Easy Ombre Paper

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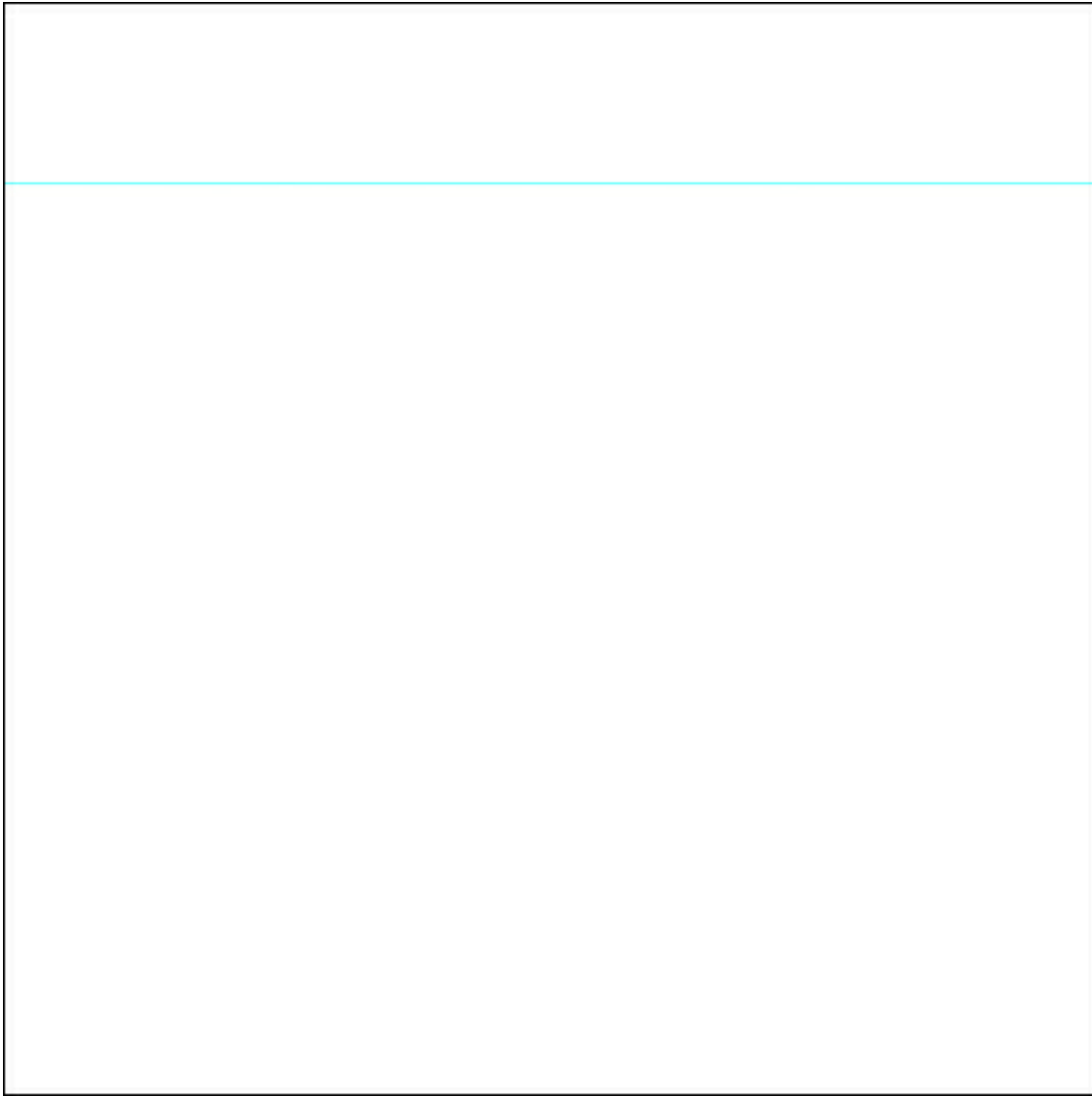
by Jenifer Juris

Create a custom ombre background using the multiply blend mode.

