

Introduction

A search box is something that virtually every website should have, and it's quite an easy graphical element to create. We're going to make a simple minimal search box that can be adjusted to fit different types of menus or sidebars.

Designing the search box

- Select the round rectangle tool.
- Set the radius to about 5 pixels.
- Choose the white color.
- Deselect the edges with `Ctrl+Shift+H` if it's needed.

Now we are going to add a light grey stroke. I suggest you take a look at what greys good-looking websites use - you can easily copy them by using the color picker tool on a print screen.

- Go to the fx panel.
- Set the size to 1 pixel.
- Make the stroke to be outside.

Next add the slightest white to grey gradient, just to give the box a bit of an edge.

- Go to Layer Style > Gradient Overlay.
- Select Inner Shadow.
- Set 2 pixels distance.
- Set 4 pixels size.
- Set 20% opacity.
- Choose one side of a gradient to be white while the other one to be very light grey.

Let's move on to the text aspect. Our search box will be something similar to Google - suggestions will appear as you type.

- Write a name inside the search box (Arial, 14px), and set the color to a fairly light grey (`#555`).
- Select the first couple of letters, make them bold and change the color to black.
- Go to iconfinder.com, and look for a loading icon. Drag it into Photoshop, and if needed, press `Ctrl+T` to resize (hold `Shift` to maintain proportions or use `Alt+Shift` to resize the object from all parts).
- Get the round rectangle tool and draw something the same width as the field above, but taller.
- Type in a couple of names that resemble the one up top (you may use `Alt+Shift` and drag to duplicate the layer).



- For the shape you made, change the shape color to white and add a subtle grey stroke and a drop shadow.
- Select the line tool, and drag from one side to the other. If needed, double-click the line to adjust the color. □

Copy layer styles

Another great thing is that you can right click the field, select Copy Layer Styles, create a more rounded shape, right-click that and select Paste Layer Style. This way you don't have to go through the process each time.