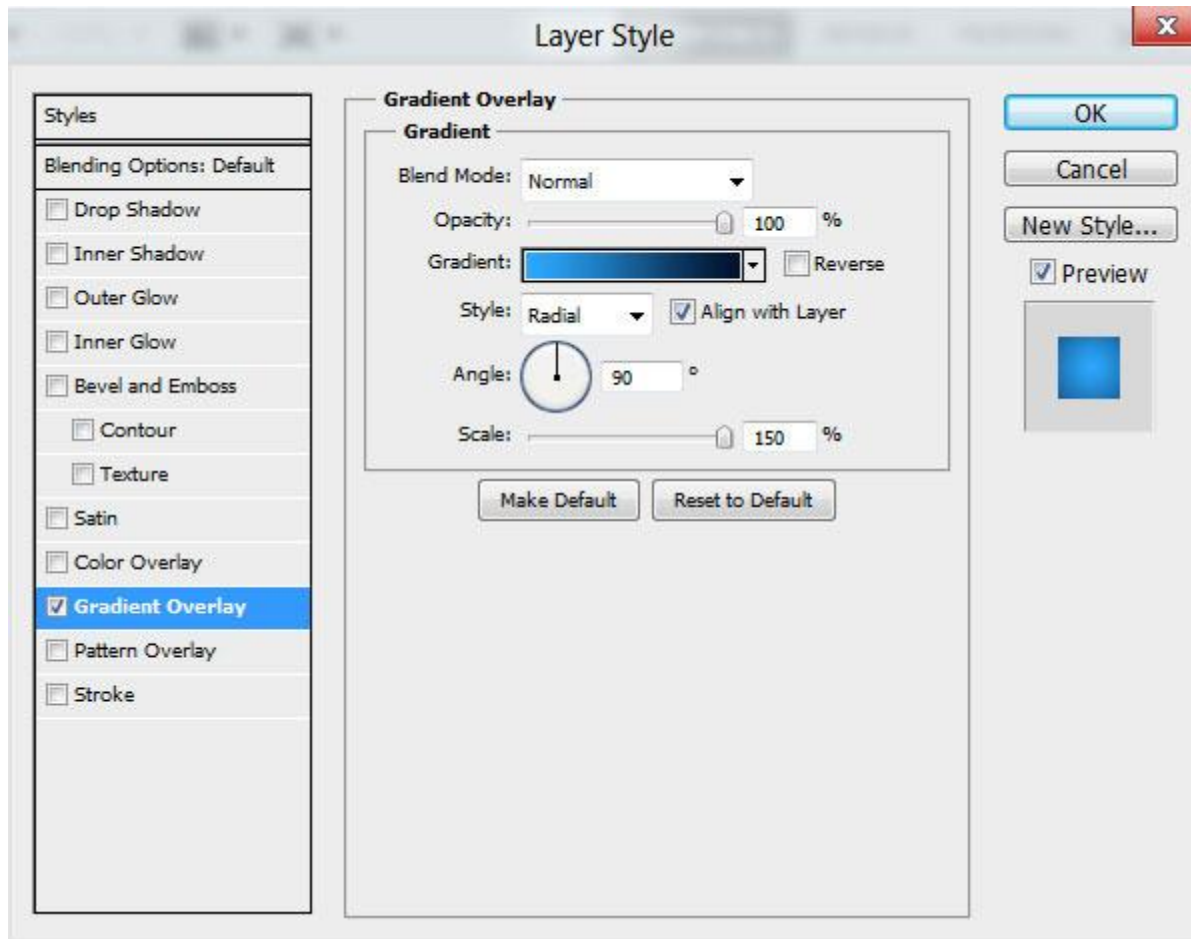


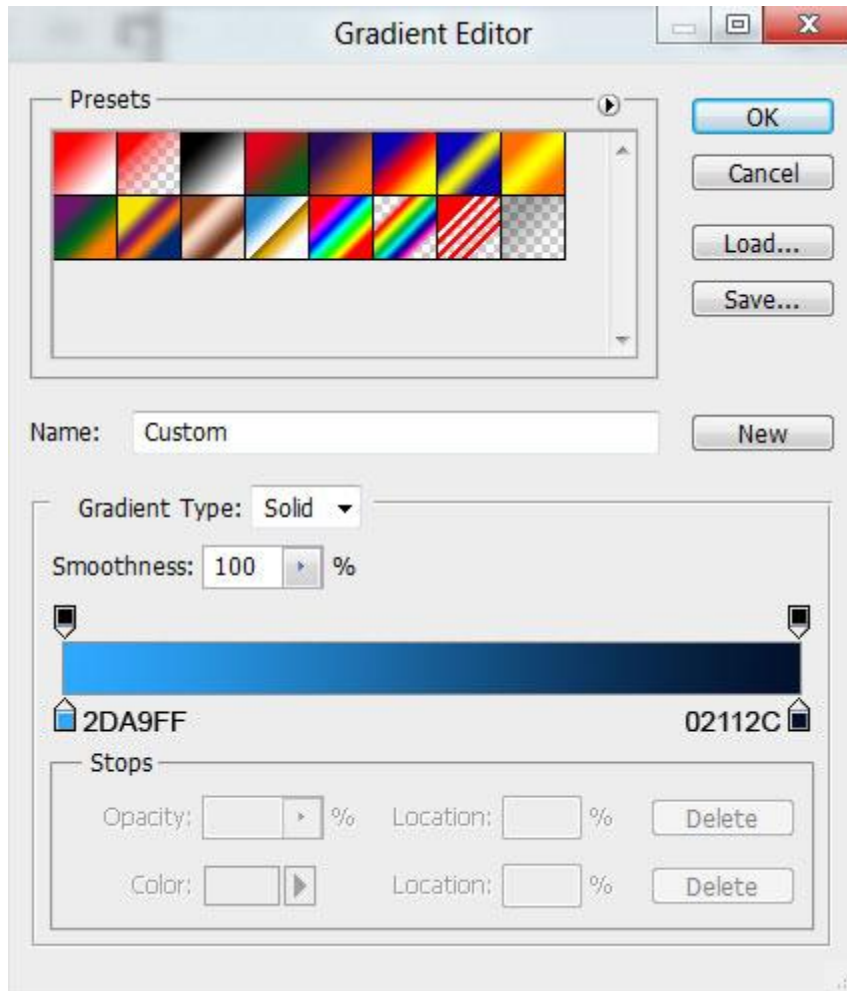
Final Image Preview



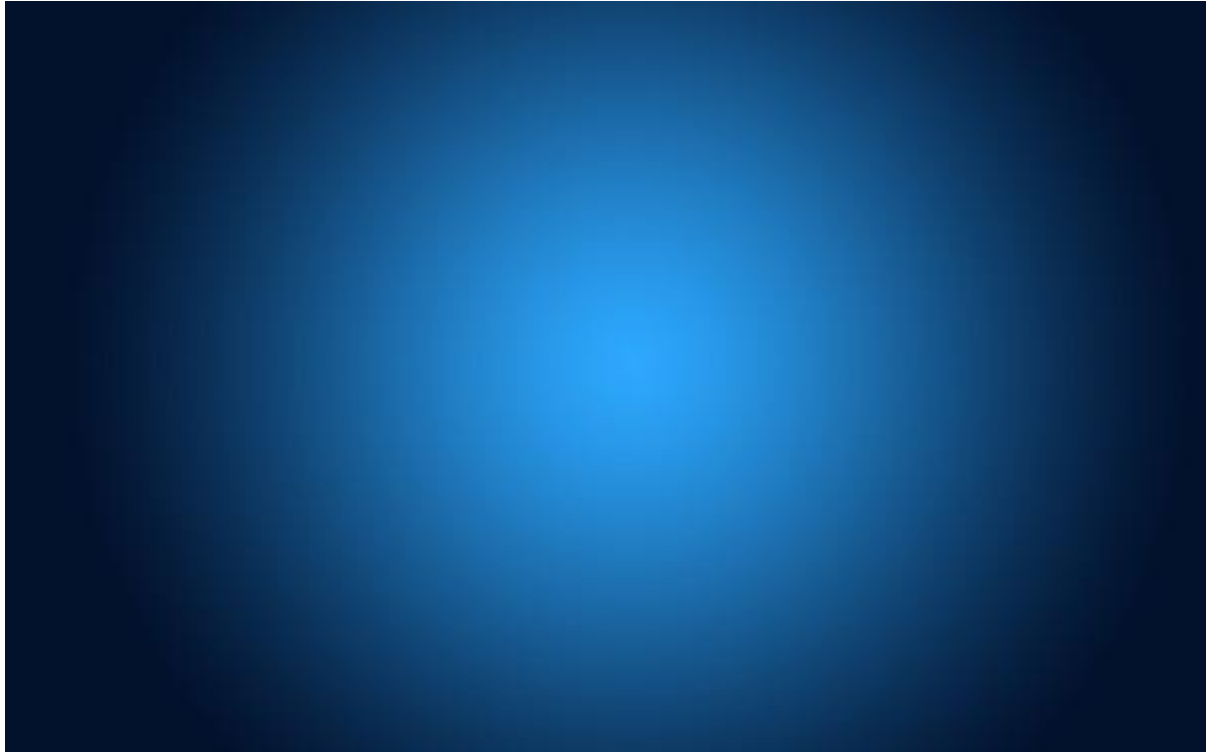
Start working by creating a new document (**Ctrl+N**) in **Adobe Photoshop** with the size **1900px** by **1200px** (**RGB** color mode) at a resolution of **300 pixels/inch**. Select the background layer in **Layers panel** and click on **Add a layer style** icon from bottom part of the **Layers panel** to select **Gradient Overlay**.



