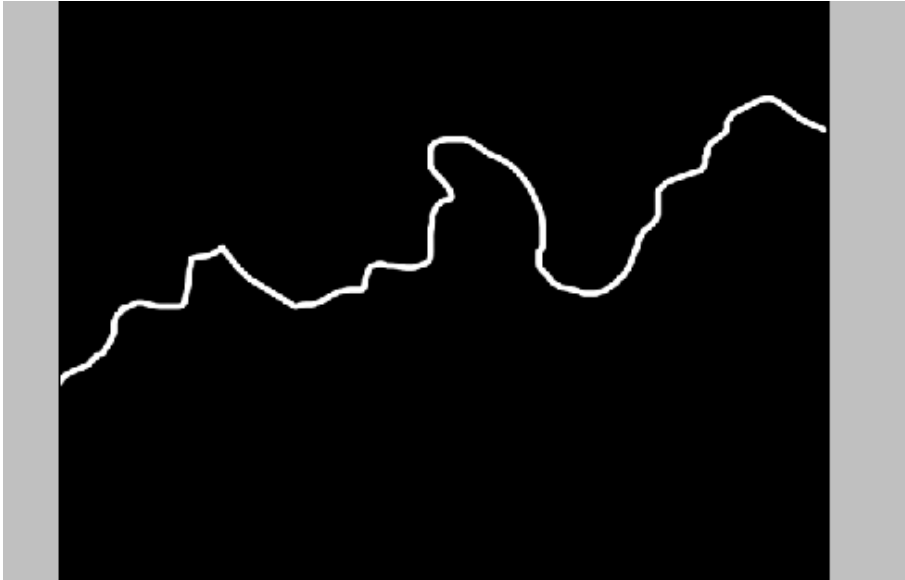
-Right click on the canvass

-set the hardness to 100%. This will make it have a sharp defined edge

-set the diameter to a relatively fine one. In this case I chose 5 pixel.



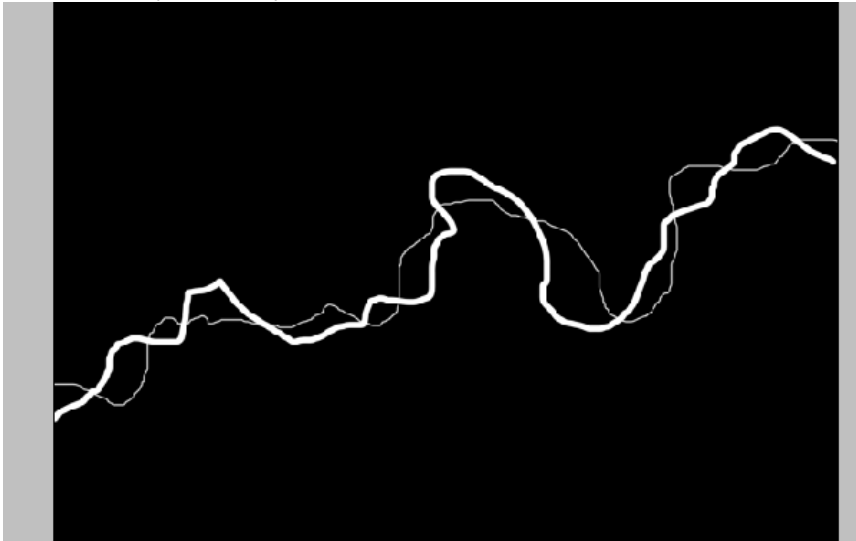
-On the empty layer scribble a crooked line spontaneously.



*Just did this spontaneously and naturally. In this sample the brush size is 15 pixels.*

-Add on with the smaller strikes with a smaller brush/pencil.