Step One: Create a New Document

- Create a new 12×12 inch document (File > New > Blank File) at 300 pixels per inch with a white background. (Photoshop: Choose File > New.)
- Press the letter D to reset the Color Chips.
- Get the Move tool.
- In the Tool Options, make sure Auto Select Layer and Show Bounding Box are unchecked. (Photoshop: Make sure Show Transform Controls is unchecked.)
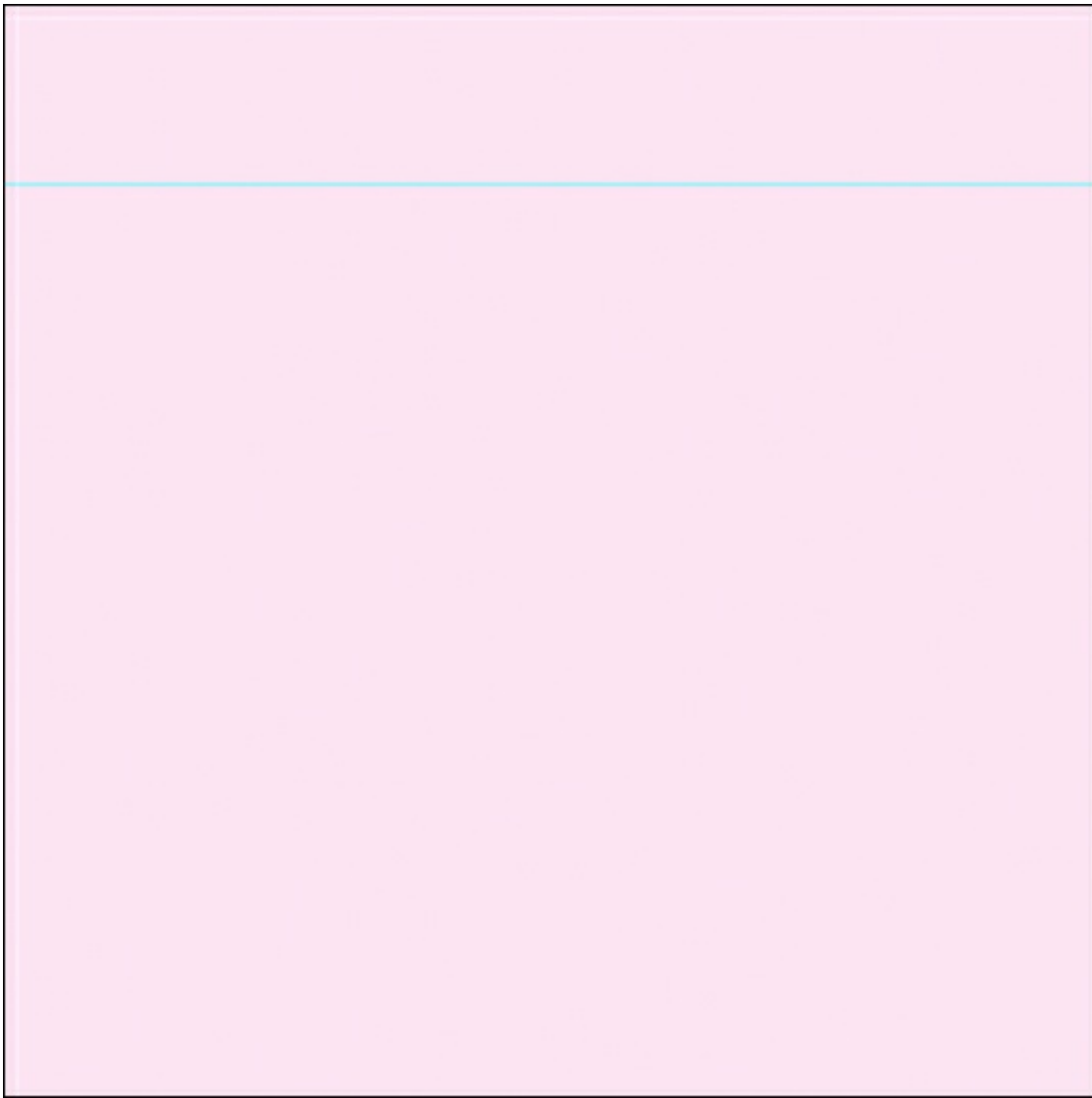
Step Two: Create the Guide

