

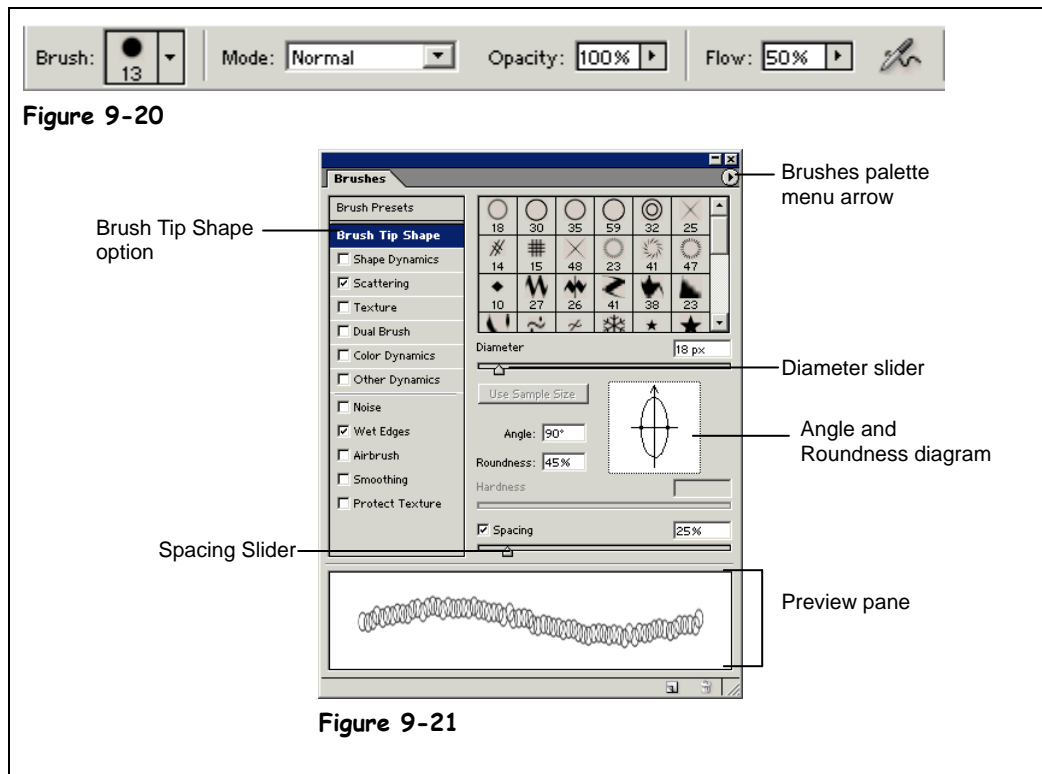
Lesson 9-7: Creating a Custom Brush

Figure 9-20

The Brush tool options bar.

Figure 9-21

The Brushes palette.



If the preset brush shapes don't quite meet your needs, you can create your own brush. Use either a portion of an image or redefine existing brushes to make them unique. For this lesson, you will not need to have a file open.

1. Select the **Brush** tool from the toolbox.
2. Select **Window** → **Brushes** from the menu to open the **Brushes palette**. Make sure the **Brush Tip Shape** option is selected as shown in Figure 9-21.

Using the tools provided in this palette users can change a brush tip's roundness, angle, diameter, spacing, and hardness. Photoshop even provides a preview pane so that you can see what a brush's stroke will look like.

3. Select the **18-point round brush** in the upper left corner of the preset brush options.

Remember, you're working with the *Brushes palette* now, not the Brush Preset picker as you have in previous lessons. You can adjust the options on the left side of the palette along with the angle and roundness to create a unique brush tip.

4. Check the **Wet Edges** and **Scattering** boxes on the left side of the **Brushes palette**.

Notice that the stroke in the Preview pane changes as you select the various options. Now change the brush tip's angle and roundness.

5. Click on the **Angle and Roundness diagram** and drag the two gray dots that appear until the **Roundness** text box reads **45%** or type **45** in the **Roundness** text box.

A perfectly round brush displays 100% in the Roundness text box.

6. Click on the **Angle and Roundness diagram** and move the arrow counterclockwise until the **Angle** text box reads **90 degrees** or type **90** in the **Angle** text box.

Your Brushes palette should now look like the one pictured in Figure 9-21. If you create a brush that is so fabulous you want to use it over and over, you can save your brush.

7. Click the **Brush palette menu arrow** and select **New Brush** from the menu.

The New Brush dialog box appears.

8. Type **My Brush** in the **Brush Name** text box. Click **OK**.

The brush you created now appears along with the other brush presets in the Brushes palette where you can use it again.

Many people find it easier to move the Angle and Roundness diagram to achieve the effect they want, rather than using the text boxes.

Table 9-8: Brushes Palette Options

<i>Option</i>	<i>Function</i>
Diameter slider	This slider to makes the brush tip larger or smaller.
Roundness	Creates an oval brush from a circle.
Angle	Rotates an oval brush.
Spacing	Determines how much paint is applied to the canvas. As a rule, don't adjust.
Hardness	Determines the bluriness of the brush size.

Quick Reference

To Display the Brushes Palette:

- Select **Window** → **Brushes** from the menu.

To Create a New Brush Tip:

1. Open the **Brushes palette** and make sure the **Brush Tip Shape** option is selected.
2. Select the **Brush Tip Preset** you want to use.
3. Choose the diameter, roundness, angle, spacing and hardness you want to use.
4. To save the Brush Tip for later use, select **New Brush** from the Brush palette popup menu and enter a name for the new brush.