**TIPS:** The complementary strikes should be at least 3 times smaller than the original one.

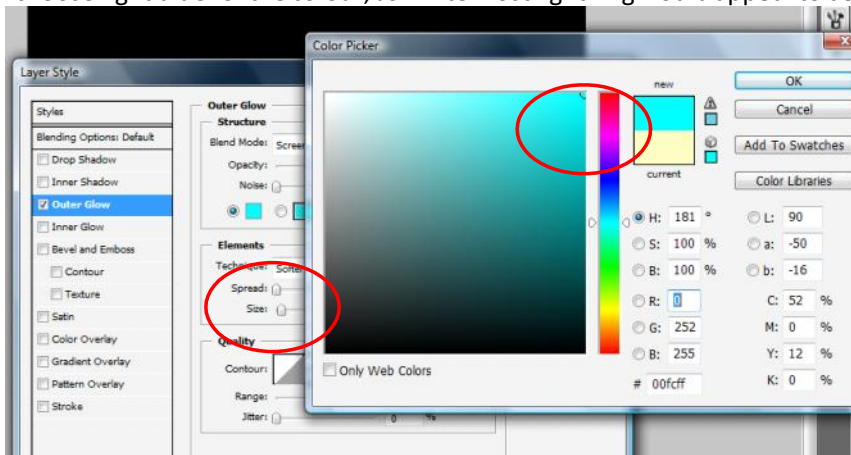


*Added another strike with brush size 3 pixels.*

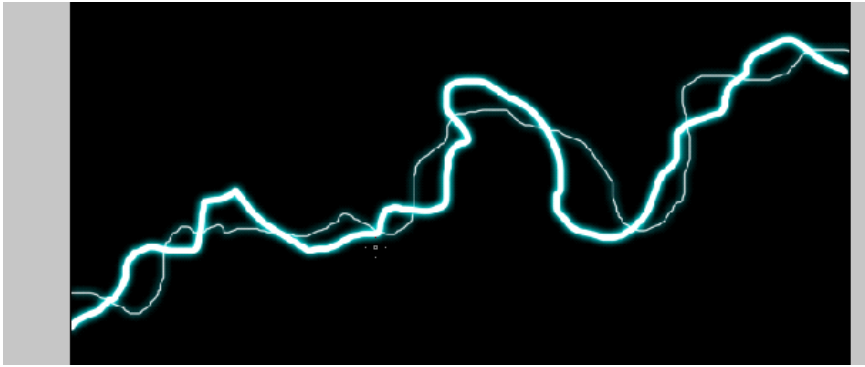
5. Now, we would like to add some glowing effects to the crooked lines we have just drawn.

-double click on the layer to apply "outer glow" layer style.

-choose light blue for the colour, as white most lightning would appear to be.

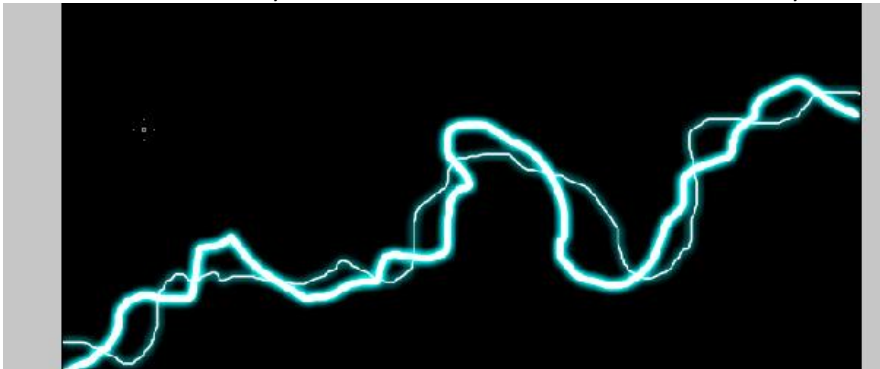


-adjust the SPREAD and SIZE attribute until you get the best result. As shown in the picture.



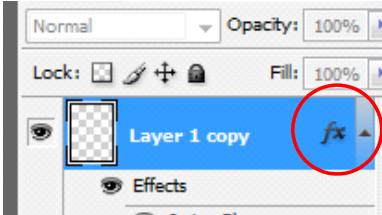
Done. Noticed how the light blue outer glow complements with the white line.

- Now, we would like to add more light dispersions effects along the bolts, so that it looks more glowing.
  - Duplicate another layers of this bolt, or press **CTRL + J**.
  - now we have double layers of the bolts. You'll see an increase intensity of the outer glow.

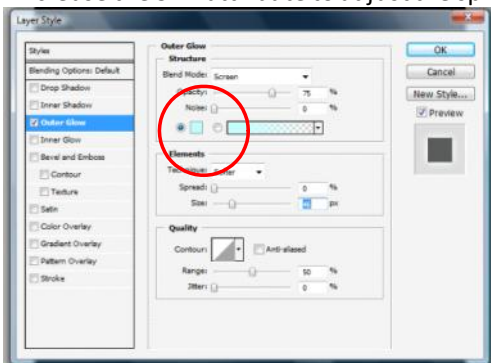


Thicker glow resulted from double layers.

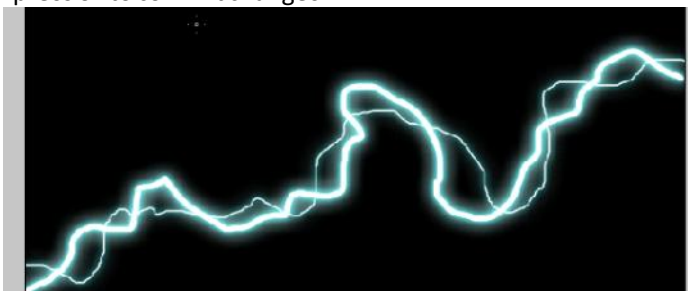
-edit the layer style by double click on this fx symbol.



- increase the colour brightness into lighter blue, or white.
- increase the SIZE attribute to adjust the spreading of light.



