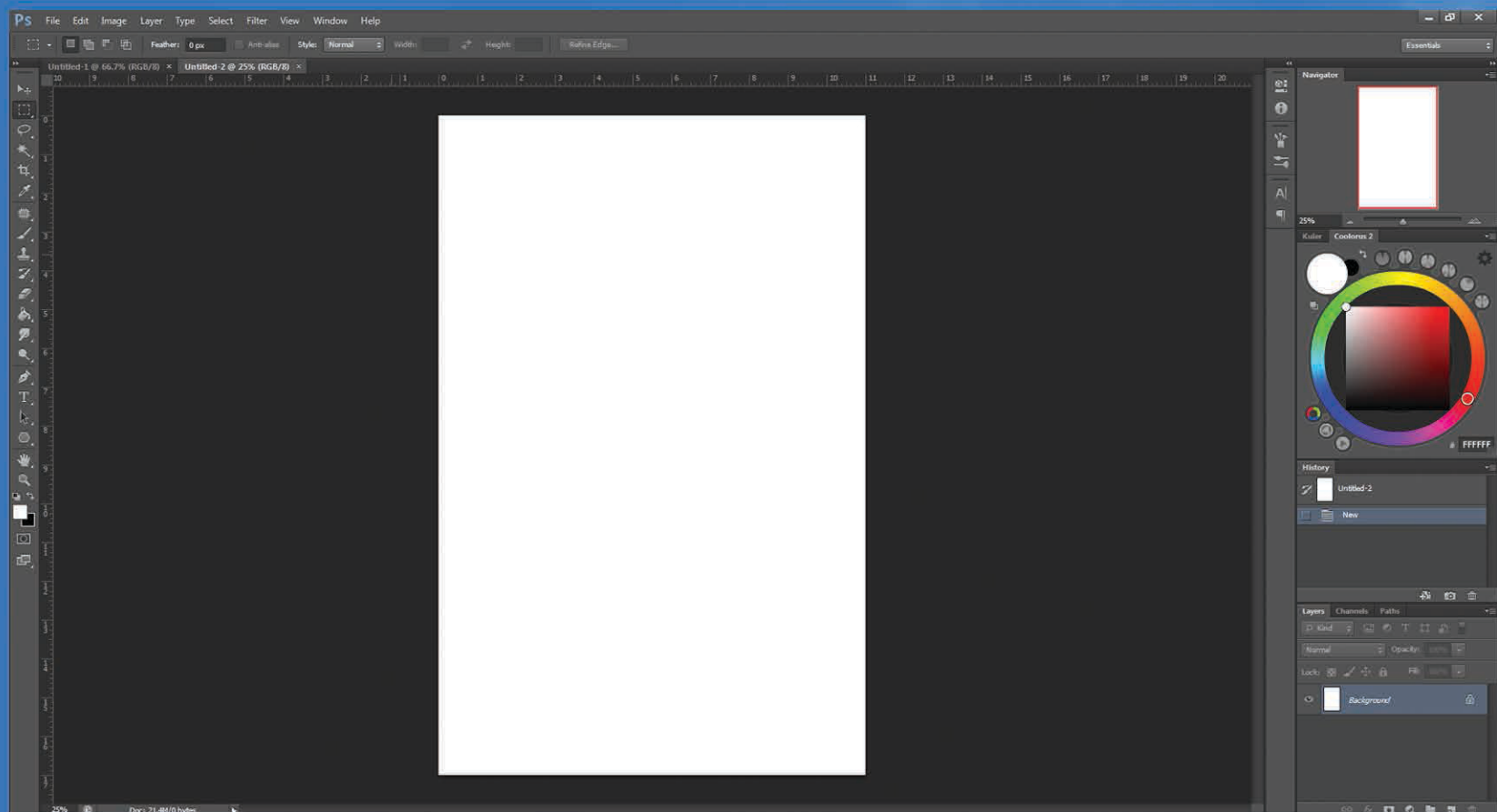


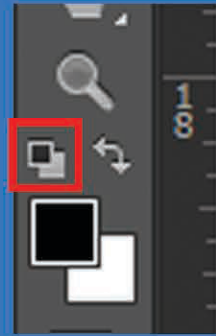
# How To Make Custom Clouds by making Cloud Brushes in Photoshop

While I am certainly not a drawing artist (or at least not yet!), I have always been fascinated by clouds. I've never really run across a tutorial on how to make them easily, or at least from a non-artist standpoint. It wasn't until recently that I came across a few brush packs with cloud brushes in them that made fantastic clouds. After looking at their shapes, I realized that this should be simple enough to create, so I set down to it. While these clouds are not great for instant depth, they can be used very effectively to make decent clouds. I'll walk through with you step by step.

