CREATING CUSTOM BRUSHES IN PHOTOSHOP

1 In Photoshop create a new document. The size of the document depends on whether the custom brush is used as close up work or detail in the background that isn't the main focus.
   If it is detail close up stuff then you will need to create a New document at around 2000pixels x 2000pixels @ 300dpi.
   If it's unimportant detail in the background then 100pixels x 100pixels @ 72dpi is fine.

2 Once you have a New document draw your shape in B&W or import an image. It is important to have a good variety of tone (light & dark).

Illustration of a leaf

Photograph of a rock in Grayscale

Below are two examples of custom brushes I created, along with Image Size settings.

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3   When you are happy with the concept of the brush it's time to test it out.
Select Edit/Define Brush Preset and give your brush a name.
This will store the image into you Brush Palette.

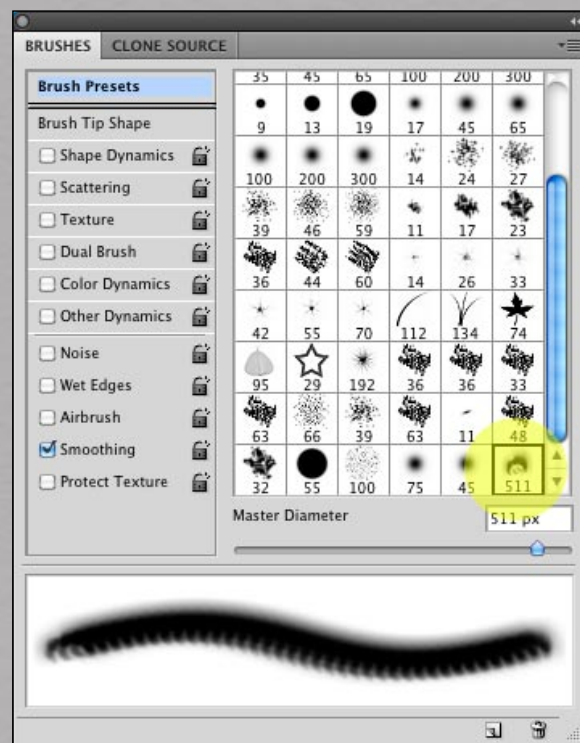Ensure you have the Brush Tool selected before commencing onto the next step.
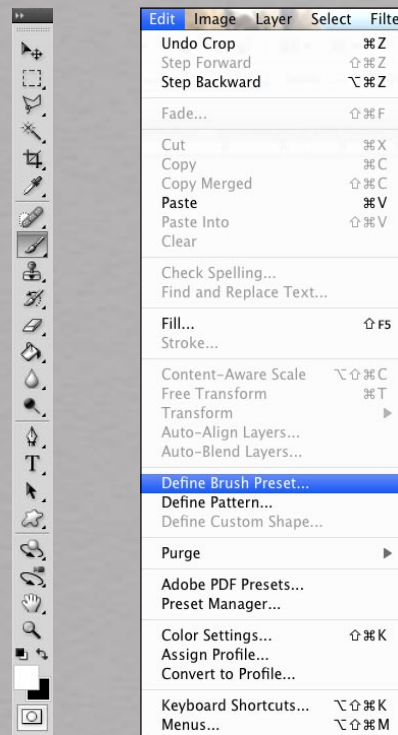
4   Open the brush palette by selecting the brush palette icon on the toolbar or Window/Brushes or F5.

Your newly created brush will appear in the Brush Palette.

My cloud brush is highlighted.

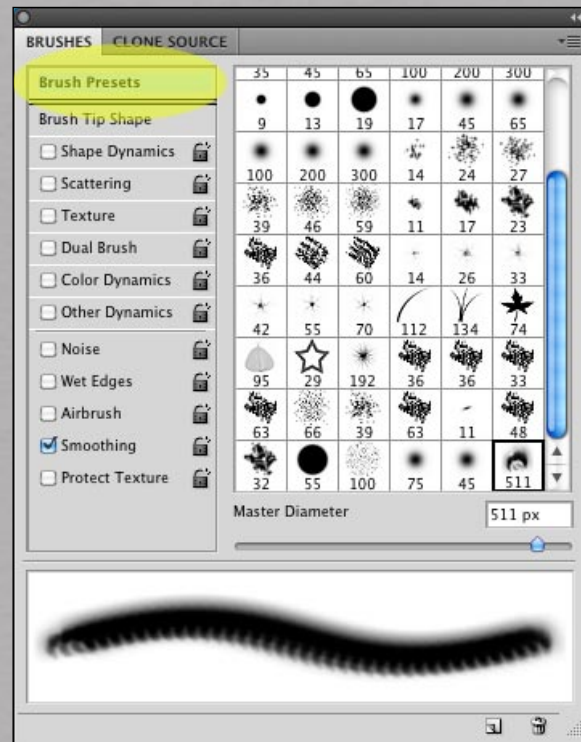You'll notice the only Brush Preset selected is Smoothing.

Brush Presets button will present you with the brushes you have in your brush palette.

The rest of the tick boxes will present you with a variety of settings, which will provide you with amazing possibilities.

5 Adjust the Presets to gain different results on you brush stroke.
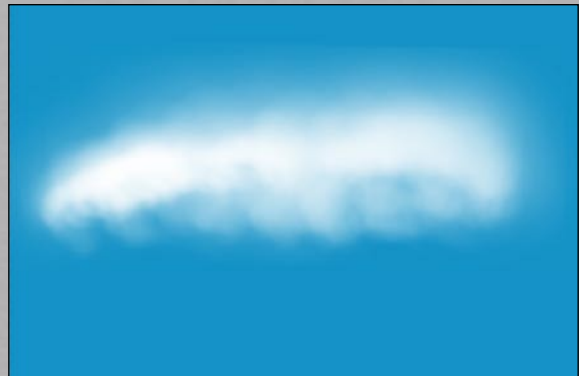My suggestion here would be to have a play with each setting.
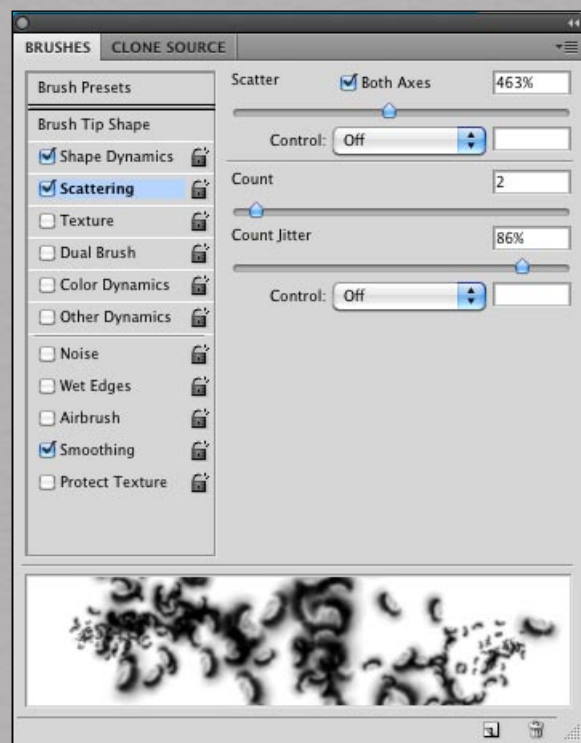
When you have finished playing with the presets close the Brush Palette and start painting.

Below is an example of where I used my very own custom brushes.

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