

Photoshop Techniques to Try for the Themed Competition "Opposites"



Document for Photoshop Elements Owners

The Northern Virginia Photographic Society



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Introduction

This document was created to support the workshop "The Yin & Yang of Photoshop". The second part of this workshop shows examples of techniques you might use in the themed competition "Opposites". These creative techniques may also help you learn more about Photoshop.

Theme Definition

The following is the definition of the theme established by the competition committee for the theme "Opposites".

Opposites: the image must present an opposite combination such as large/small, old/young, straight/crooked, round/square, animal/vegetable, dark/light, sharp/blunt, etc. etc. (Members Choice Theme)

Competition Date: Nov 17th, 2009

Image capture must have occurred after Nov 16th, 2007 to be eligible for competition.

Techniques Demonstrated

Photoshop has tools to help us create opposites for digital competition and enhanced prints.

Layer Masks

You can use layer masks to blend together images that are opposites in to one image. You can use one image along with and inverted copy or you can use two different images.

Reverse Colors Technique

Use the selection tool to select specific areas and change their color

Invert Image

This allows you to create an exact opposite of your image This works particularly nicely with black and white images, but can also be used with color images.

Duplicate Layer

You can duplicate an image layer and flip it to be a mirror image of the original image.

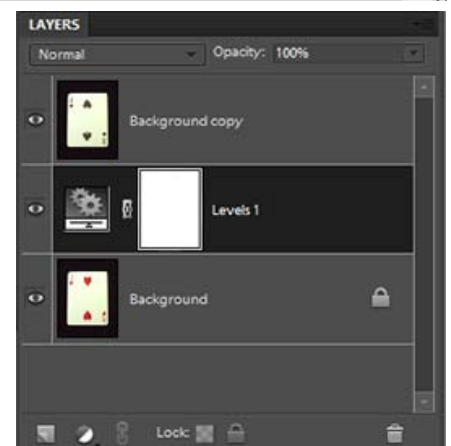
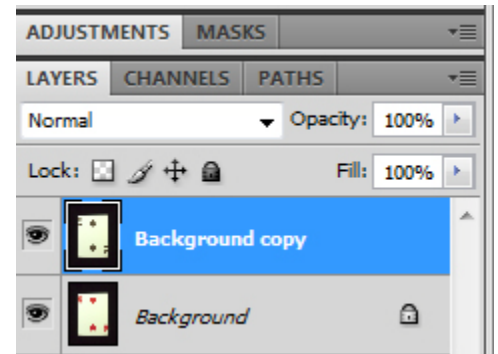
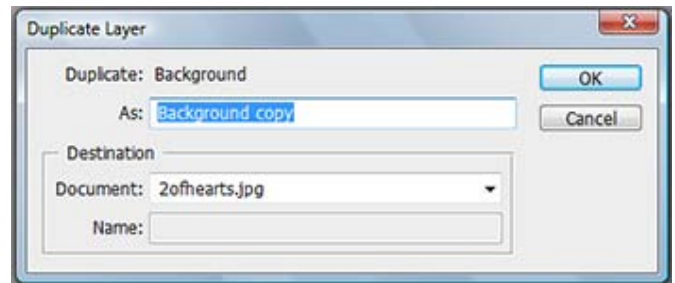
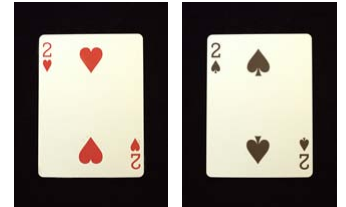
Layer Masks

Images Used: 2ofhearts.jpg & 2ofspades.jpg

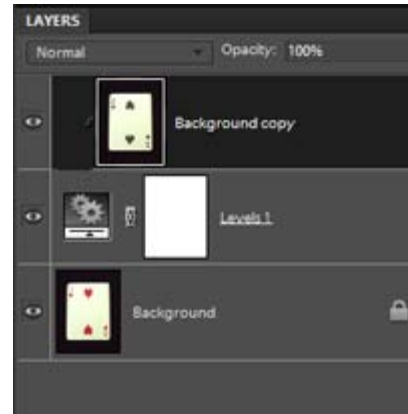
In this example we will take two images of playing cards and put them together and use a layer mask to reveal parts of one card and hide the rest. This will allow us to create that appearance of a playing card that has different suits on one card.