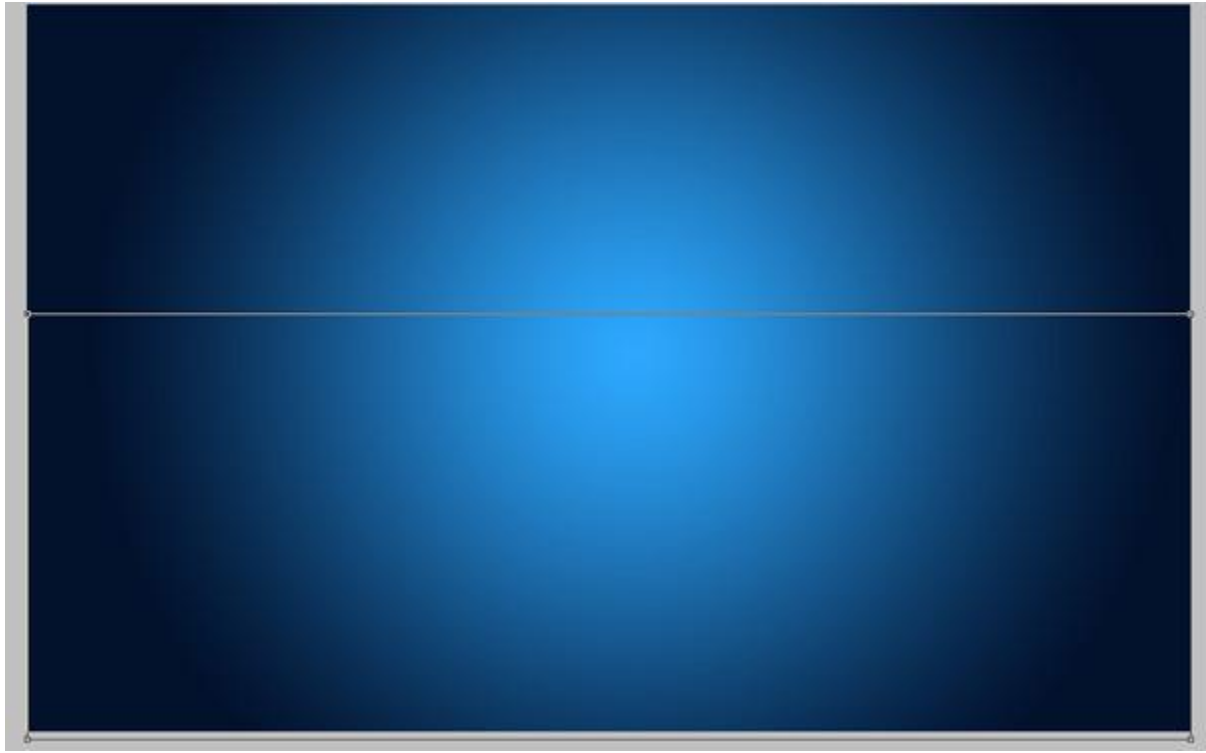
Click in the **color bar** to open the **Gradient Editor** and set the **color stops** as shown. Click **OK** to close the **Gradient Editor** dialog box.



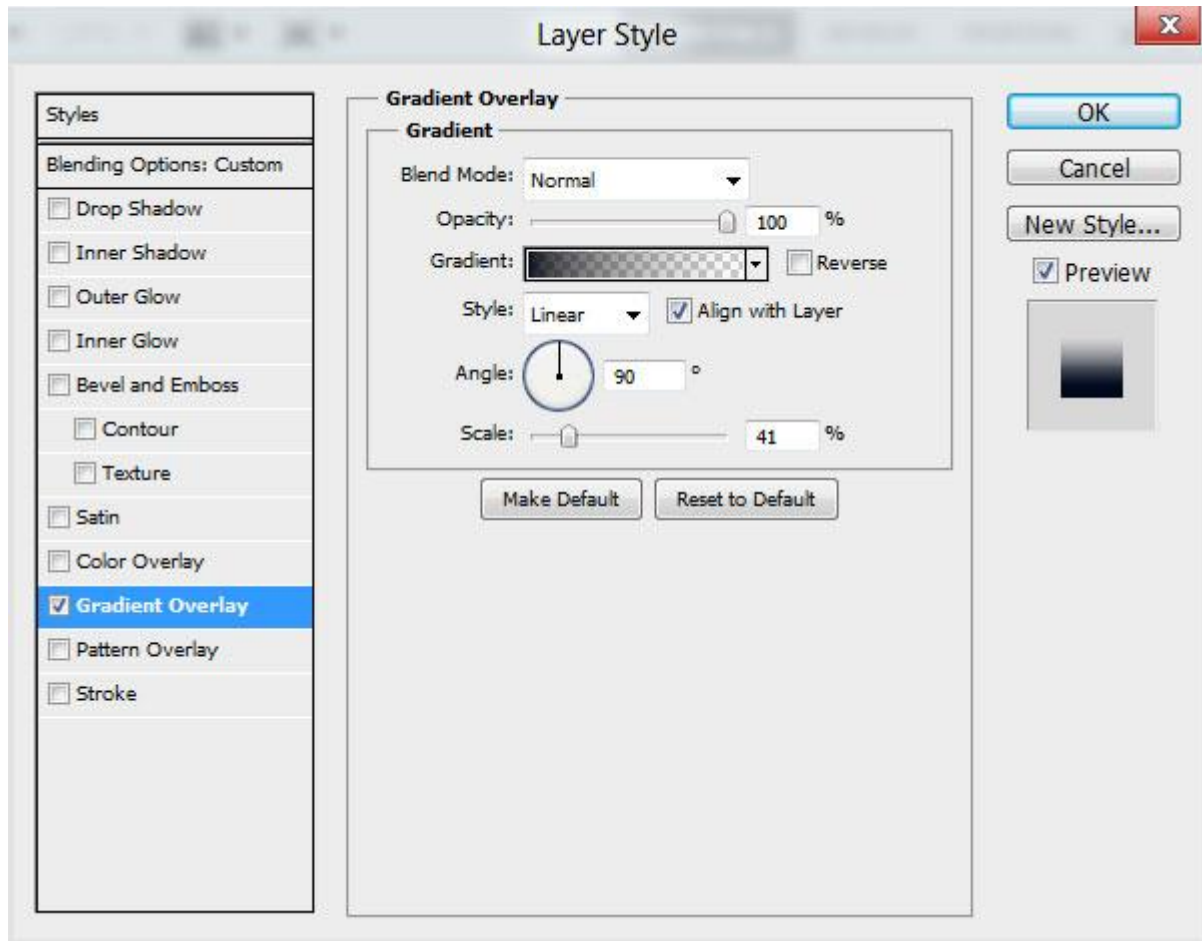
We've got the next background:



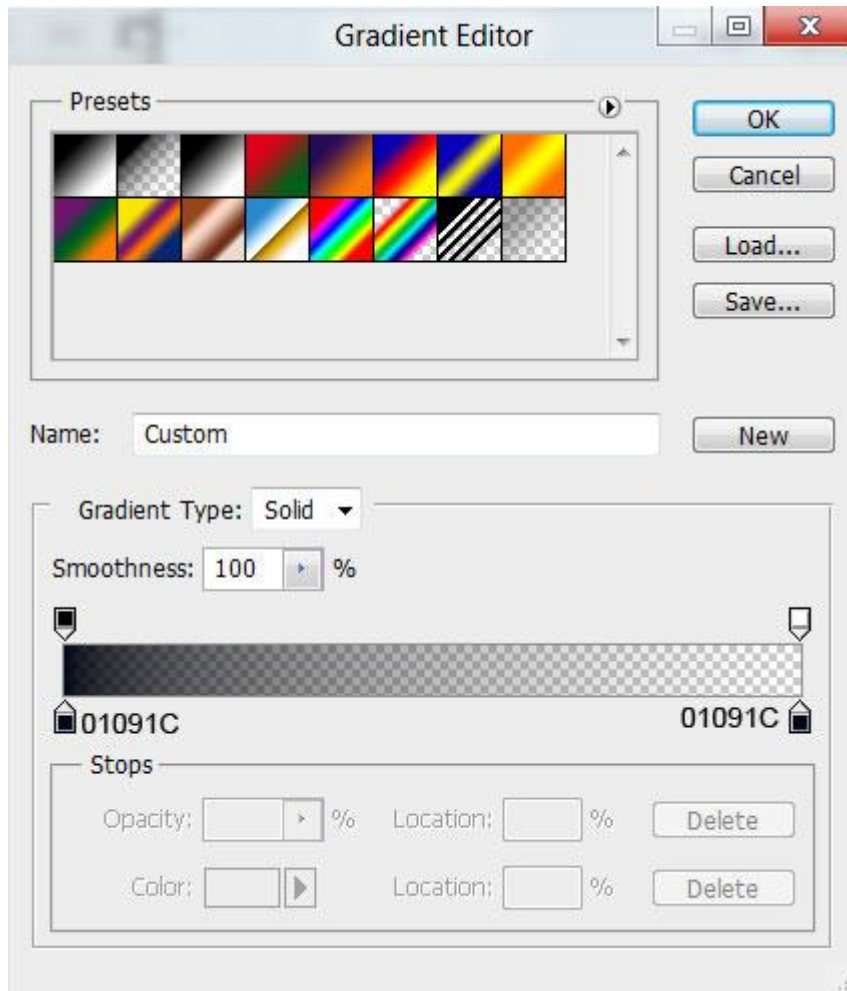
Then we have to represent a plane surface, using the **Rectangle Tool (U)** draw the next rectangle.