- In the Menu Bar, choose View > New Guide.
- In the dialog box, set the Orientation to Horizontal and the Position to 2 inches. Click OK.
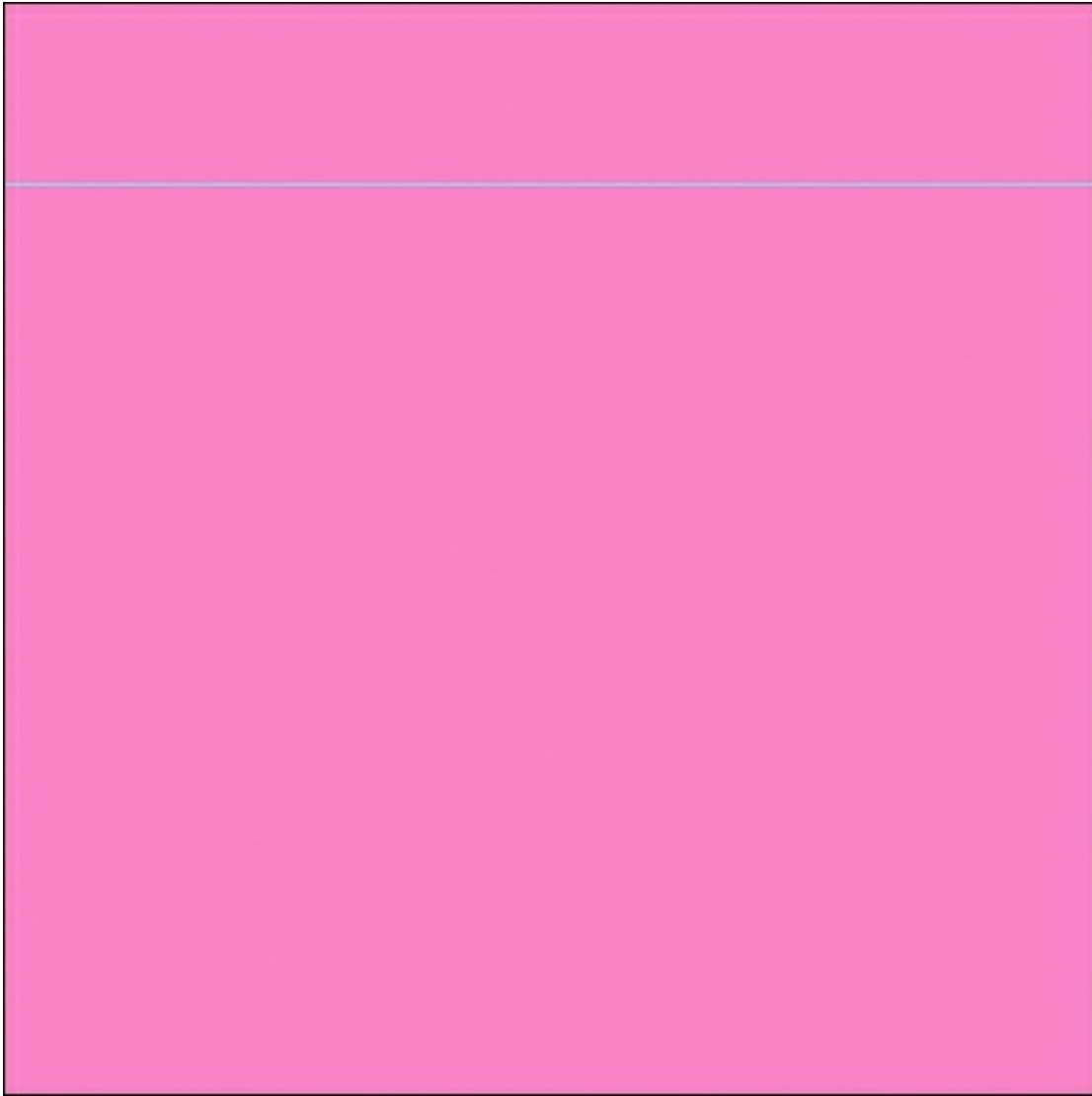
Step Three: Create the First Layer

- In the Layers panel, click on the Create a New Layer icon.

- Click on the Foreground Color Chip to open the Color Picker.

- In the dialog box, choose a light pastel [color] pink and click OK. I'm using a light pastel pink (Hex #ffe4f5).