Steps

1. Open the 2 images 2ofhearts.jpg & 2ofspades.jpg
2. Go to the image of the 2 of spades
3. Choose the menu option Layer > Duplicate Layer
4. The duplicate layer dialog will appear
5. Change the document in the duplicate layer dialog to 2ofhearts.jpg, this will copy the 2 of spades into the 2 of hearts image as a new layer.
6. Press OK in the duplicate layer dialog to copy the layer
7. You can close the 2ofspades.jpg and don't save it.
8. You'll now see you have 2 layers in the layer panel.
9. Elements doesn't support layer masks, but you can work around this. Create an adjustment layer (any - levels for example) in between the two image layers. Click on the bottom layer and then choose Layers > New Adjustment Layer > Levels



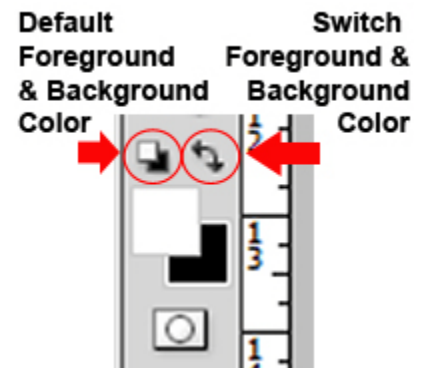
- Click on the top layer and group it with the adjustment layer by creating a clipping mask. This is done by choosing the menu item Layer > Create Clipping Mask



Explanation

A layer mask that "reveals all" is a layer mask that is filled with white. It allows all of the layer it is associated with to be seen. If the layer mask was "hide all" it would be filled with black and you wouldn't see anything in the associated layer, in this case you wouldn't see the 2 of spades. You can then use a paint brush to either paint black or hide specific portions of the current layer, or paint white and reveal portions of the current layer.

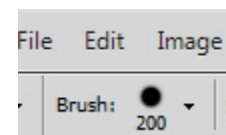
- Select the Default Foreground and Background color on the palette
- Next click switch Foreground and Background color on the toolbar. This will make your foreground color black (you could just change it too black using the color picker also).



- Select the brush tool from the tool palette



- Choose about a 200 px soft edge brush



- Center the brush over the top spade on the card



16. Then click the mouse a few times to reveal the heart from the layer below



17. Move the brush over the number 2 and the spade underneath the number 2 and click the mouse to reveal the 2 and the heart below.

This image probably won't win any competitions, but you now have mastered the basics of layer masks.

If you make a mistake, you can paint white on the mask to correct your error. You are only changing the mask and not altering any pixels in your image, so you can come back and make as many changes you like at any time.

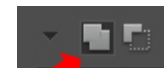


Reverse Colors Technique

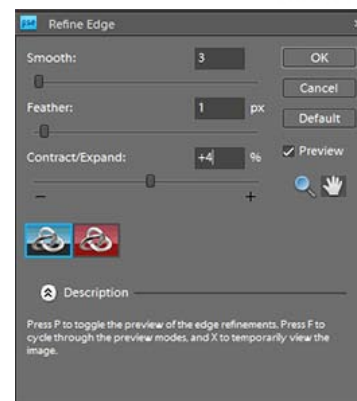
Images Used: 2cards.jpg

Steps

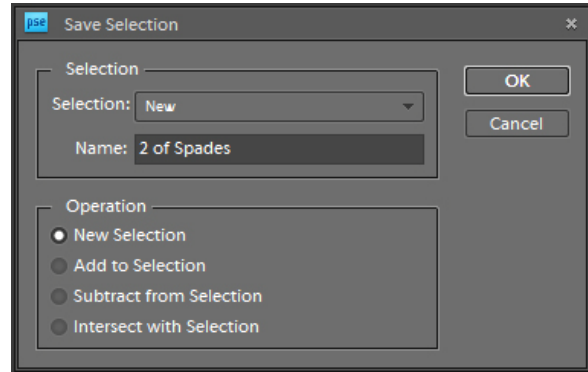
1. Open the image 2cards.jpg
2. Select all the dark areas on the 2 of spaces card, this included the spades and the numbers.
 - a. Use the quick selection tool
 - b. Use quick selection brush to clean up selection (paint too add more the selection and hold the alt key and paint to remove from the selection
 - c. Use the refine edge dialogue to make the edges smoother and softer
 - i. Smooth 3
 - ii. Feather 1
 - iii. Contract/Expand +4
 - iv. Press OK
 - d. Save your current selection by using the menu command Select > Save Selection