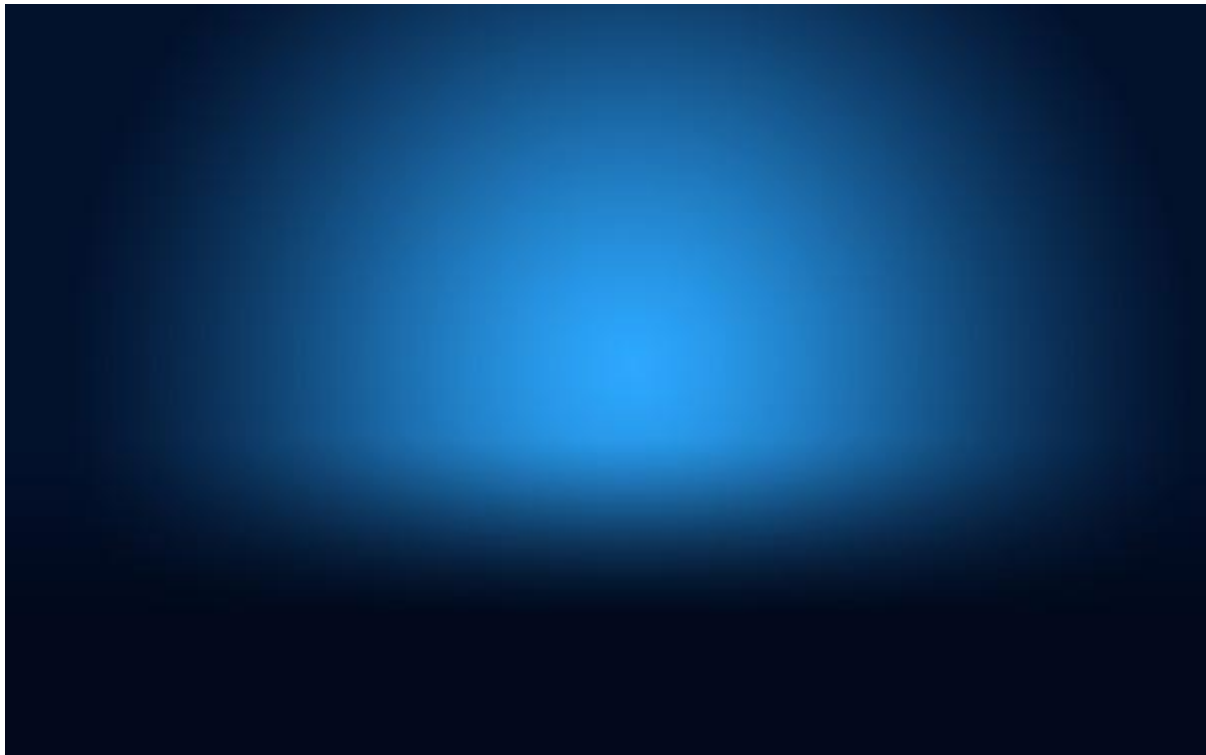
Set **Fill** to **0%** for this layer and click on **Add a layer style** icon from bottom part of the **Layers panel** to select **Gradient Overlay**.



Click in the **color bar** to open the **Gradient Editor** and set the **color stops** as shown. Click **OK** to close the **Gradient Editor** dialog box.



We've got the next result:



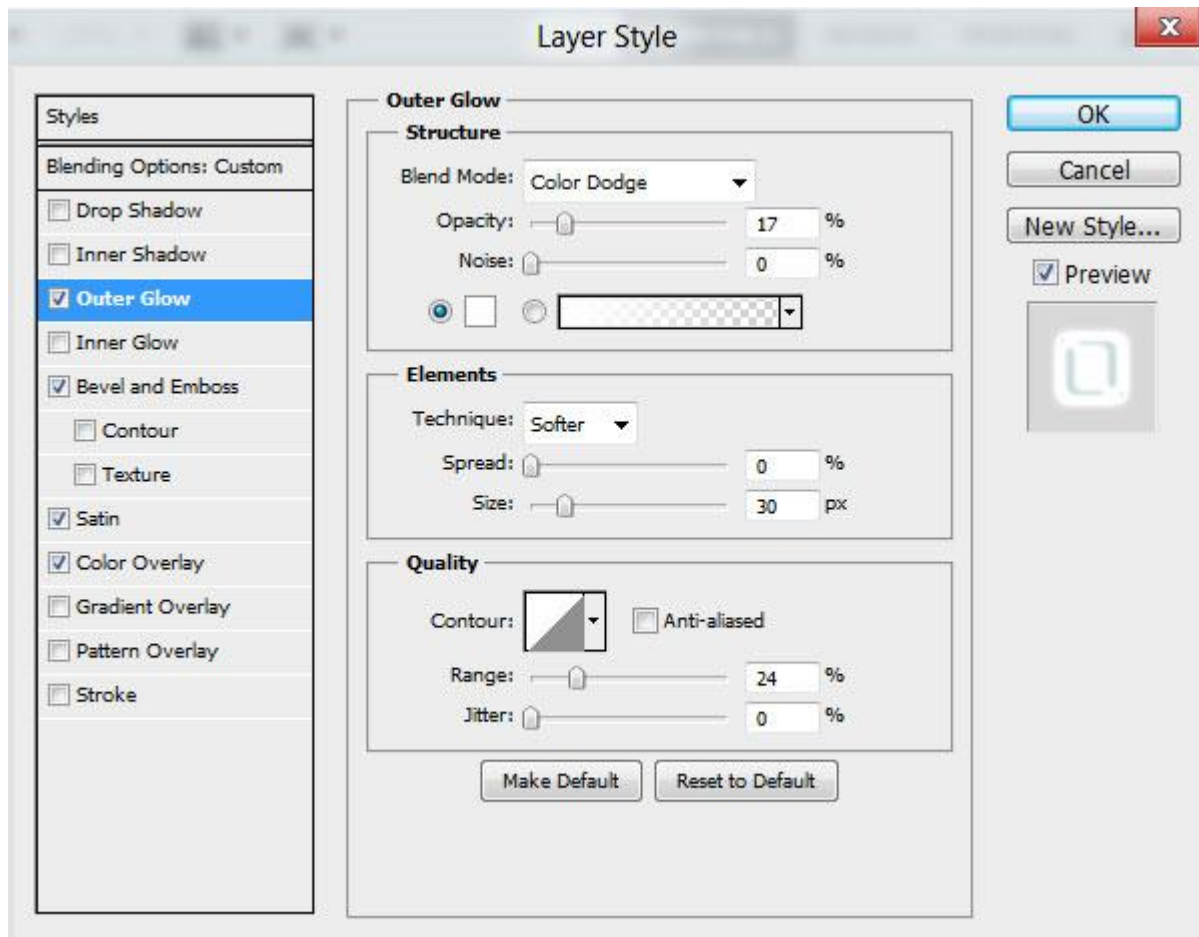
Insert the message text for greeting card. Select the **Horizontal Type tool (T)**. Select a font, size and color in the **Character panel**.



