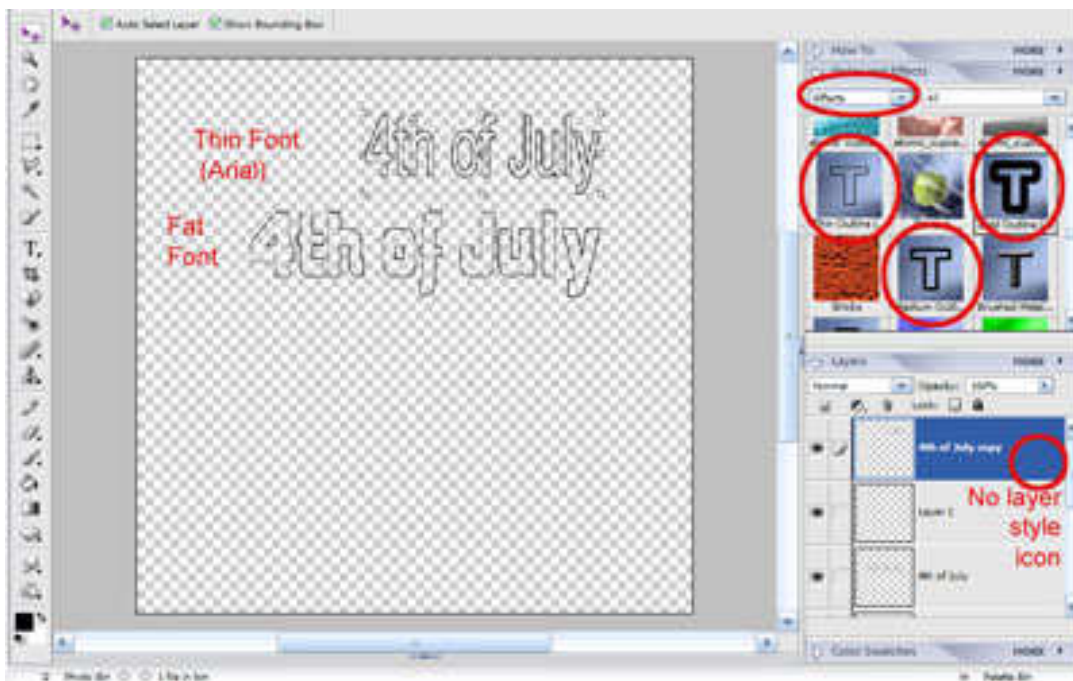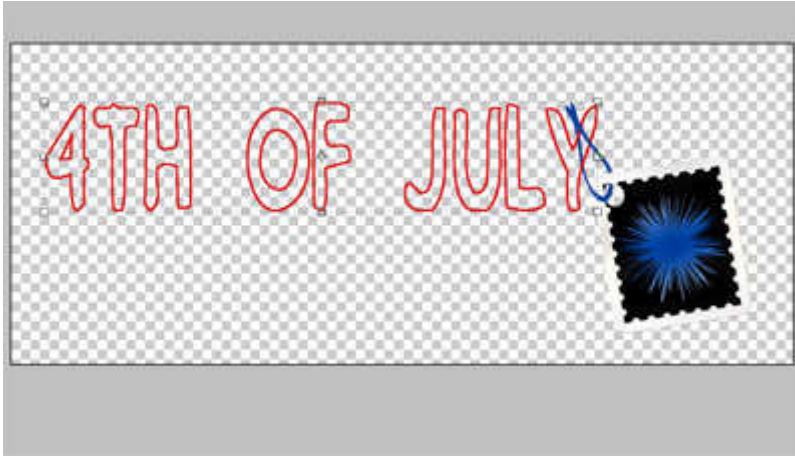# Outline Text Tutorial
By Hummie

Making an outline of any font is easy in Photoshop Elements.

Type your text. Choose Effects in the drop down menu (and in addition, choose the submenu of text effects in the next drop down menu). You will find three effects for outline text: Bold, Medium, and Thin.

Note that when the filter is applied, there is no layer style icon on the layer in the layer's palette. This is because a filter has been applied, not a layer style, similar to when filters are applied in the Filter drop down menu. Filters are permanent and the text cannot be edited once they are applied. Therefore, it is suggested that a copy of the text layer be made before applying the filter to preserve a backup.