- Press Alt Backspace (Mac: Opt Delete) to fill the layer with the Foreground Color Chip.
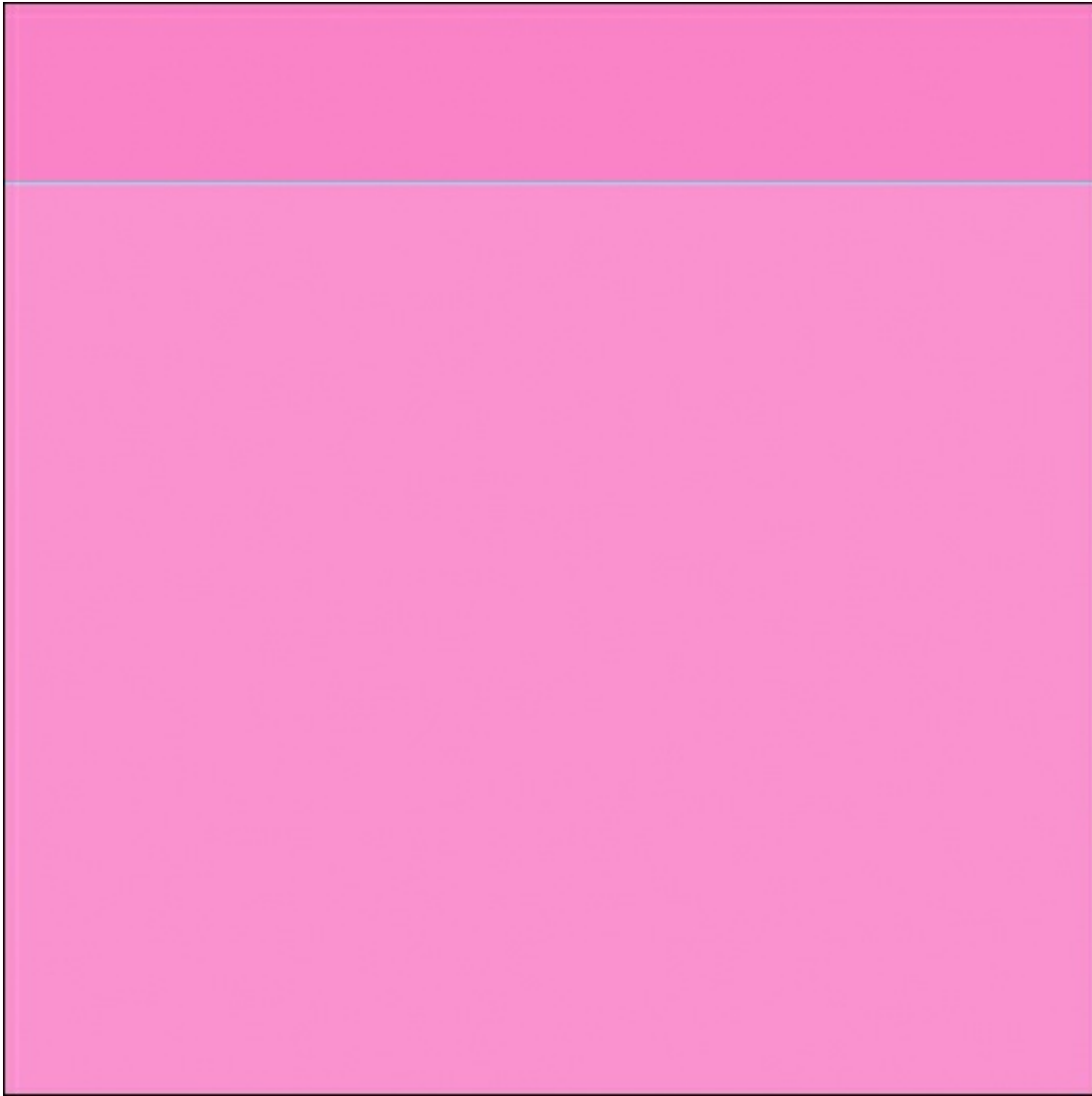
Step Four: Duplicate the Layer