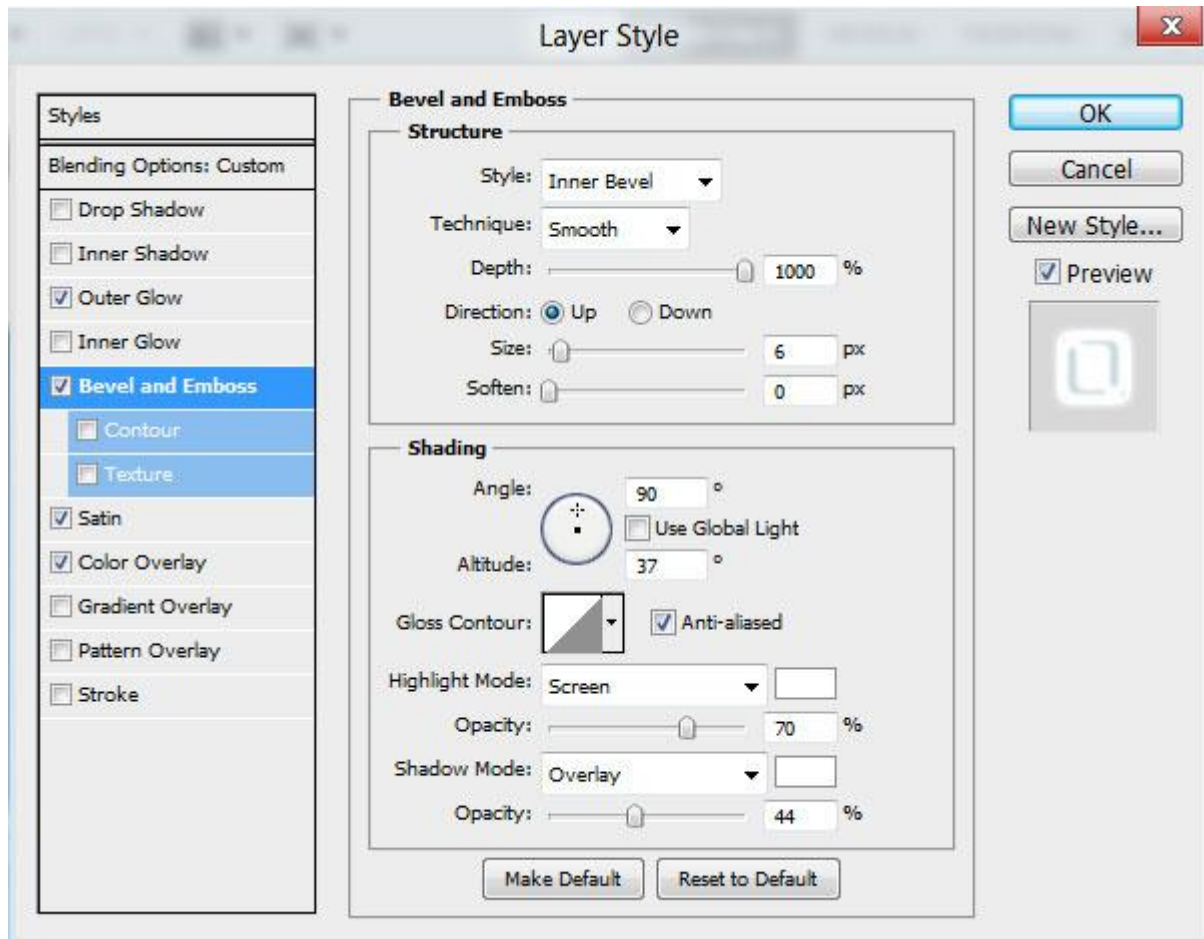
Click in the canvas and type '2012'. Press **Enter** to apply the text.



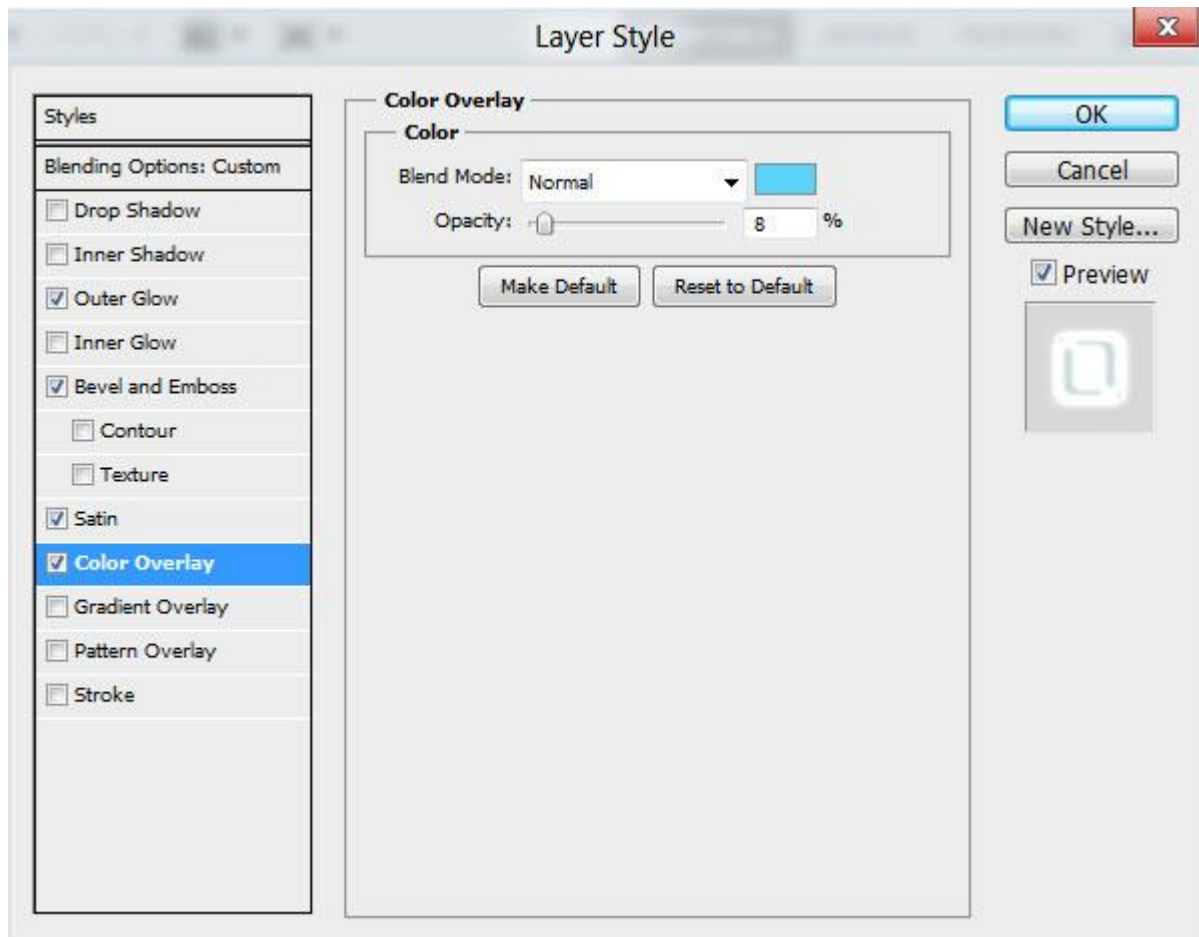
Set **Fill** to **0%** for this layer and click on **Add a layer style** icon from bottom part of the **Layers panel** to select **Outer Glow**.



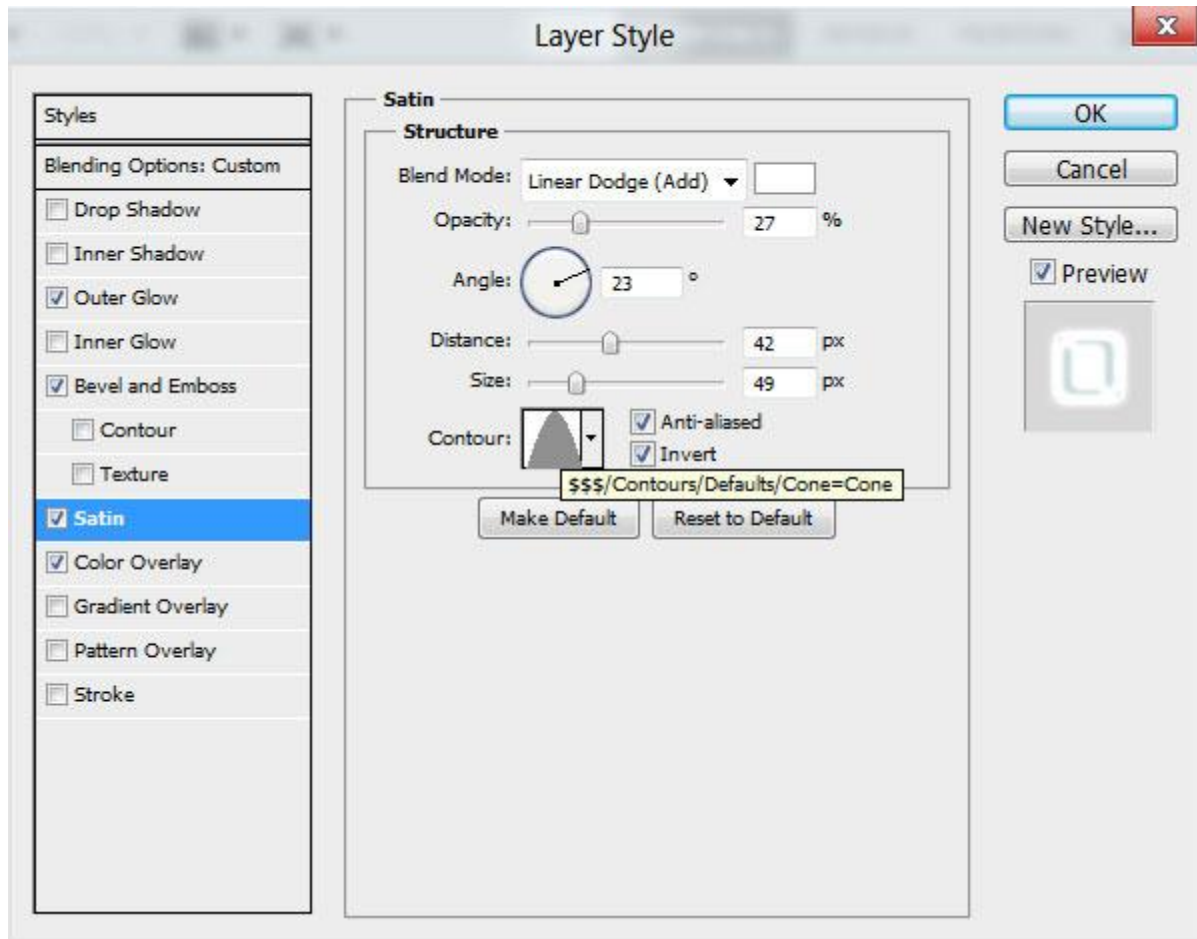
Add **Bevel and Emboss**:



