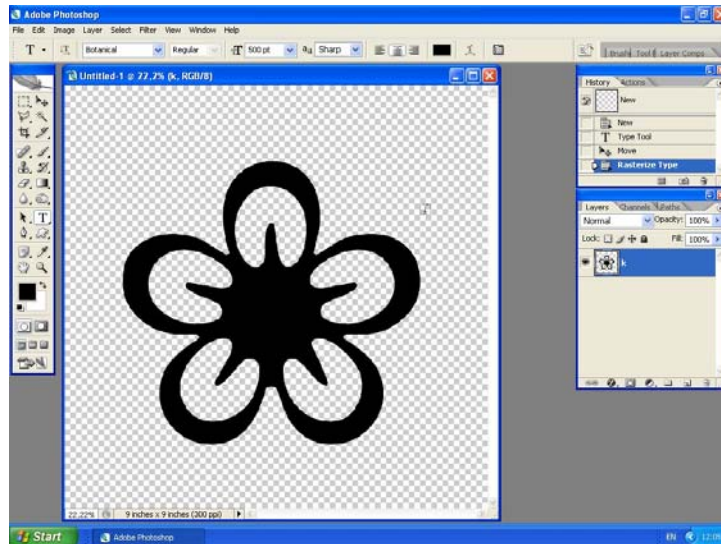


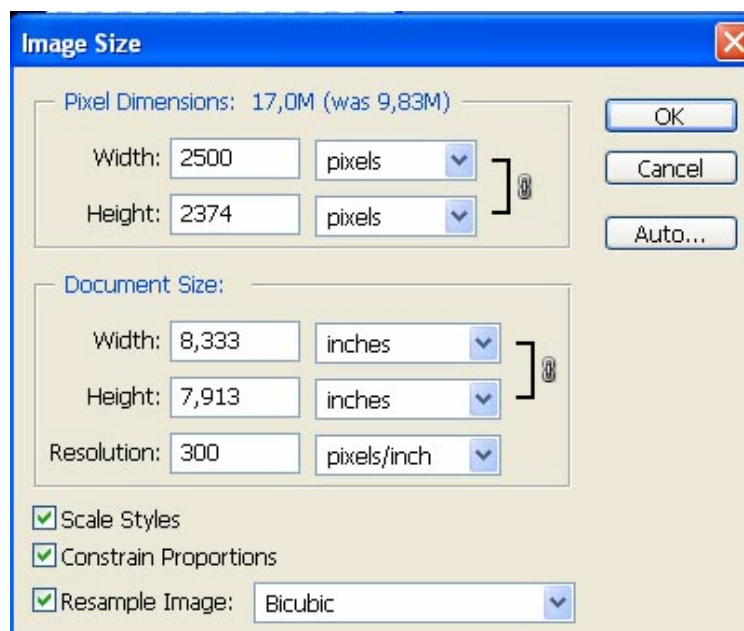
## How To Make A Brush From A Dingbat by Helen Weber

If you've never made a brush before you'll be surprised at how easy it is, and one of the easiest ways to create a brush is by using a dingbat.

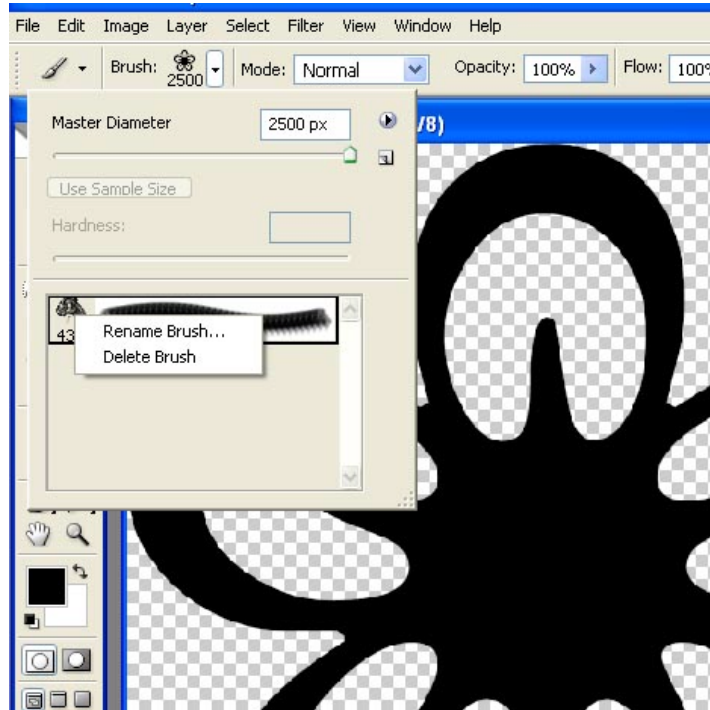
1. Open a new document with a transparent background. I've made mine 9" X 9" at 300 dpi. It's bigger than I really need it to be but I can alter the size later.
2. Make sure your foreground colour is black. If it isn't, you can change it by pressing D.
3. Choose a ding font and type a letter. You'll need to experiment a little to find one you like. Here I've chosen the lower case letter k from a font called Botanical and typed it at 500 pt.
4. Rasterize the layer by right clicking on it and choosing that option.