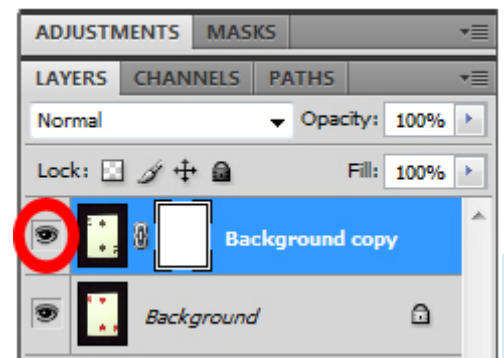
Add to Selection to
Quick Mask



- e. Give the selection a name "2 of Spades" and choose "New Selection"
- f. Create a new layer copying your selection by using the menu command Layer > New > Layer via copy
- g. Reload your selection by choosing the menu commands Select > Load Selection
- h. Choose 2 of Spades in the selection field
- i. Press OK and your selection will be reloaded
- j. Double click the foreground color in the tool pallet and click the eye dropper on the red portion of the two of hearts
- k. Choose the paint brush from the tool palette and paint over your selection until all selected areas are the same color red as the 2 of hearts.
- l. Click back on the bottom layer which has the original image
- m. Deselect your selection by choosing the menu choice Select > Deselect (not deselect layers)
- n. Now using the same technique as before, select all the red areas of the 2 of hearts
- o. Use the quick selection tool
- p. Use quick selection brush to clean up selection (paint too add more to the selection and hold the alt key and paint to remove from the selection)
- q. Use the refine edge dialogue to make the edges smoother and softer
 - i. Smooth 3
 - ii. Feather 1
 - iii. Contract/Expand +4
 - iv. Press OK
- r. Save your current selection by using the menu command Select > Save Selection
- s. Save your current selection by using the menu command Select > Save Selection
- t. Give the selection a name "2 of Hearts" and choose "New Channel"
- u. Create a new layer copying your selection by using the menu command Layer > New > Layer via copy
- v. Reload your selection by choosing the menu commands Select > Load Selection



- w. Temporarily hide the middle layer (with the red colored spade symbol and number) by clicking the eyeball



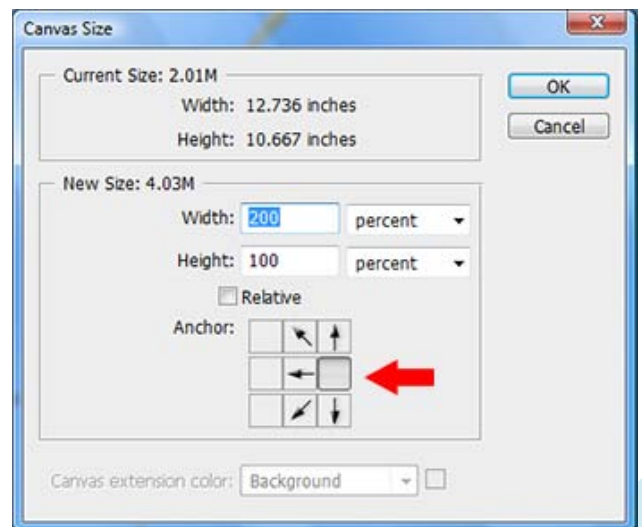
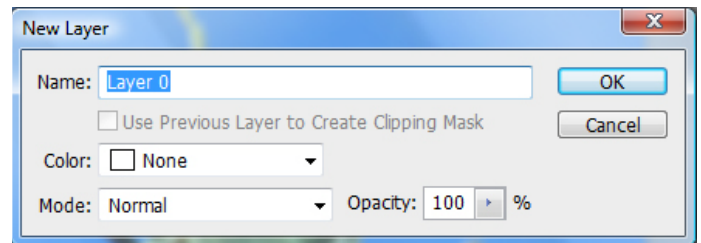
- x. Double click the foreground color in the tool pallet and click the eye dropper on the black portion of the two of spades, this sets your foreground color
- y. Unhide the middle layer by clicking on the eyeball
- z. Make sure you are on the top layer (click on the layer in the pallet if it's not highlighted.)
- aa. Paint the black color over your selection
- bb. Deselect your selection by choosing the menu choice Select > Deselect
- cc. Save your file with a new name
- dd. You're done!