Apply **Color Overlay**:



Add **Satin**:



We've got the next result:



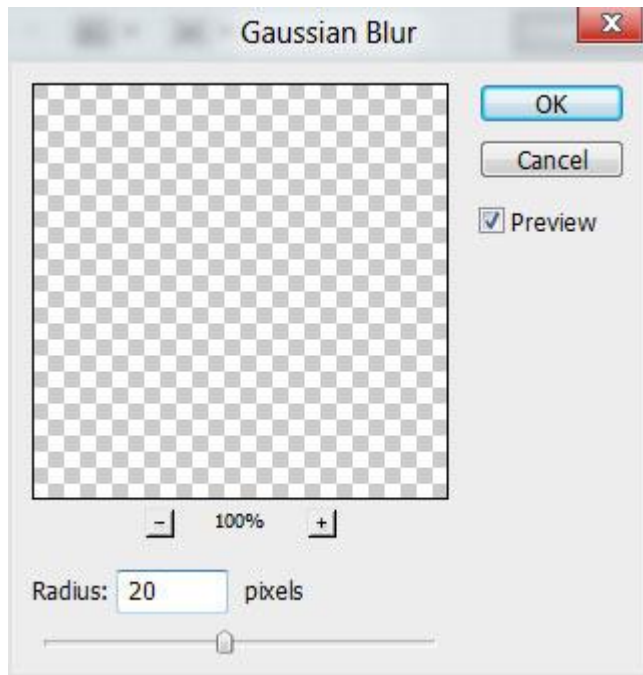
Create a new layer now and choose the **Elliptical Marquee Tool (M)** to make the next selection as shown.



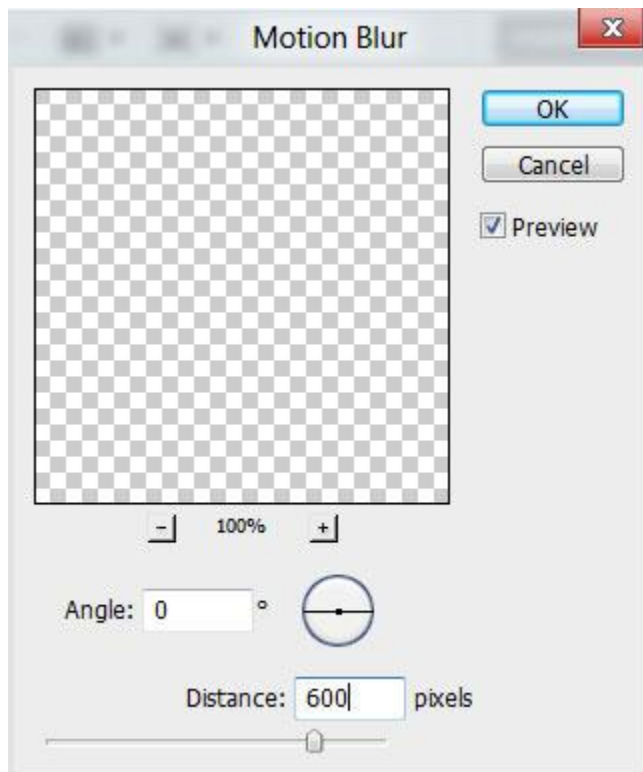
Then apply the **Paint Bucket Tool (G)** to fill the selection with **#0768B7** color. Place the layer under the layer containing the digits '2012'.



Apply the next filter on layer: **Filter > Blur > Gaussian blur:**



... and also **Filter > Blur > Motion Blur:**



This way we'll get the next shadow:



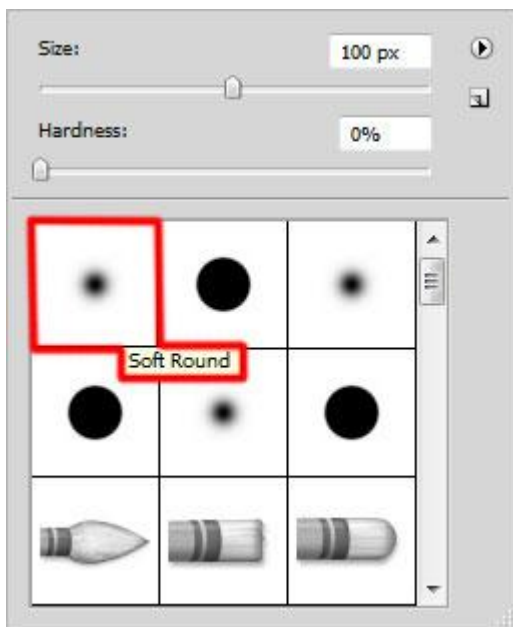
Make a copy of the last made layer and select the **Free Transform (Ctrl+T)** command to stretch out the copy's layer vertically. The copy's layer needs to be situated under the layer with the digits.



Represent now the shadow of white color, using the method described above. Apply on the shadow also the filters mentioned earlier also. The layer will be placed under the layer containing the digits.



Create now a **new layer** and select here the **Soft Round** brush.



Use this brush to paint the canvas with the color **#88F4FF** (set brush **Opacity** to **60%** in **Options bar**). Place this layer under the layer with the 2012 digits.



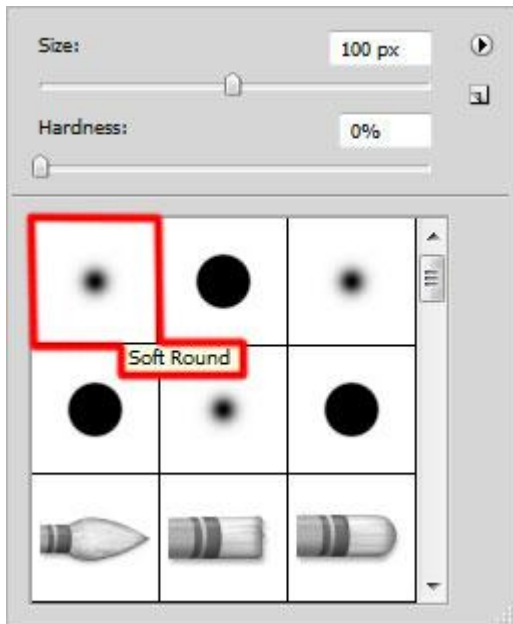
Set the **Blending mode** for this layer to **Color Burn**.



Now we'll create the next **new layer**, using the **Rectangular Marquee Tool (M)** make the next selection.



Now we have to paint the digits' zone with the color #9EF9FF, select the **Soft Round** brush to paint inside the selection.



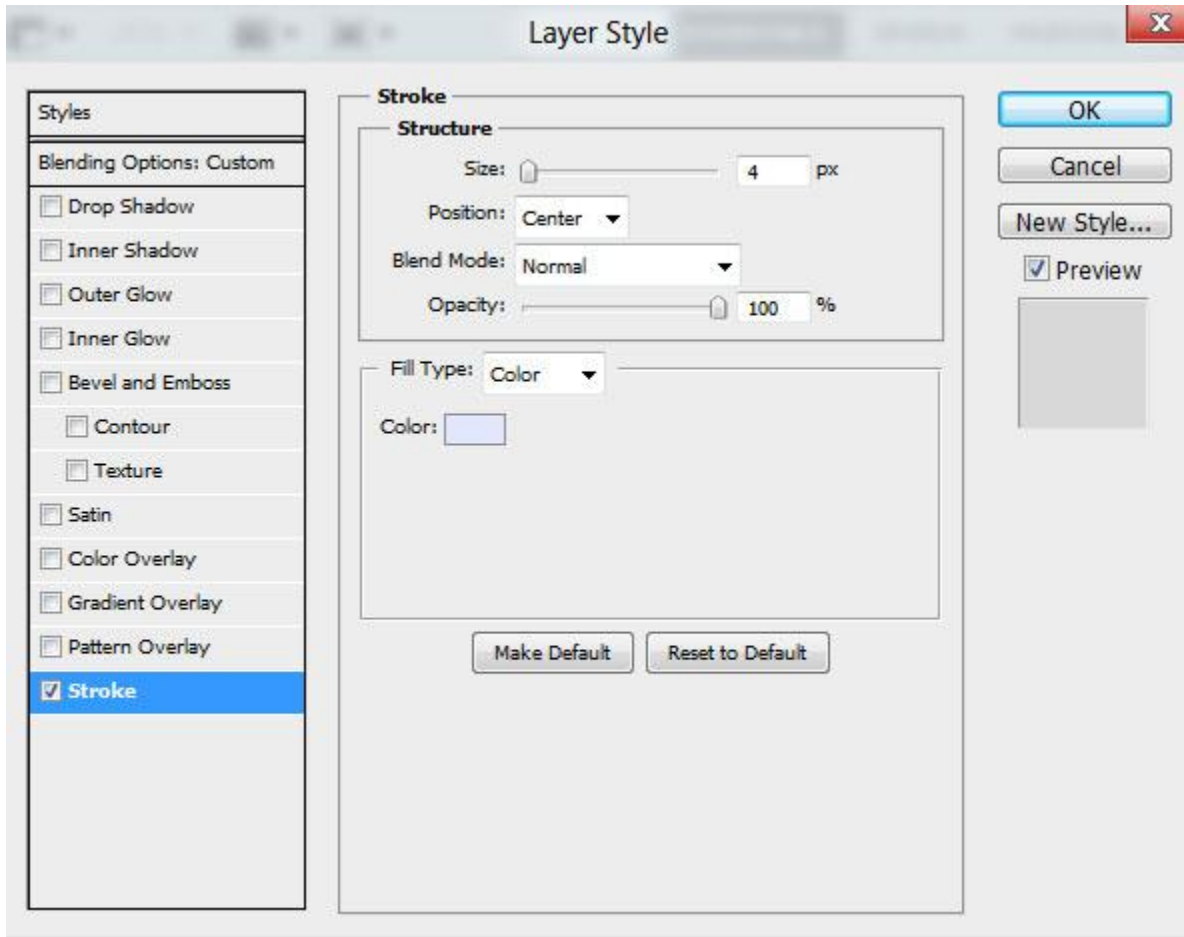
We've got the next result:



Let's create now more digits inside the already represented ones. They will represent the highlights, giving more volume to our original digits. Choose the **Pen Tool (P)**, set the **drawing mode** on **Shape Layers** in **Options bar** and draw the next shape as shown.



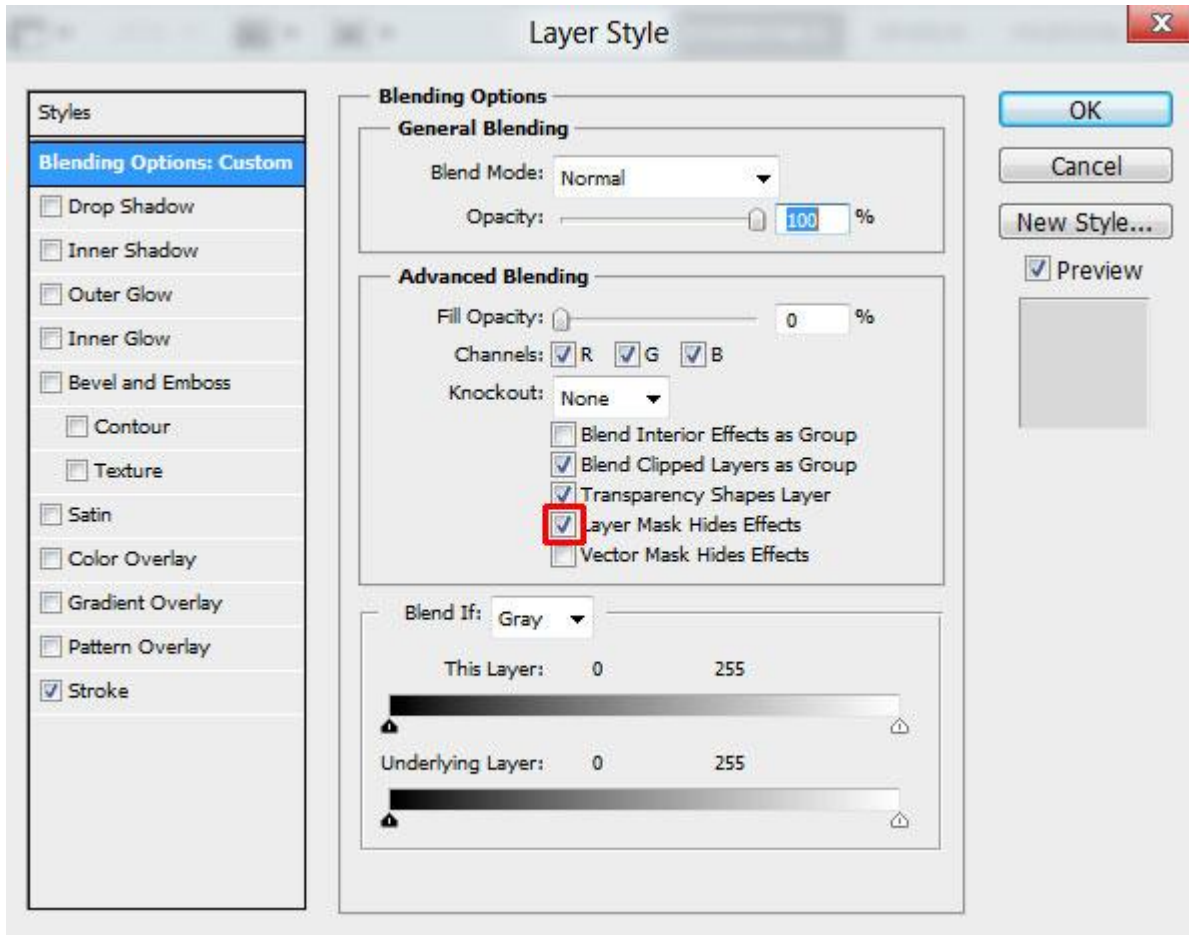
Set **Fill** to **0%** for this layer and click on **Add a layer style** icon from bottom part of the **Layers panel** to select **Stroke**.



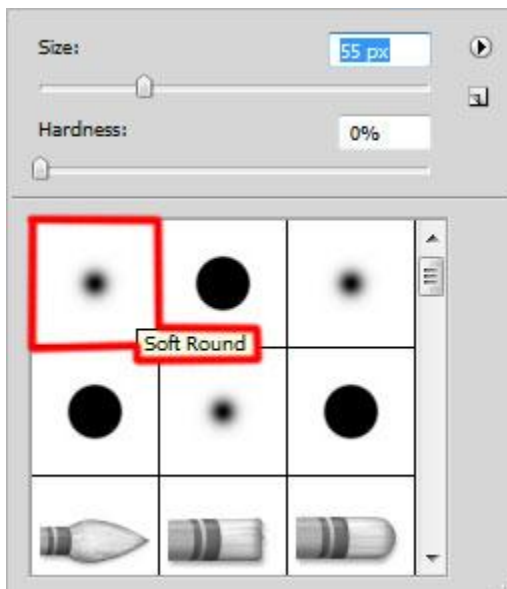
We've got the next result:



Click on **Add a layer style** icon from bottom part of the **Layers panel** and select **Blending Option**. In **Advanced Blending** check the **Layer Mask Hides Effects**.



Insert the mask on the layer by choosing **Add layer mask** on the bottom part of the **Layers panel** and choose the **Soft Round** brush of **black color**.



Paint in the mask using this brush to hide the unnecessary line.

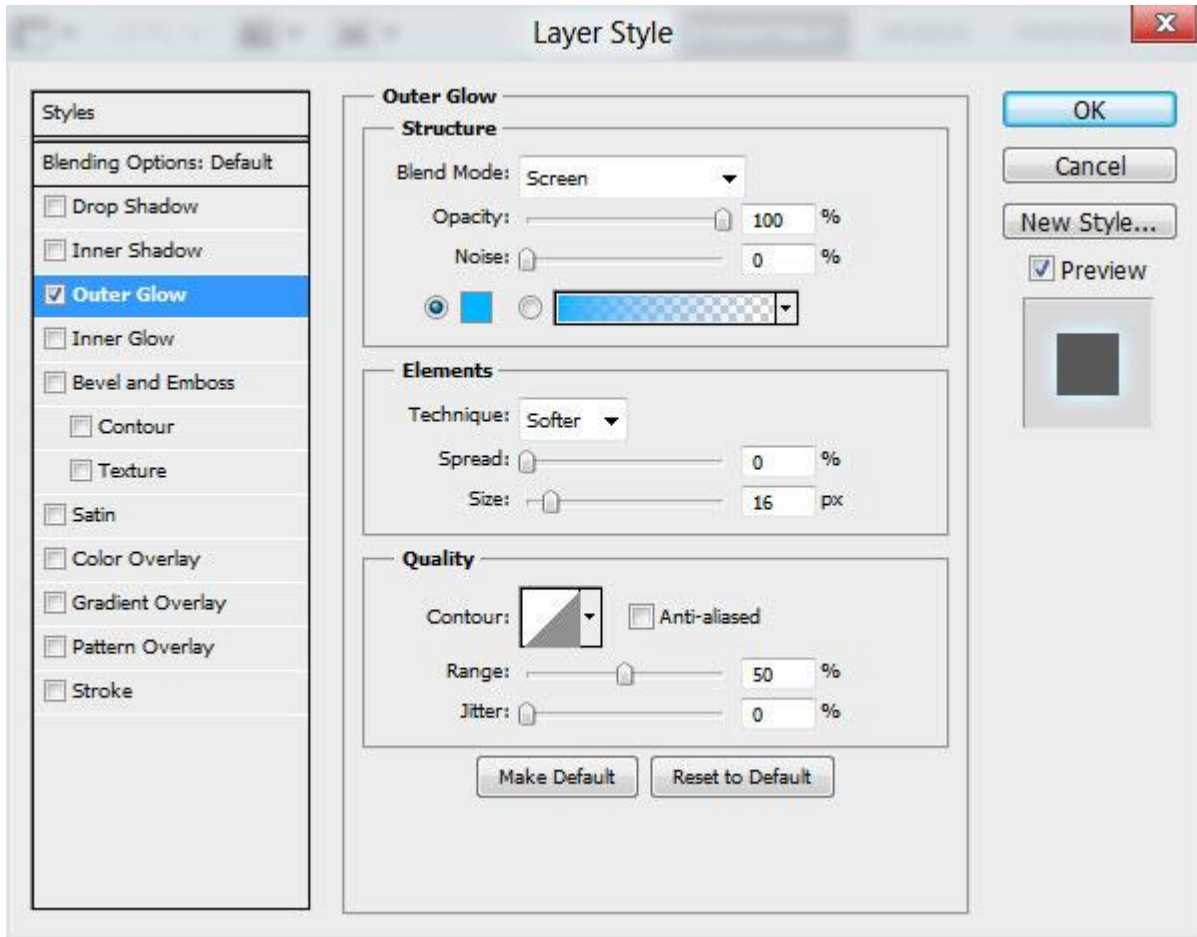


Applying the last described method, we may represent the highlights inside the other digits, using the same tools (**Pen Tool (P)**). The Layer's style are the same (**Stroke**).