- In the Layer panel, change the Blend Mode of the colored layer to Multiply.
- Press Ctrl J (Mac: Cmd J) five times to create five duplicates of the colored layer.
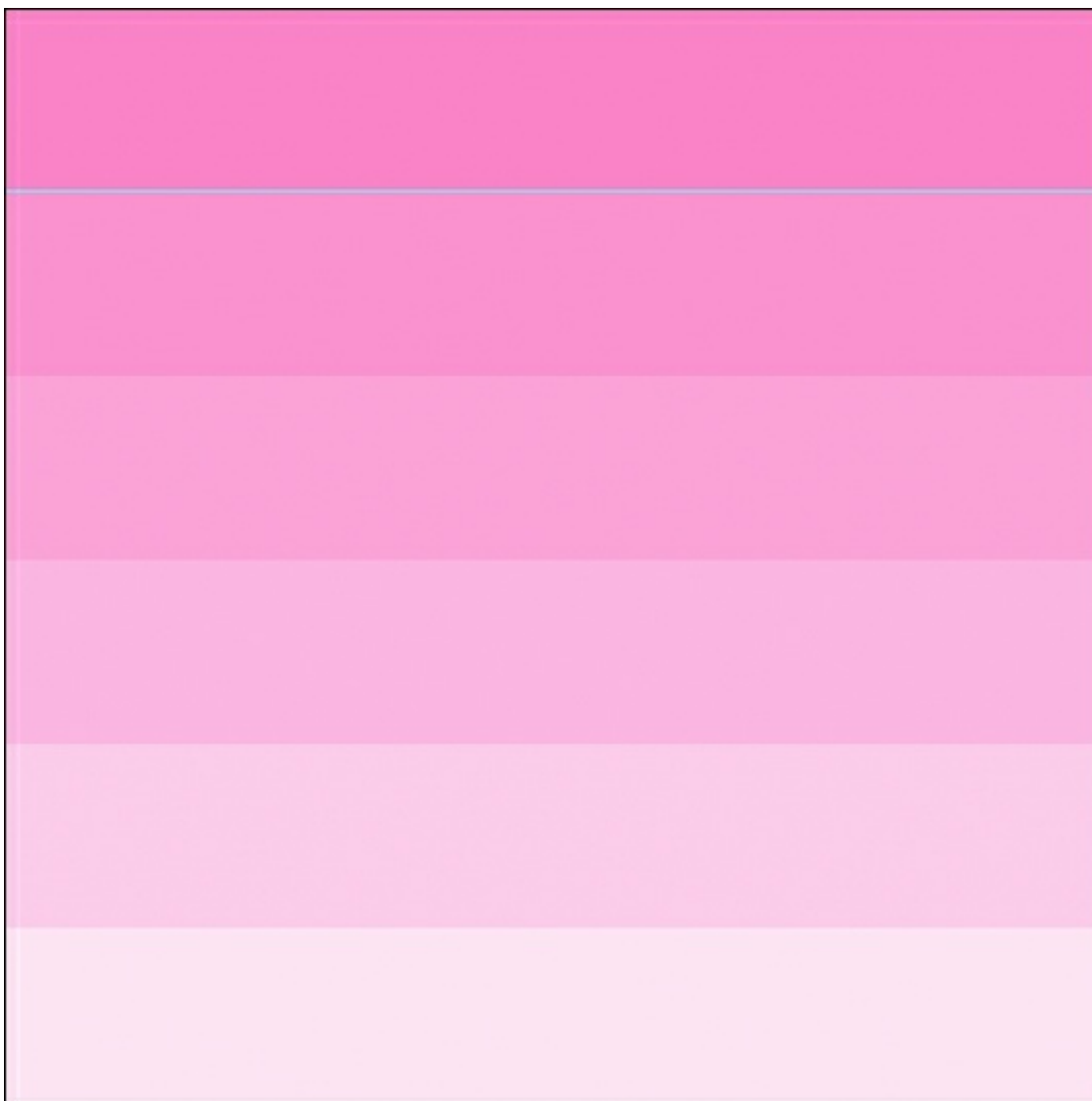
Step Five: Position the Layers

- In the Layers panel, make sure the top layer is the active layer.
- On the document, hold down the Shift key and click and drag the top layer up until the bottom edge lines up with the guide.

- In the Layers panel, hold down the Shift key and click on the bottom colored layer. All the colored layers should now be active. The Background layer should not be active.

- In the Tool Options, click on the Distribute Center icon to distribute the vertical centers. (Photoshop: Click on the Distribute Vertical Centers icon.)

Step Six: Finish Up

- In the Menu Bar, choose View > Clear Guides.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Flatten Image.
- Save the image (File > Save As) as a JPG file.

You now have a nice background that can be used in numerous ways. Here are a few ideas to consider:

- Add a white textured paper (Blend Mode set to Multiply) over the ombre paper to add realism.
- Use the ombre paper as a background for a scrapbook page.
- Clip the ombre paper to a large type layer to create a unique title.

The options are endless! Have fun and enjoy creating various colored backgrounds using this technique. Just remember to start off with a very light color as the Multiply Blend Mode intensifies the color with each duplicated layer. Here's how I used my ombre paper in a scrapbook page:

Credits:
Page & Photo: Jenifer Juris
Tutorial: Easy Ombre Paper by Jenifer Juris
Kit: Congratulations by Kristin Cronin-Barrow
Extras: Pink Flowers from Live, Laugh, Love by Studio Flergs, Gold Glitter Paper from Attitude of Gratitude by Jady Day Studios, Cardstock Blank Canvas by Susie Roberts
Fonts: Bonjour, Monopoly

**After posting your results online,
return here and include the link in the comments.**

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