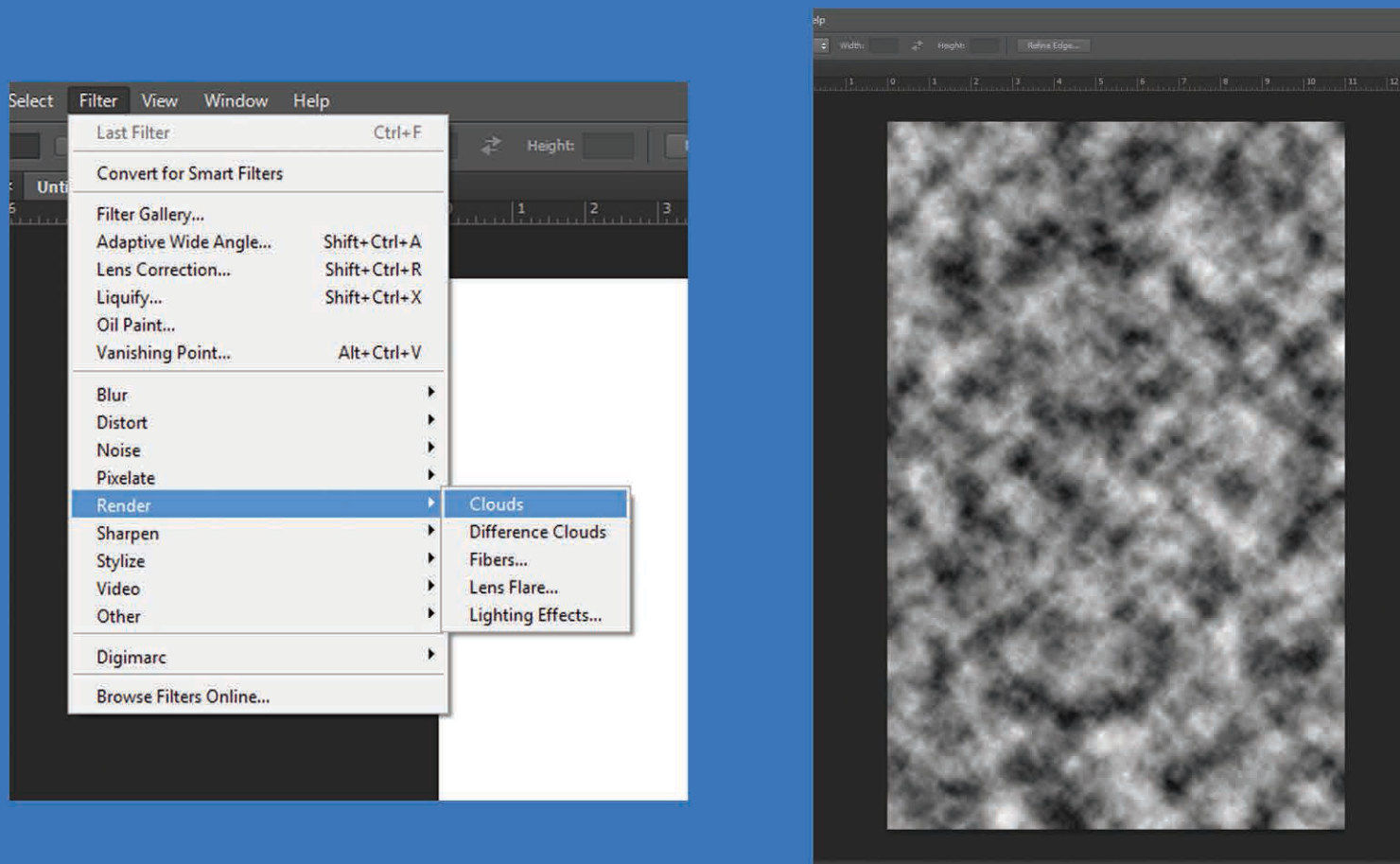
- 1.** First, open a high resolution document. I personally used an 11x17" 200ppi canvas. It gives me a lot of options to choose from later on. You can use an even higher resolution if you'd like. The result will turn out the same.



**2.** Make sure that your colors are the default black and white. You can click on the little default button right above the colors to reset it.

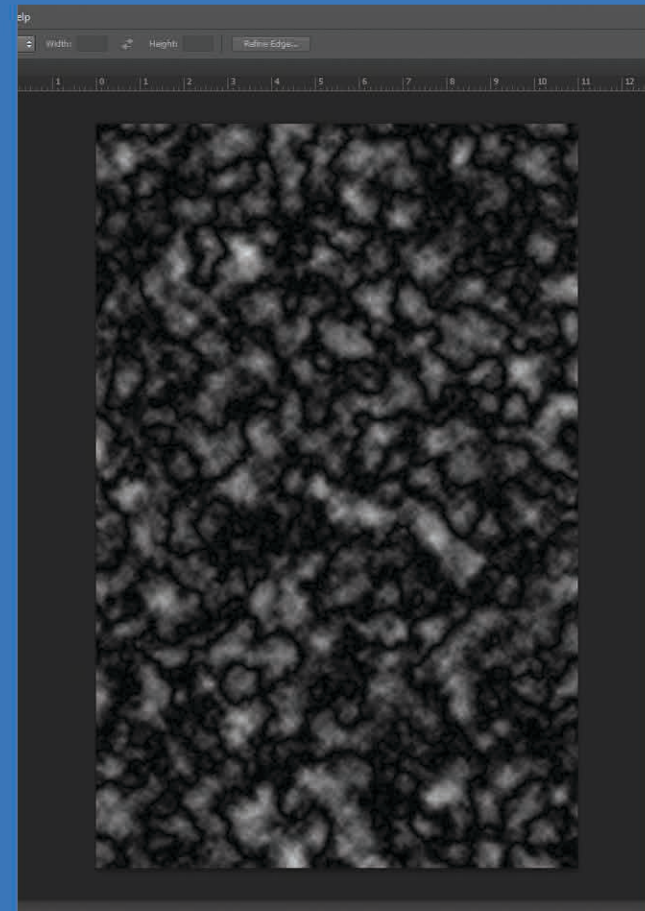
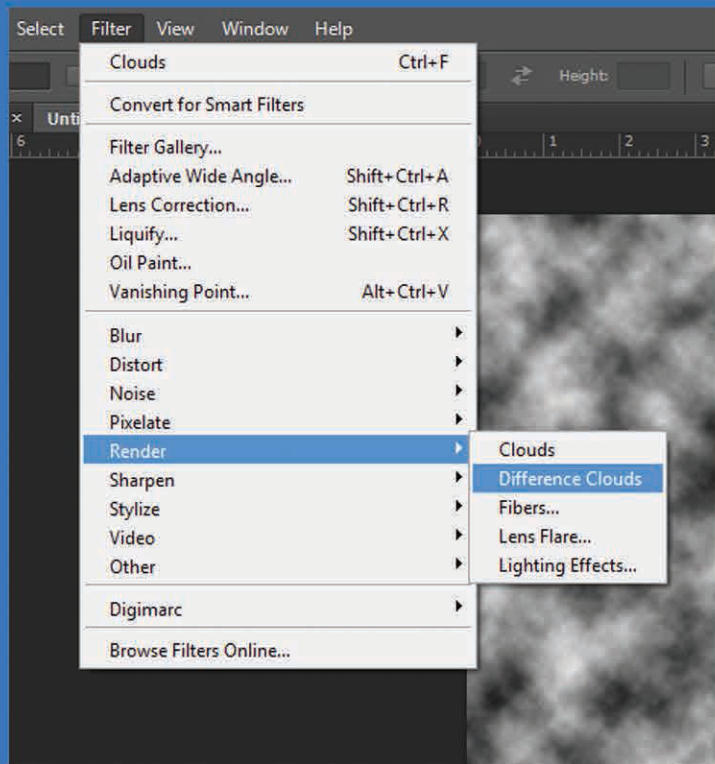


**3.** Next, go to Filter>Render>Clouds. You'll see something like the result on the right. I used to think that this step was all that Adobe had us stop at when I was first getting into Photoshop. They make pretty horrendous looking clouds and textures, to say the least, but we're not done yet.