Combine in a group all the layers composing the inside highlights on the digits (press **CTRL** button to select the necessary layers and hold on the left mouse's button while dragging the selected layers on **Create a new group** icon from bottom part of the **Layers panel**). The new group must be rasterized. In this case select the group in **Layers panel** and press **CTRL+E** to **Merge Down**.

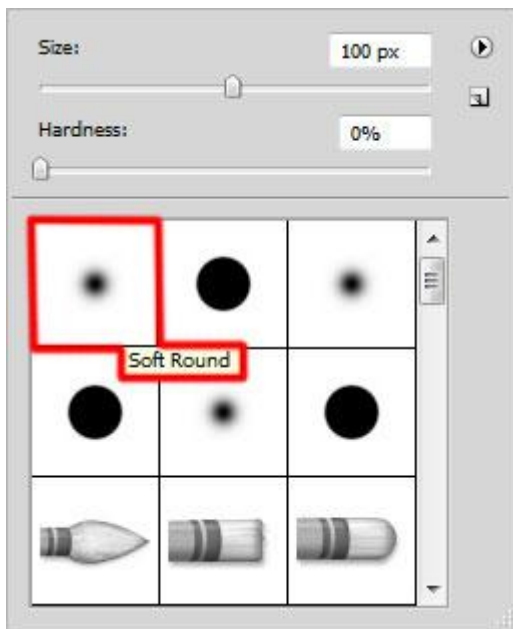
Click on **Add a layer style** icon from bottom part of the **Layers panel** and select **Outer Glow**.



We've got the next result:



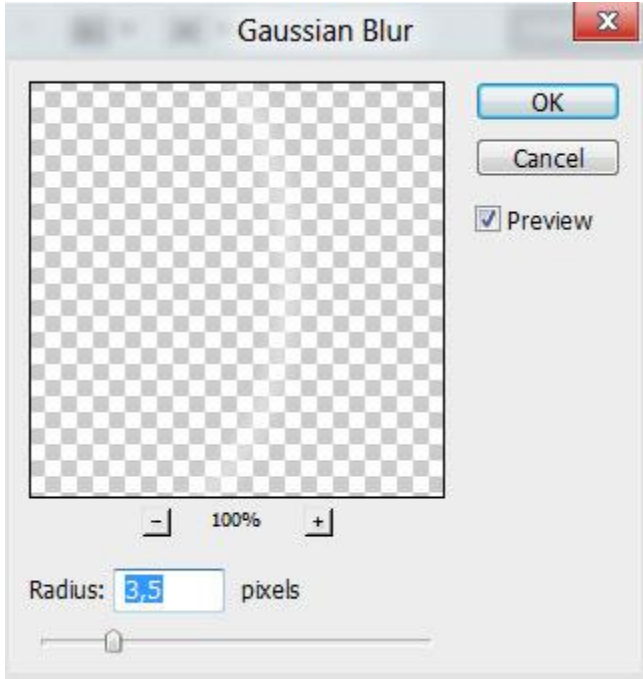
Insert the mask on the layer by choosing **Add layer mask** on the bottom part of the **Layers panel** and choose the **Soft Round** brush of **black color** (set **Opacity** to **60%** in **Options bar**).



Paint in the mask using this brush to hide the edges of the inside highlights.



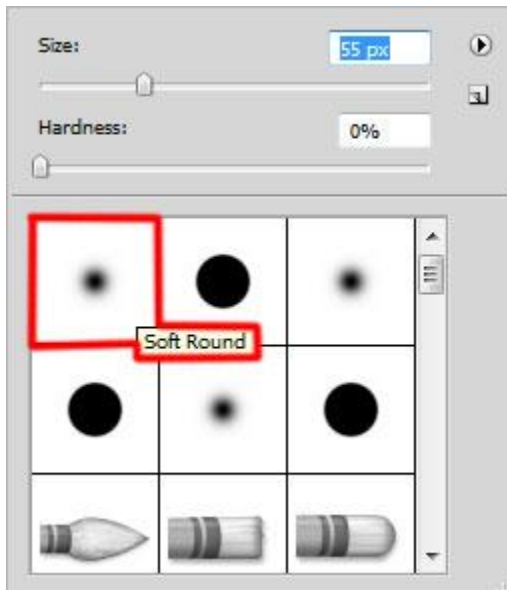
Make a copy of the last made layer and apply the next filter: **Filter > Blur > Gaussian blur**.



We've got the next result:



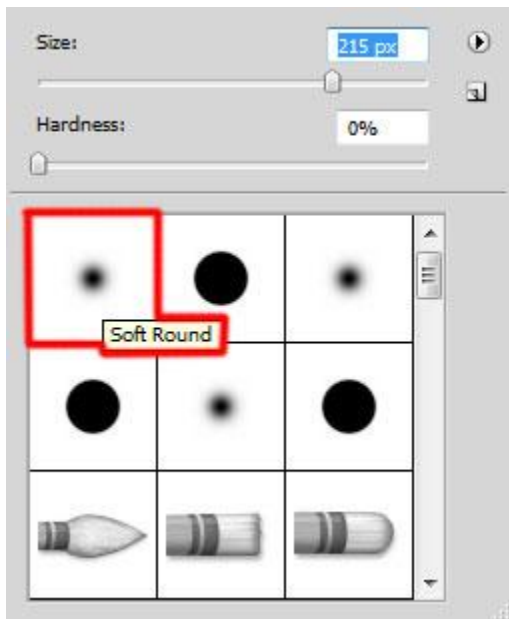
Create a new layer and select the **Soft Round** brush.



Use this brush to paint with **white** color the digits' surface. Apply on several places the brush with the **Opacity** of **20%**.



Insert the mask on the layer by choosing **Add layer mask** on the bottom part of the **Layers panel** , press **CTRL+I** in the mask to **Inverse** the color and and choose the **Soft Round** brush of **white color** (set **Opacity** to **20%** in **Options bar**).



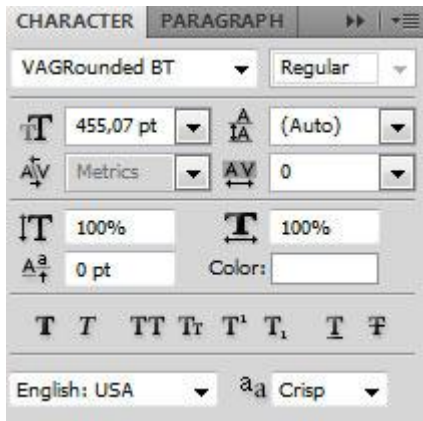
Paint in the mask using this brush to hide the bottom part of the digits.



Set the **Blending mode** for this layer to **Overlay**.