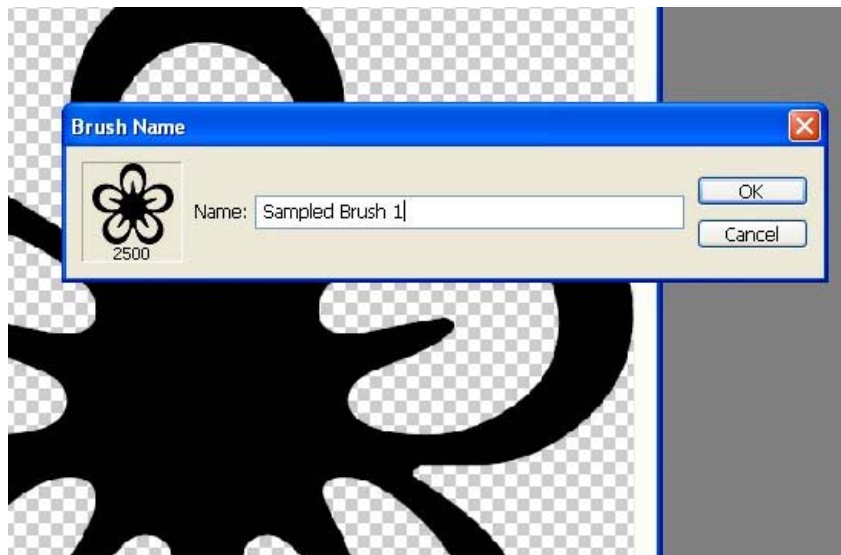
5. At this point you can alter the size. Holding down Ctrl, click on the dingbat icon to select it then go up to Image, Crop to make your dingbat fit the page. Deselect it by pressing Ctrl + D.
6. Now go to Image, Size and if your dingbat's width and height aren't identical, change the larger of the 2 values to 2,500 pixels which is the maximum size for a Photoshop brush.



7. All you have to do now is save your brush. The quickest way to do this is by simply tagging it on to your current brushes but you may prefer to create a file to use exclusively for your own brushes.
8. Click on the Brush Tool, go up to the brush icon and click on the arrow. Right click on each brush in turn and delete them all. I've deliberately chosen a file which contains just one brush. By the way, don't worry about losing the brushes you've deleted. They're still there under their original name.



9. Then go to Edit, Define Brush Preset and change the name from "Sampled Brush 1" to anything you like. I've called mine "Flower1" because I'm assuming it won't be the only floral brush I'll be making.



10. Now go back up to the arrow next to the brush icon and click on it. Next to the size of the brush there's another arrow and when you click on it, choose the option, Save Brushes. Give the file an appropriate name and save it.
11. Now it's time to try out your brush. Open any fairly plain background and make a new layer or you could open a new document and fill it with the colour of your choice.
12. Click on the foreground colour and change it to whichever colour you prefer, then choose the brush, alter the size to suit and off you go!

Experiment with it using different sizes and colours, try out various textures and bevels, revolve it, alter the transparency etc. The possibilities are endless.

Here's a close up of a background I made using my flower brush.



And this is a background I made using another of my floral brushes. If you'd like to see a page I made using it, you'll find it in the Deco-Pages gallery : <http://board.deco-pages.com/showphoto.php/photo/17440/cat/500/perpage/18/ppuser/3324>



I hope you've enjoyed this tutorial and that it'll inspire you to create your own collection of dingbat brushes. Looking forward to seeing your layouts in the gallery at Deco-Pages.