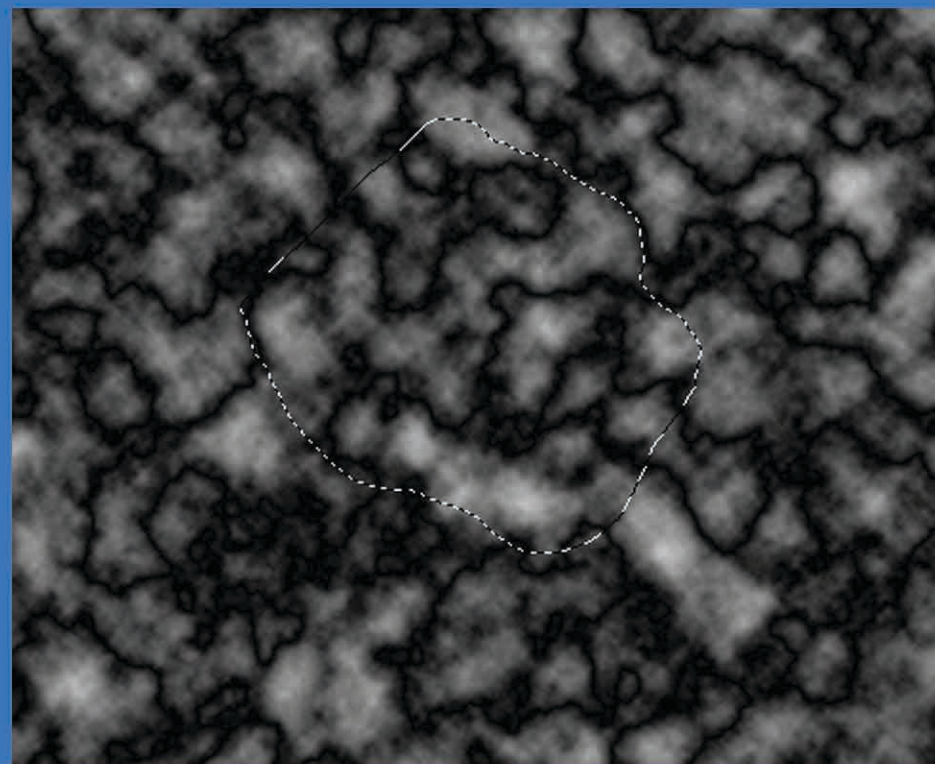
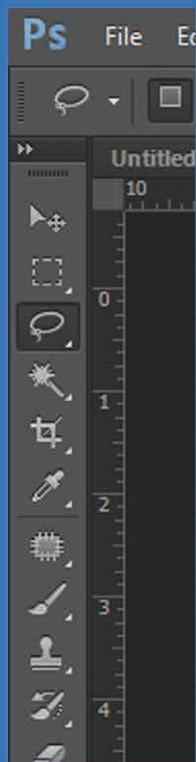