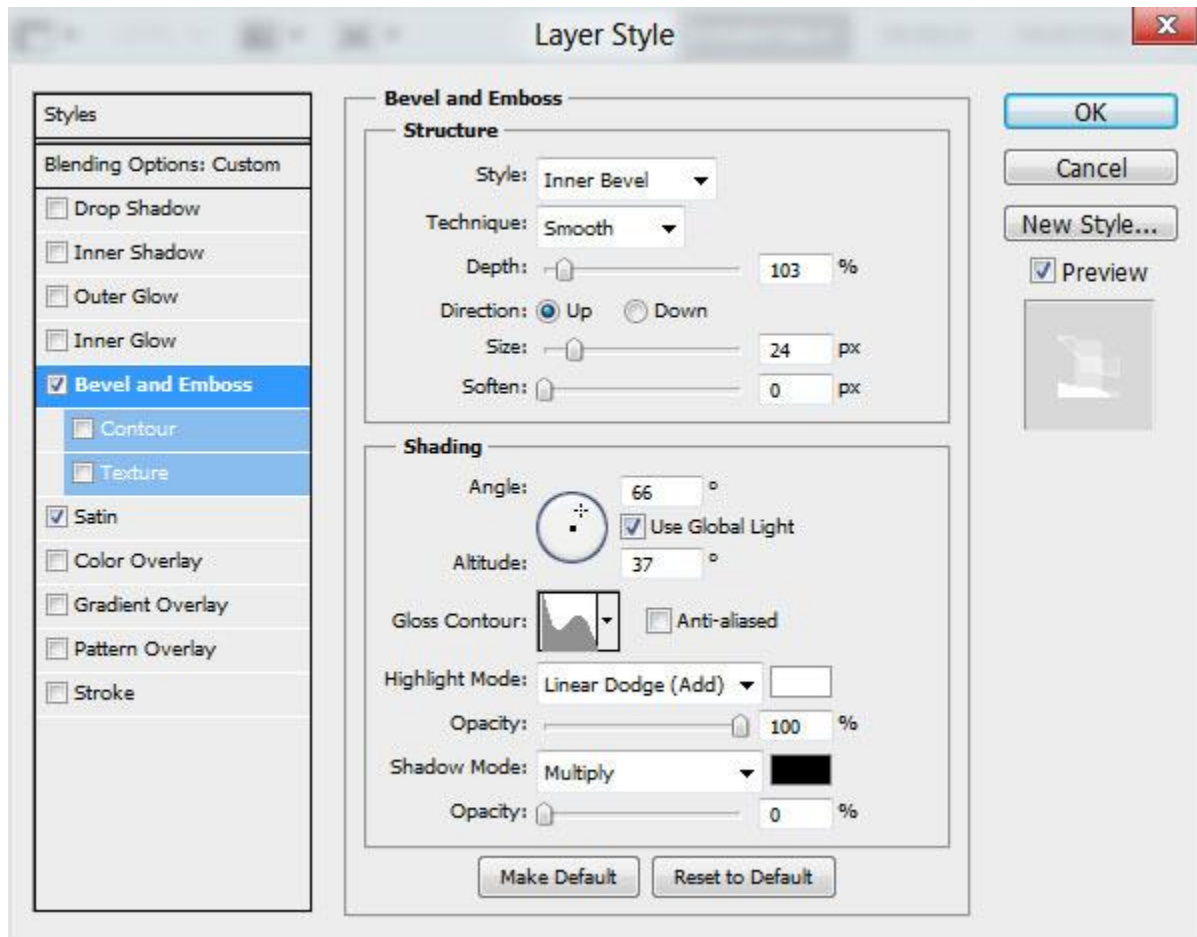
Create one more **new layer** with the digits on it. Select the **Horizontal Type tool (T)**. Select a font, size and color in the **Character panel**.



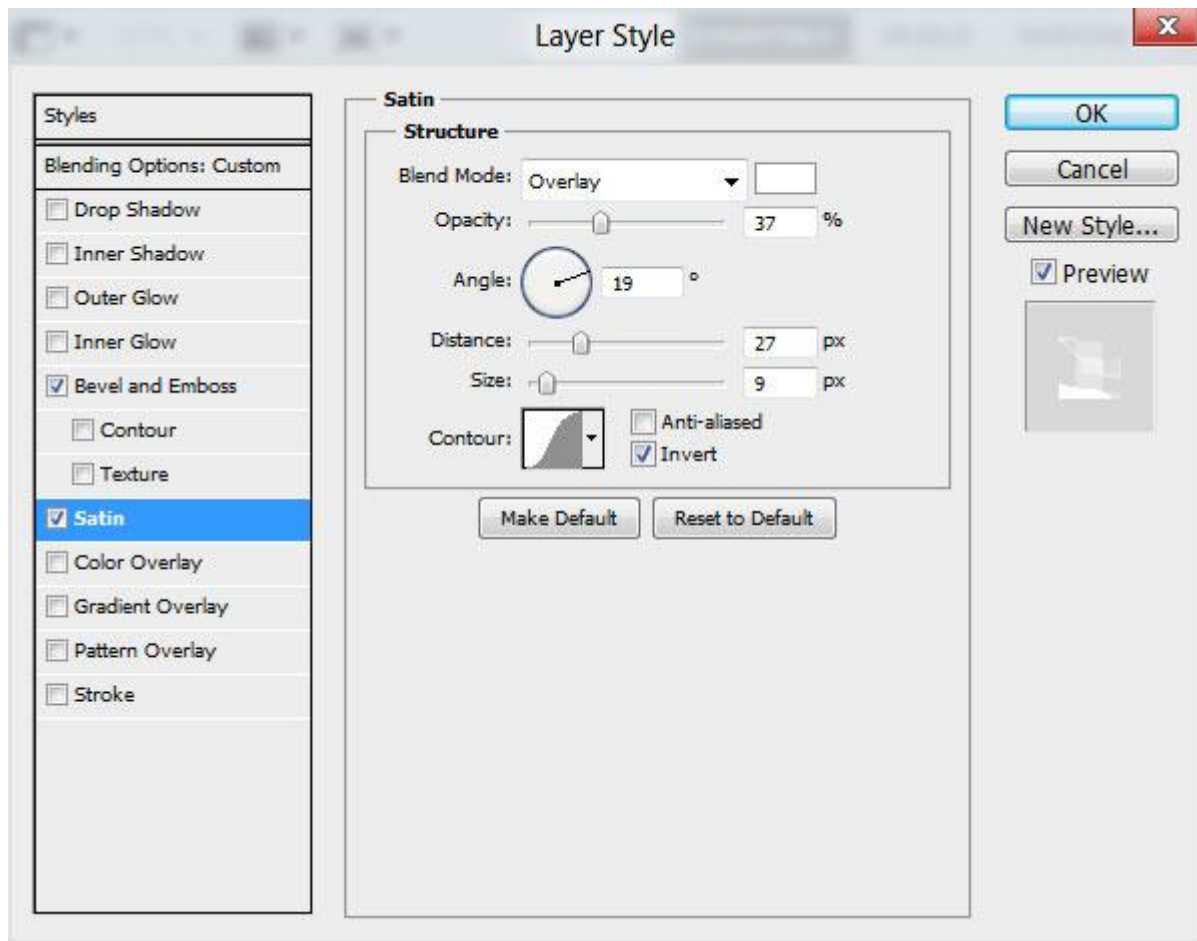
Place it exactly the same way the very first layer is represented.



Set **Fill** to **0%** for this layer and click on **Add a layer style** icon from bottom part of the **Layers panel** to select **Bevel and Emboss**.



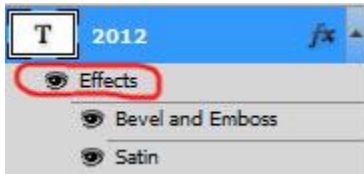
Add **Satin**:



We've got the next result:



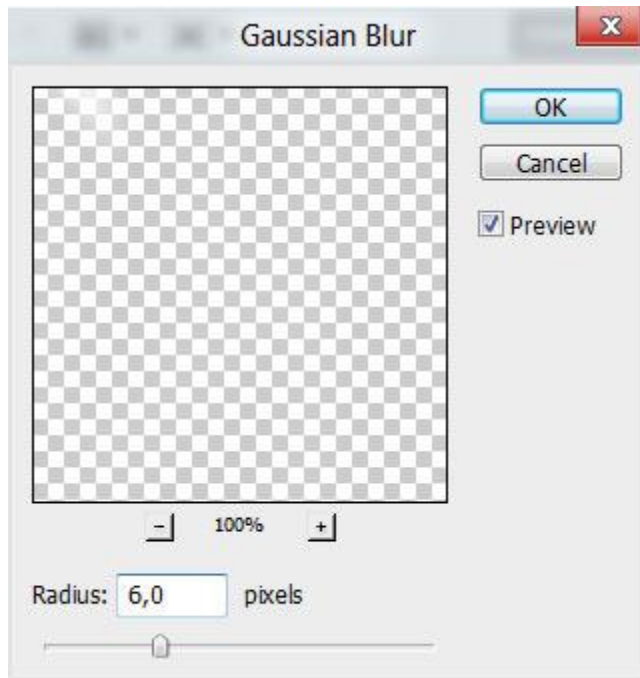
Right click on the **Effects** and select **Create Layers** on the **Layers** panel.



We'll get **clipping masks** from **Layer styles**:



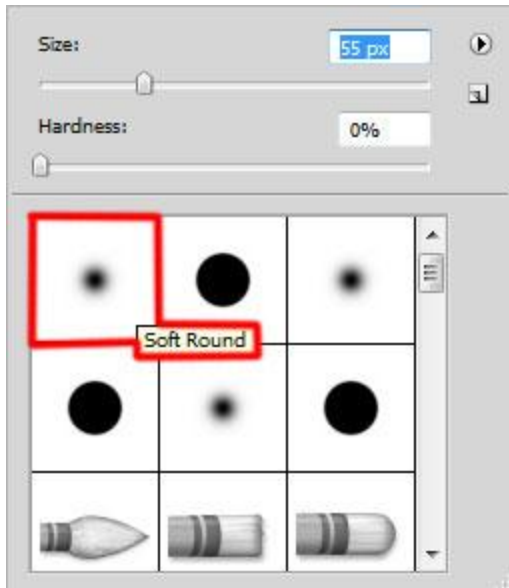
Apply the next filter: **Filter** > **Blur** > **Gaussian blur**.



We've got the next result:



Make a copy of the layer on which we had created an inverted mask and painted the digits. Place the copy's layer above all the layers.



Applying on the mask the **Soft Round** brush of **white** color (brush **Opacity – 15%**), we may hide the indicated zones on the digits.



We've got the next result:

2012