Duplicate Layer

Images Used: bug.jpg

Steps

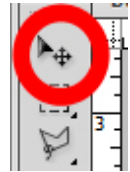
1. Open the image bug.jpg
2. Unlock the background layer by the menu selection Layer > New > Layer from Background
3. You can accept the default name or rename the layer as you like
4. Open the canvas size dialog by the menu selection Image > Resize > Canvas Size
5. Change the units to percent
6. Change the width to 200
7. Select the middle left anchor arrow to show the direction of the canvas to grow is to the left
8. Press OK on the canvas size dialog



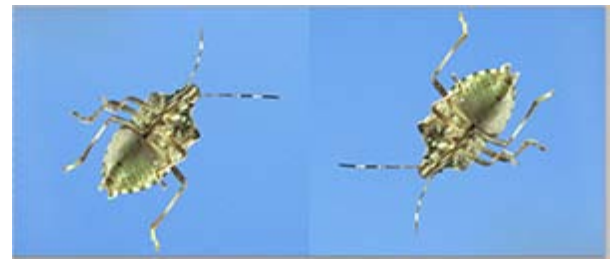
9. Your image will now look like this



10. Duplicate the layer by using the menu choice Layer > Duplicate Layer
11. Now flip the layer by choosing the menu choice Image > Rotate > Flip Layer Horizontal
12. Now flip the layer by choosing the menu choice Image > Rotate > Flip Layer Vertical
13. Select the move tool from the tool palette
14. Drag the top layer until it fills the blank space and is the inverse of the original layer



15. Merge the two layers together by clicking and highlighting both layers in the layer pallet and then choose the menu choice Layer > Merge Layer



16. Now blend the two layers together using the spot healing brush tool, painting the line where the two layers where joined. Paint over it a few times and even out the shading
17. Save your image
18. Your done!

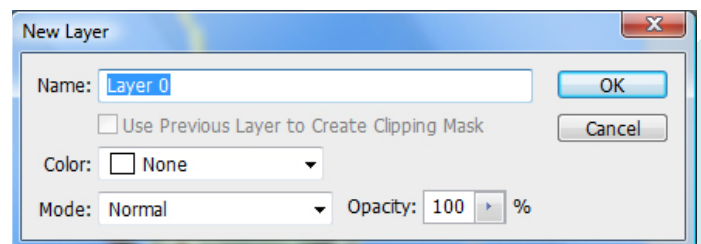


Invert Image

Images Used: building.jpg

Steps

1. Open the image building.jpg
2. Unlock the background layer by the menu selection Layer > New > Layer from Background
3. You can accept the default name or rename the layer as you like



4. Open the canvas size dialog by the menu selection Image > Canvas Size
5. Change the units to percent
6. Change the width to 200
7. Select the middle **right** anchor arrow to show the direction of the canvas to grow is to the right
8. Press OK on the canvas size dialog
9. Duplicate the layer by using the menu choice Layer > Duplicate Layer
10. Now flip the layer by choosing the menu choice Image > Rotate > Flip Layer Horizontal
11. Drag the top layer until it fills the blank space and is the inverse of the original layer
12. Invert the colors of the layer by selecting the menu choice Filters > Adjustments > Invert
13. Merge the two layers together by clicking and highlighting both layers in the layer pallet and then choose the menu choice Layer > Merge Layer
14. Convert the image to black and white by choosing Enhance > Convert to Black & White
15. Press Ok
16. Save your image
17. You're done!

