How to...
CREATE A NEON OUTLINE ON TEXT

This technique adds a neon-like border to text (or any other white object).

STEP 1: Preliminaries

A: Click on the Background Color icon in the Toolbox and pick a bright, vibrant color in the Color Picker. This color will be used for the neon. Click OK.

B: Click on the Foreground Color icon in the Toolbox and pick a contrasting color (we used white, but black will also yield an interesting result). Click OK.
STEP 2: Adding the Text Layer

A: Pull down the Layers palette pulldown menu to New Layer. In the dialog box that follows, give the new layer an appropriate name, and make sure that the opacity is set to 100% and the mode to Normal. Click OK.

B: Fill this layer with the bright foreground color you previously chose by pulling the Edit menu down to Fill. In the dialog box that follows, select Background color for the Contents, 100% for the Opacity and Normal for the mode. Click OK. The window should be filled with your bright color.

STEP 3: Adding the Text

A: Choose the Text tool in the Toolbox. Click in the center of the document’s window. In the dialog box that follows, set your type. Click OK.

B: Since the text is now selected, you can move it about the window to place it where you want.

C: The text is now on its own new layer. To move it to the Text layer that you previously created, pull down the layers palette pulldown menu to Merge Down.

D: To give a glowing effect to the text, pull down the Filter menu to Blur, and select Gaussian Blur on the Blur submenu. In the dialog box that follows, use a moderate setting (we used 5 pixels). Click OK.
STEP 4: Making the Outline

Pull down the Image menu to Adjust and select Curves on the Adjust submenu. In the dialog box that follows, adjust the curve so that it looks like a “U” (by clicking and dragging the center of the line to the bottom and clicking and dragging the left endpoint to the top). Click OK.