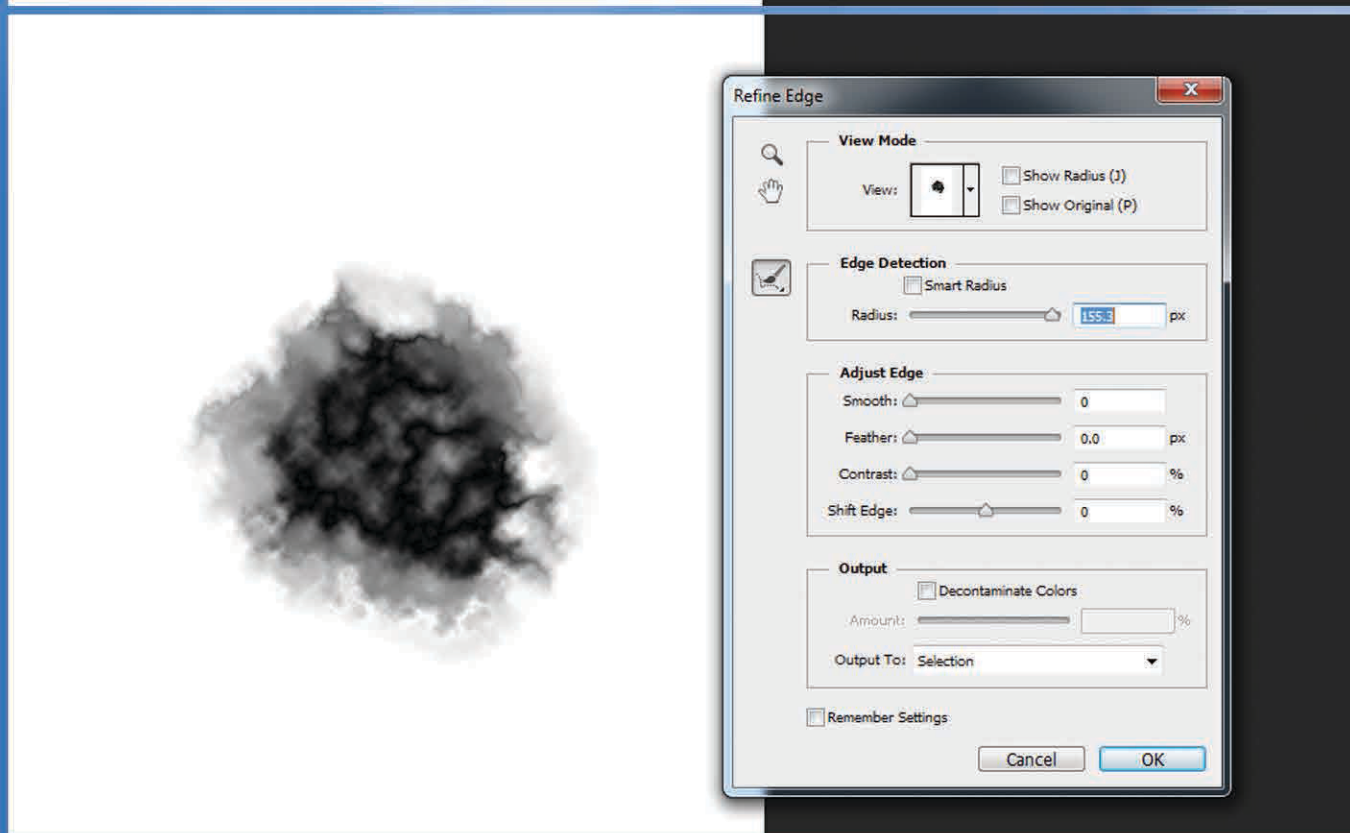
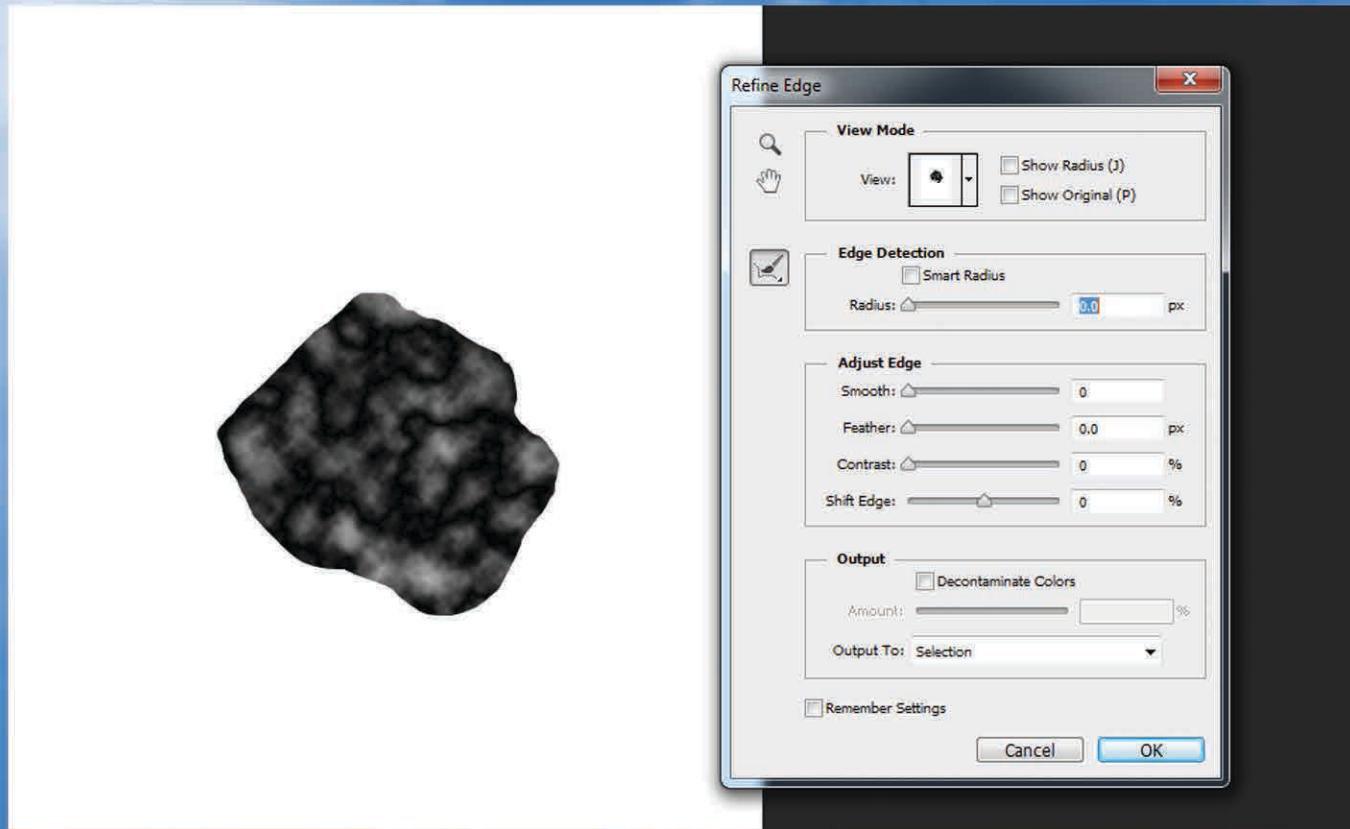
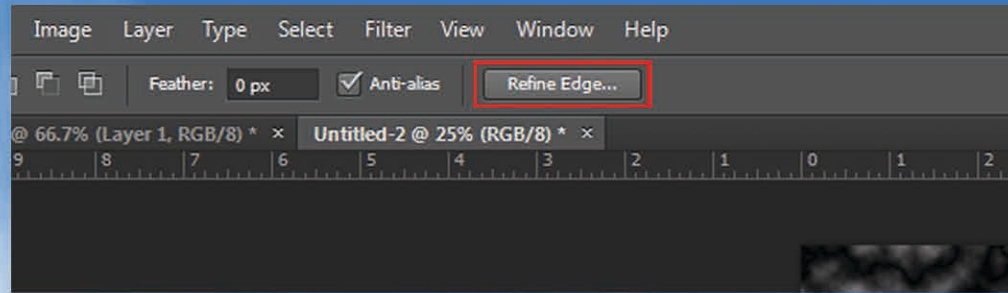
**4.** Go back to Filter>Render, but this time pick “Difference Clouds.” This will give us line textures that look great for clouds and cloud formation. You should see something like this:



**5.** Pick your Lasso Selection Tool and then draw a “puffy” shape (kind of a small cloud) with it around an area. I chose this one because it had a nice balance of dark and light tones.



