

Photoshop Skillswap

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Batch actions

1. Preparation

1. Create your destination folder
Open a new file in Photoshop - 16bit, CMYK with a new layer! These options allow the action to cope with most eventualities.
2. Set rulers to % if you want to use any tools that are position specific they will stillwork. This is useful if you want to add text as part of your action.

Batch Actions

2. Record a New Action

1. Flatten Image.
2. Image>Mode 8bit.
3. Image>Mode RGB.
4. Automate>Fit Image.
5. Image>Auto Colour.
6. Edit Fade 60%.
7. Save for web - use your destination folder but do NOT change the file name.
8. Close without saving.

Batch Actions

3. Make a Droplet

1. Create a droplet - File>Automate>Create Droplet.
2. Choose name and 'Save droplet in' Photoshop/droplets.
3. Play set and action.
4. Suppress color profile warnings.
5. Destination: None.
6. Log errors to file.
7. Drag droplet to finder window and use as required.

Batch Actions

3. When not to use Droplet

1. Select the images in Photoshop's File Browser. This allows renaming (built in functions only work with Save As) and, more usefully allows individual file rotations to be set.
2. Use File>Automate>Batch and then Select from File browser.
3. Make tea.

Adjustment layers

1. The Basics

1. Add adjustment layer on layer palette. Adjust as required.
2. You can re-adjust the layer without losing information.
3. Non lossy so adjustment is editable.
4. Adjustment layers can apply to layer groups.
5. Mask off using whatever method is best and make adjustments based on localised problem area.
6. Don't flatten!

Adjustment Layers

2. Black and White Conversions

1. Convert to greyscale with colour control.
2. Open colour image - convert to RGB.
3. Add hue and saturation adjustment layer - click OK.
4. Change the blending mode to color.
5. Add second H&S AL and reduce the saturation to -100.
6. Return to the original AL and now adjust the Hue slider.

Masking

1. So many Options

1. Paint in quick mask mode - try selecting all, fill with 100% colour then paint in 'white' over the required areas.
2. Use the mask that is automatically created when adding an adjustment layer.
3. Use paths to describe a vector area.
4. Select a channel to modify and use as a mask
5. Layer blending - not bad on its own, better as the start of a mask.

Masking

2. from Vector shapes

1. Create shape - either from the vector tool or draw a path.
2. On the paths palette click "load path as a selection".
3. On the layers palette click "add vector mask".

Masking

2. Use a channel mask.

1. Select which channel gives the best separation for the area you want.

Duplicate this channel.

2. Use levels (not on an adjustment layer!) to 'block up' the new channel.

Aim to have the bit you want as one single shade from either - white, black or mid grey - doesn't matter which. If mid grey you will need to use Select>Color Range otherwise hit 'Load Channel as a Selection' on the bottom of the Channel Palette.

3. Combine with other tools such as paths to create final mask.

Masking

3. Quick and Easy with Layer Style.

1. Add background image as a layer in subject image - with subject higher up the layer palette.
2. Double click on subject layer.
3. Move blending 'arrows'. Separate them with 'alt'. This may cause some unwanted areas to fade out - don't worry.
4. Duplicate layer.
5. Create new, blank layer above that.
6. Press option (PC option) and click the layer thumbnail. You now have a selection that matches the above process.
7. Select original layer and apply layer mask.
8. Edit mask as required

Tips

1. File and rotate

1. Info and file rotate - for an image that is not quite vertical - select the measure tool. Measure a line against an object that should be vertical. - Go to Image>Rotate>arbitrary.

2.Text onto object

1. Can be a bit rough and ready, but this offers a way of demonstrating how a logo might look on an object.
2. Open image, convert to greyscale and increase contrast. Save COPY as psd file. Revert to original.
3. Add text. Rasterise text layer.
4. File>Distort>Displace. Be bold with the numbers. 50% & -50 in this case!
5. Select greyscale psd you created earlier.
6. Fade opacity a little.