Test the filter with different types of fonts. Thin fonts, such as Arial, produce a smaller transparent area within the outline. Fat fonts produce a larger transparent area within the outline.
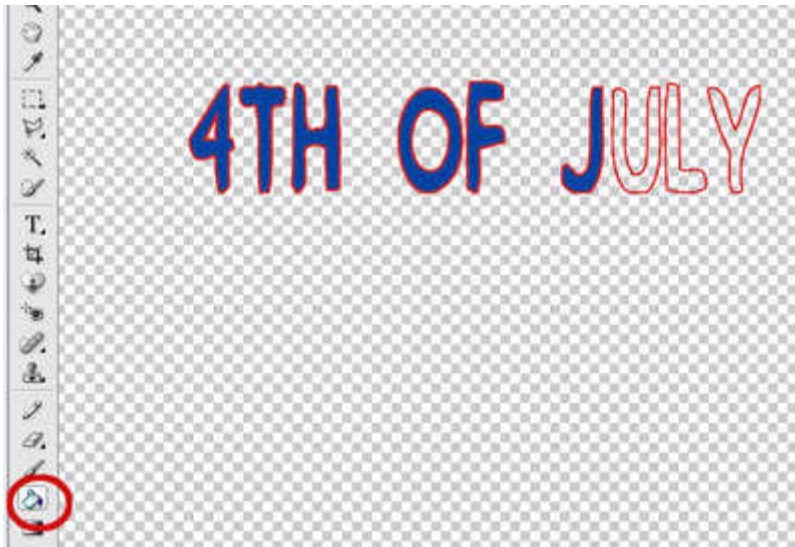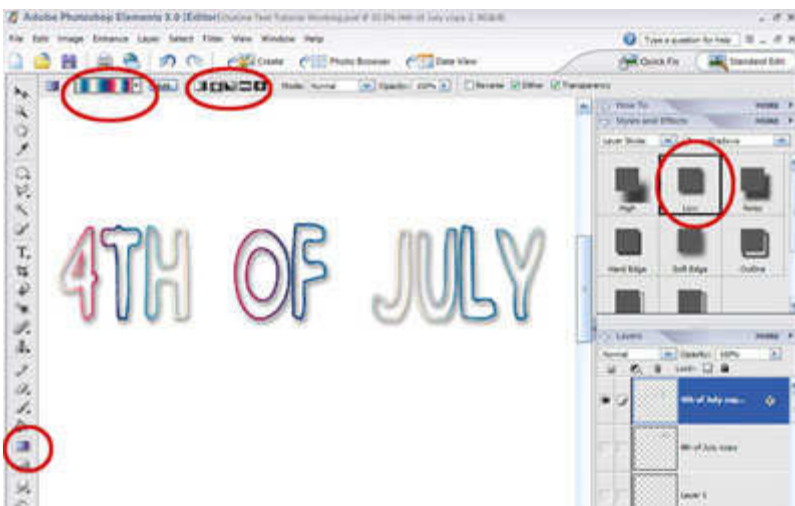
This outlined text leads to many other possibilities. Just use your imagination!

Remember that it is transparent and any background will show through it.

I have made a quick stamp and hung it from the outline.

Use the paintbucket to fill in the transparent areas of the text with different colors.
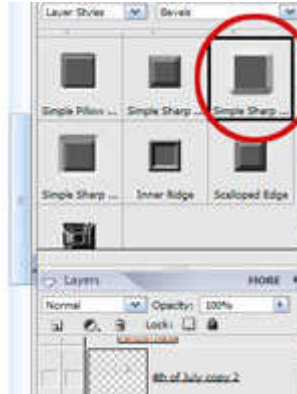
Apply a gradient to the text. Hold down the control key and click on the layer in the layer's palette to obtain a selection of the text. See marching ants?

Activate the gradient tool. Double click to edit the gradient tool and navigate to the red, white, and blue gradient (or whatever to fit your purpose. Experiment with the types of gradients. I used radial. Draw across the selection with the mouse to apply the gradient. Add a drop shadow; it looks cool!

Play with the bevel layer styles. Each one creates a unique text.

Apply other layer styles, such as metal or plastic.

Place a paper on the layer above the text and group the two layers together using Control + G. Note the arrow that groups the two layers. Move the text layer around until it hits the right spots on the papers to look appropriate.