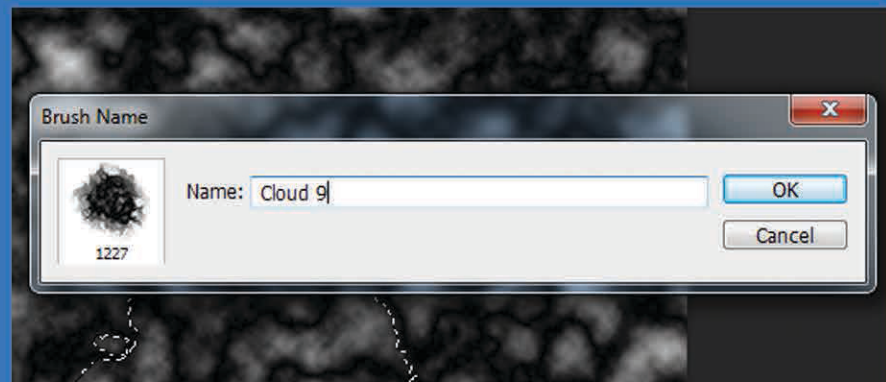
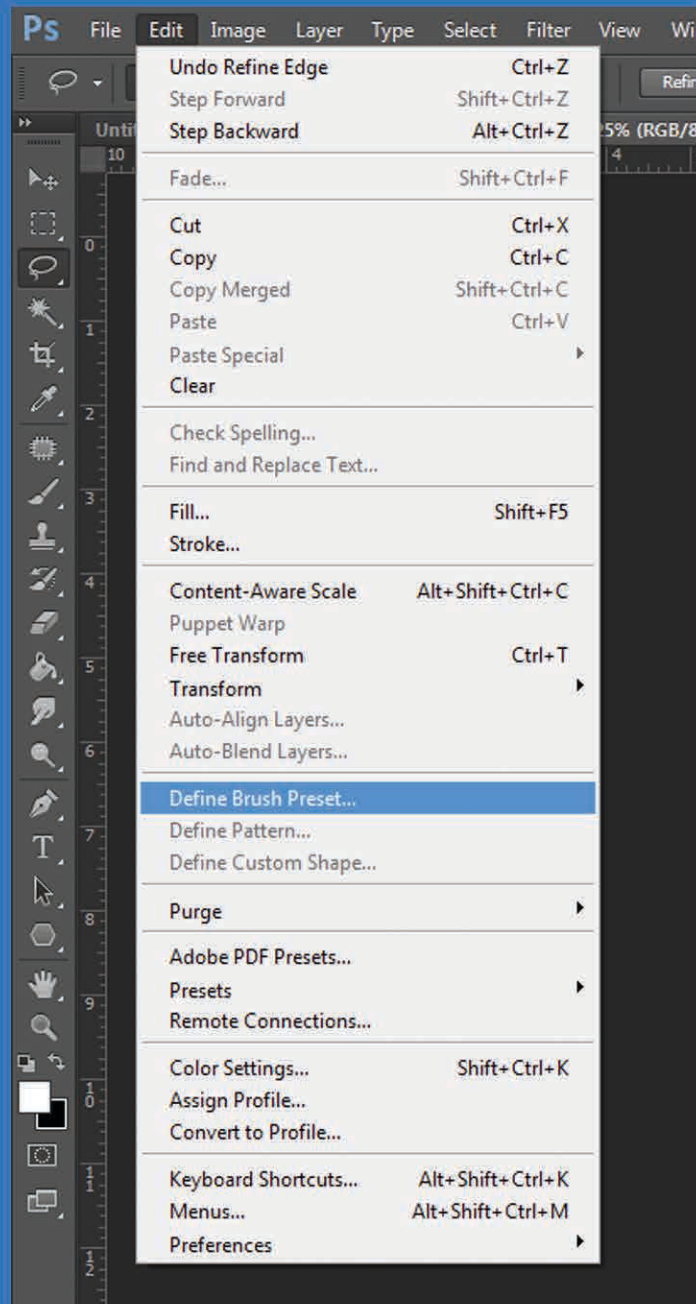
6. While you have the lasso tool open, there is an option box on the top called "Refine Edge." Click on it and you'll get a bunch of options that change how your selection behaves. All we are going to do here is change "Edge Detection." This will give us softer, but defined edges. I picked a higher radius since I have a higher resolution document with a big selection.



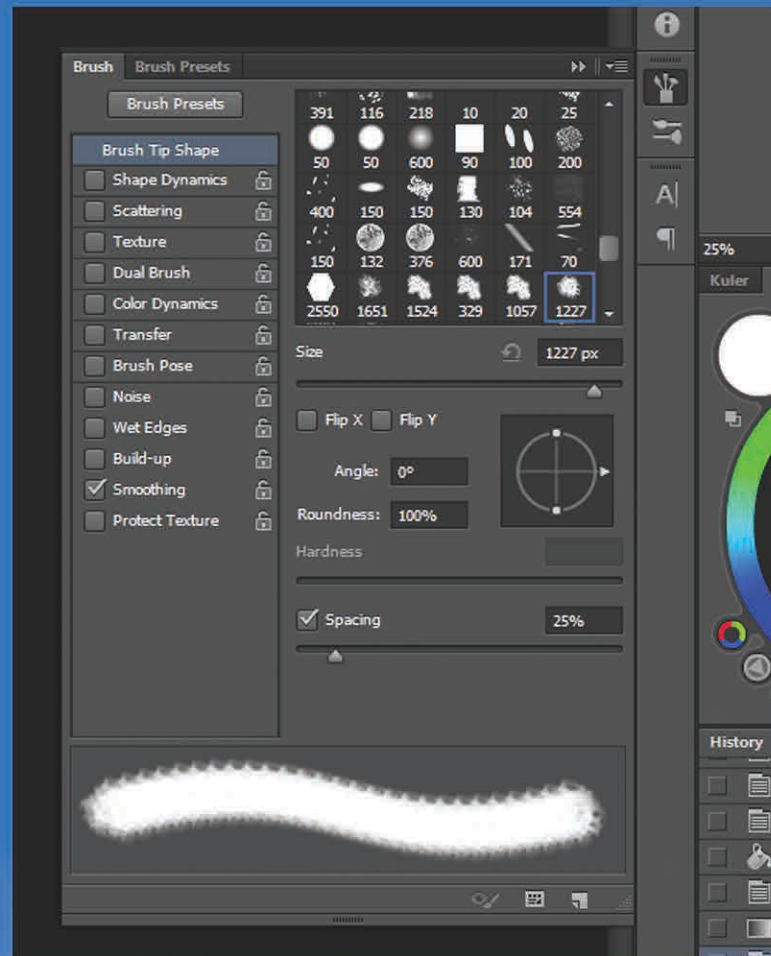
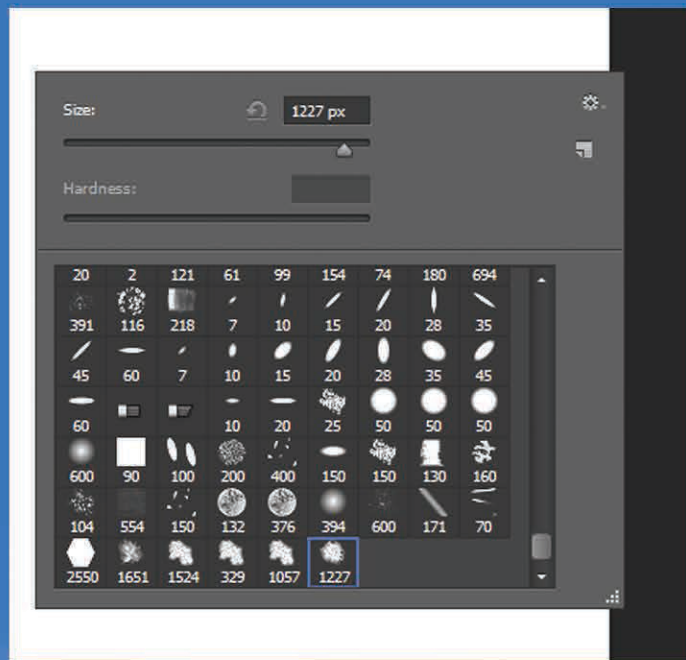