-press ok to commit changes

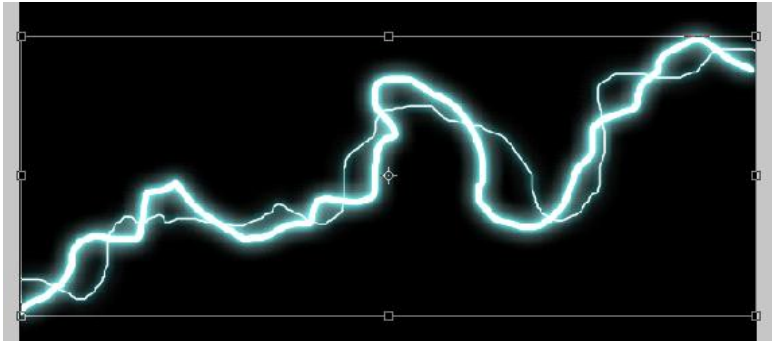


The final result

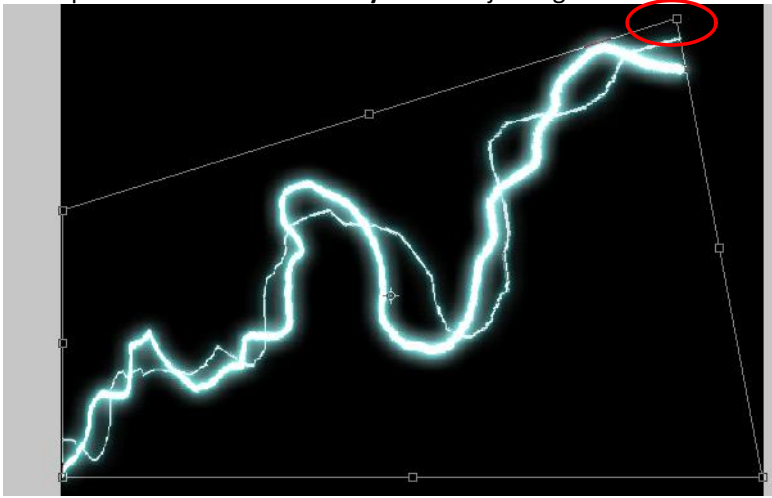
7. Finally you have done the basic units for a lightning bolts. Now it is the time to play with Perspective.

**TIPS:** It is always a good idea in Photoshop to play around with the perspective with a graphics.

-Press **CTRL+ T** for free transformation. You can see the transformation guide.



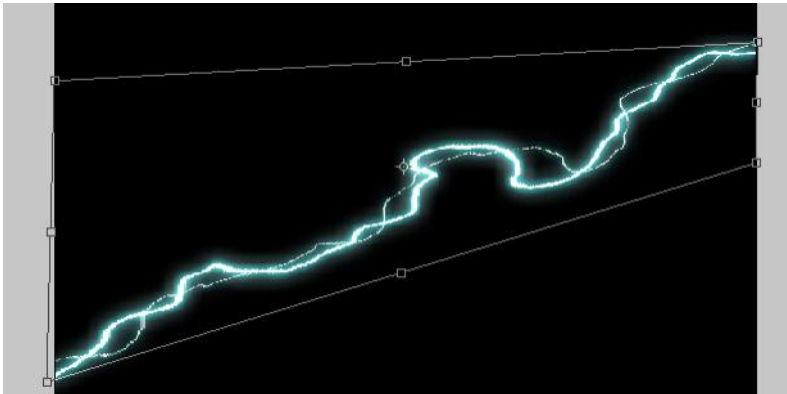
-Now press and hold the **CTRL** key while adjusting each corner of the transformation box.



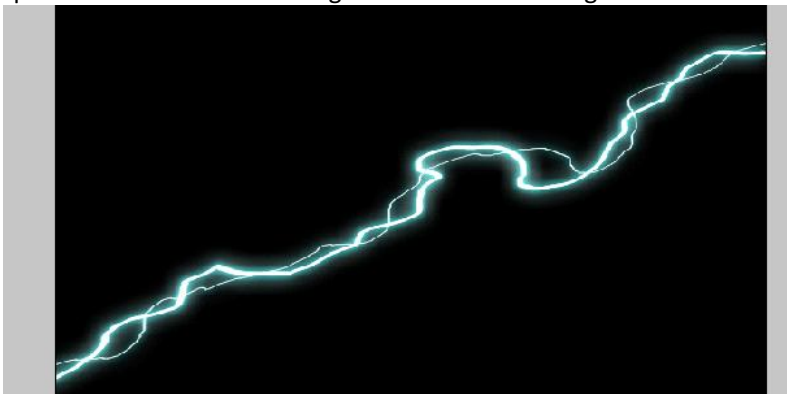
See how the distortion is done to the graphics.

-Play around with all the corners while pressing **CTRL** and see the changes.

-Adjust the perspective until it meets your preferences.



-press **ENTER** to commit changes. **ESC** to cancel changes.



The final look.



