

# Mr. Actions

## Lesson 4

In this lesson I'm going to address one of the functions that Photoshop 4 is NOT able to action - gradients. There is a way to do it though by making use of the **Offset** and **Blur** filters.

The principle is simple - set the foreground and background to the first two colors (say red and yellow), fill the file with the foreground color and **Offset** it by a given amount. *When the foreground is offset, the background color is used as fill.* Then set the foreground and background colors again (say to green and blue) and offset again. Do this until you have the different colors going all the way across the file, then **Gaussian Blur** the whole thing and it's ready to use as a **Pattern** fill.

The action we're going to make here results in a rainbow gradient, but you can apply the same principle to make gradients with two colors or twenty.

The first couple of steps are the same as in the previous tutorials - clearing out the actions palette and naming/recording a new action.

**Tip:** Want to step through an action one command at a time? Just hold down the Control key while clicking on the Play button at the bottom of the actions palette. Each click moves you one step.



Start out by opening the ACTIONS PALETTE and clear out any actions by clicking on the black triangle at the top left of the actions palette, and selecting **Clear Actions**.



Next, start recording the new action by clicking on the same black triangle and DESELECTING **Button Mode**. Click the black triangle again and select **New Action** - the new action is now recording.

Change the default name for the action (Untitled-1) by double-clicking the first entry. This will call up the **Action Options** dialog box: simply fill in the name that you want to use - leave the rest of the settings on their defaults for this action.

First we're going to need a new file, so click on **File/New** to open the new file dialog box. How big you make the new file is up to you - for this example I've used my preference of 8x6 inches.

Now use the **Eyedropper** tool with the **Swatches** palette to set the foreground (red) and background (yellow) colors - for this action we're going to use only the four primary colors, which we'll repeat as necessary across the file.

Fill the whole file with the foreground color by selecting **Edit/Fill/Foreground Color**.



Curious about the new action features of Photoshop 5? Well the news is good - just think back to all the functions you couldn't do in Photoshop 4 (like the Gradients in this tutorial), and imagine that you can. That's Photoshop 5!

The control panel and graphics you see here were created in version 5, entirely from single mouse-click actions. From importing pre-made black & white Illustrator templates, to adding the gradients, applying the 3D-like effects and even the text. It's all done from **SINGLE** actions, with a **SINGLE** mouse-click!

One problem with version 4 actions was that of selections - there was no effective way to capture them. Now version 5 lets you capture absolute measurements, so that any shape selection can be recorded as an action command.

The new type engine too is a great improvement. Any text entries recorded in an action is now fully editable after the action is run.

Look out for new WebActions products for Photoshop 5 - now available from the i/us website at <http://www.i-us.com>



**WebActions for Photoshop 5**



# WEB ACTIONS

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