Those of you with CS4 and below, you will not find Edge Detection. You can play with the feather and contrast options in the refine edge options, and with some effort on your part, you can still make the clouds appear decent. Edge detection happens to be the easiest to work with.

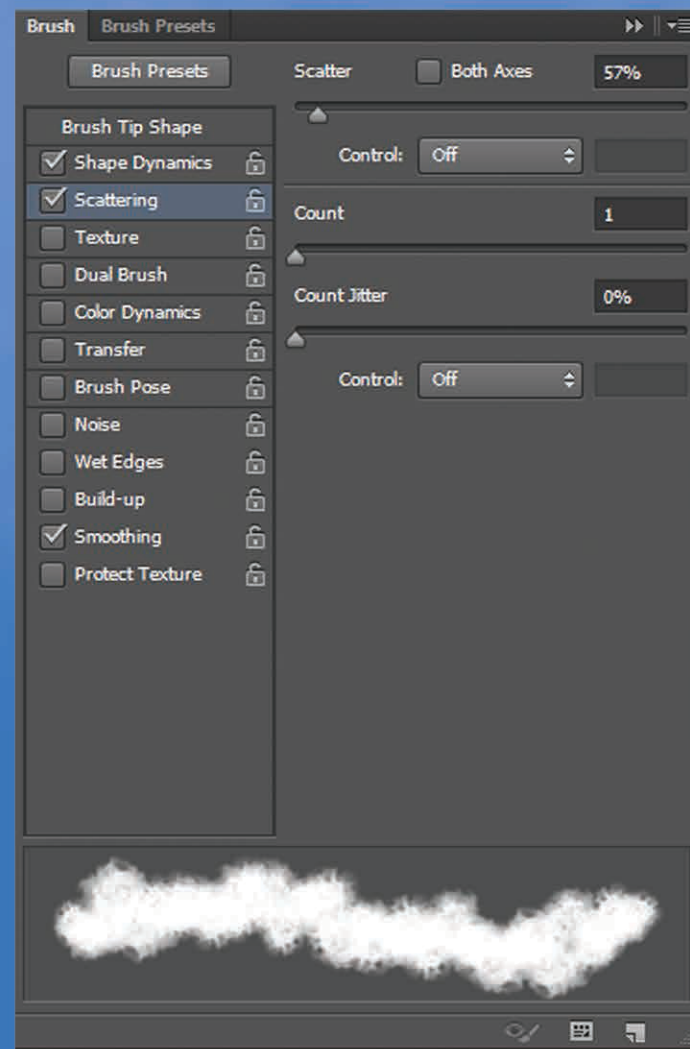
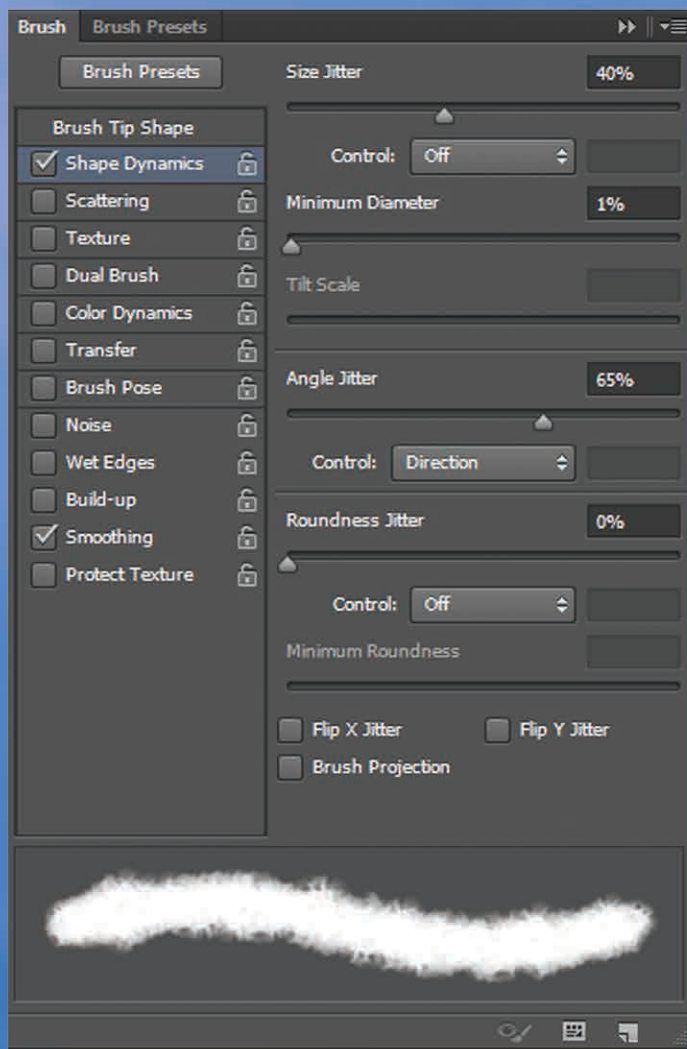
**7.** Once you are done with the selection, select OK. Go to Edit>Define Brush. It will pop up with a name box and once you are done naming it, hit OK. Voila! You have a cloud brush! But we're not finished quite yet.



**8.** Select your brush that you've created (it will be at the bottom of your brushes). Once you have it selected, go to your brush window. It should be on the right side of your screen, but if it's not, go to Window>Brush. We will make several changes.

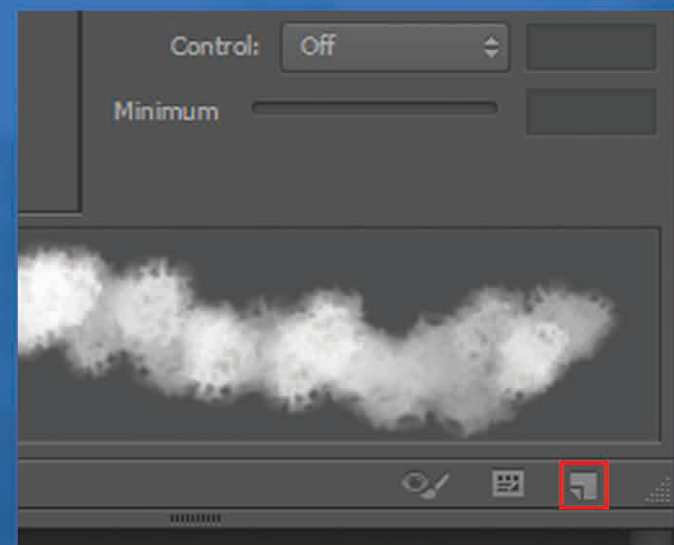
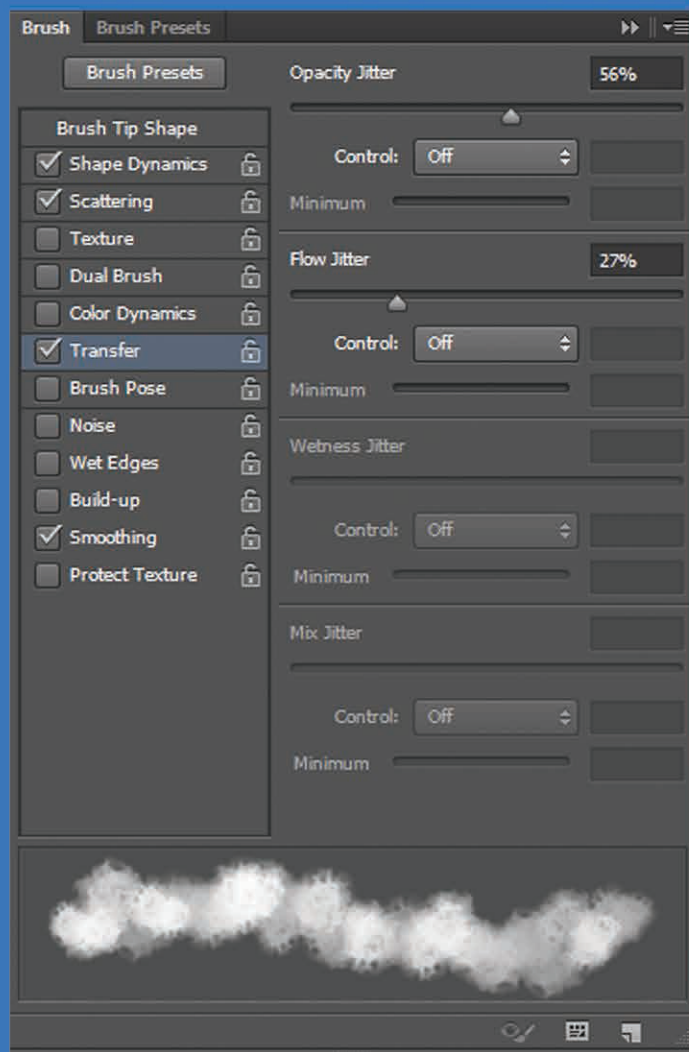


9. Go to Shape Dynamics. Change the size jitter and angle jitter to somewhere around 50%. For this brush, I chose 40% for size and 65% for angle. Go to Scattering. Change the scatter to about 50% as well. Don't go too far with scatter. We want our clouds to stay manageable so that we can paint with them.

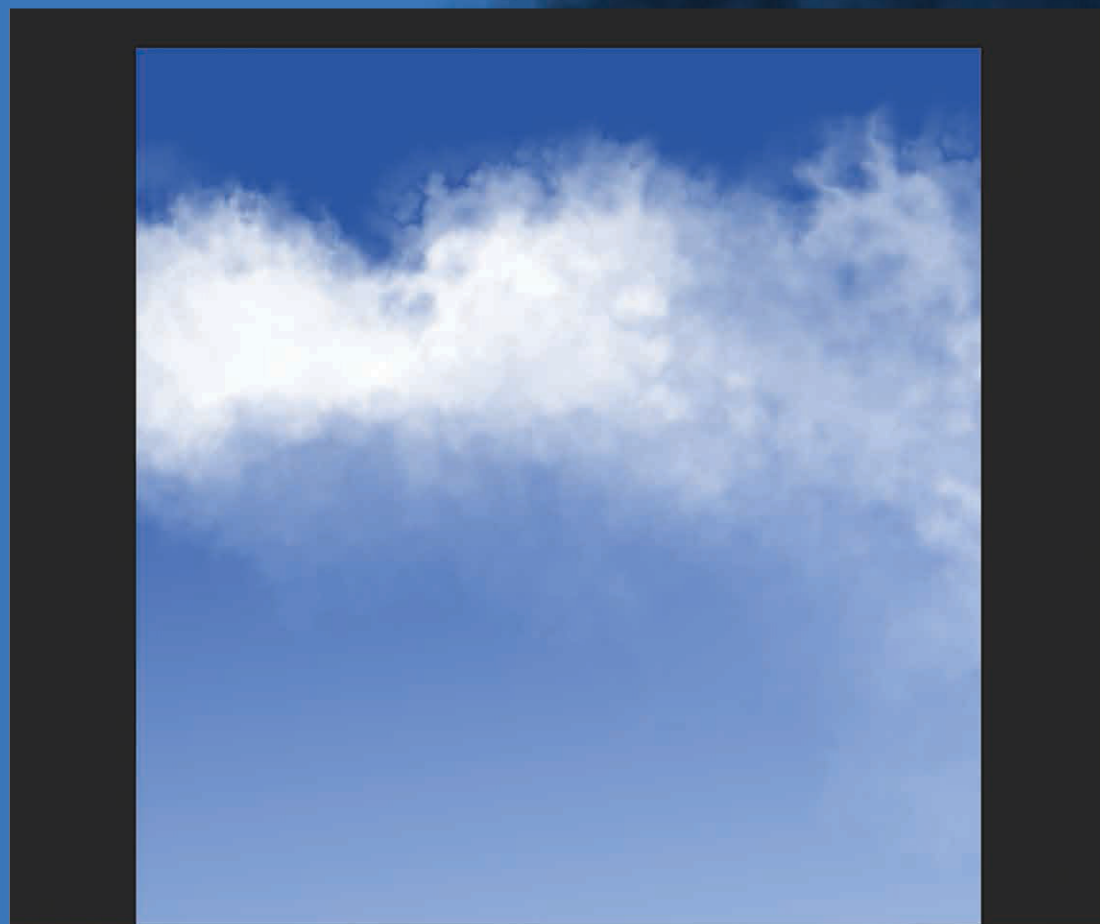
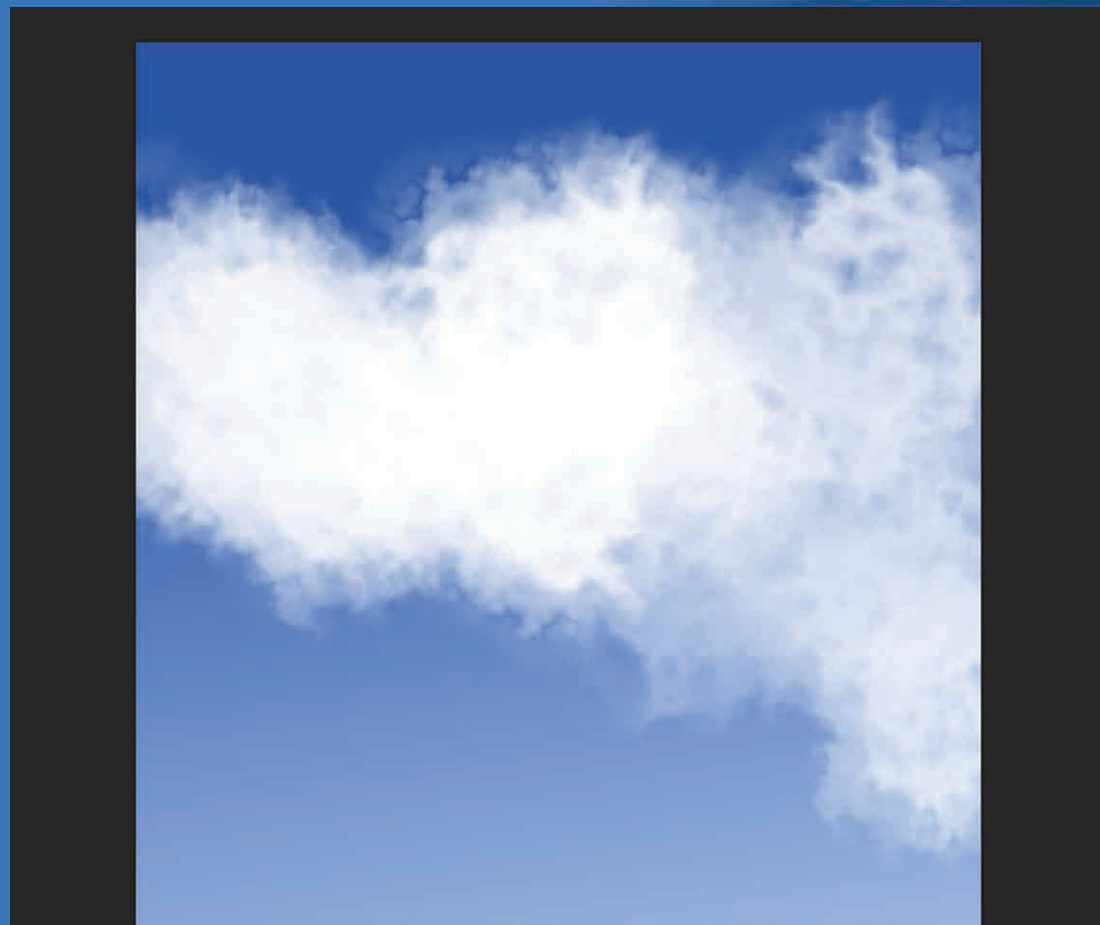




**10.** Lastly, go to Transfer and change the Opacity and Flow jitters. I use around 55-65% for Opacity and about 20-30% for Flow. Then, at the bottom of the Brush window, press the “Create New Brush” button and save it.



**11.** Now you're ready to paint! The way to make clouds that are fairly convincing is to use the cloud brush as both a paint brush and an eraser. I would recommend setting your eraser opacity around 40 to 80 percent, depending on how much detail in your clouds you would like to make.



**These brushes can be used in a variety of ways, but they're very simple to create. Make sure to try different settings for your brush and find new ways to make them better for your painting or edit. The brush options are very powerful. Thanks for checking out my tutorial!**





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