

Photoshop Creative Techniques

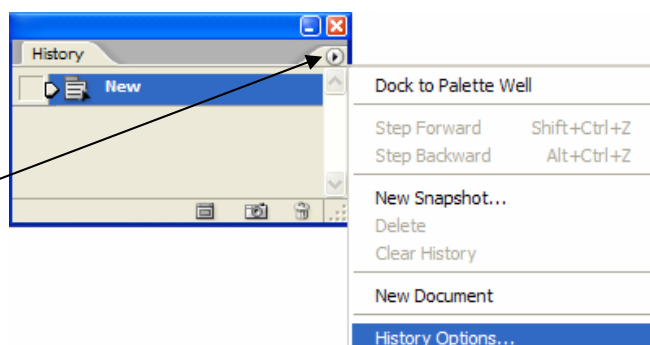
Prepared by Jill Lenz
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Introduction

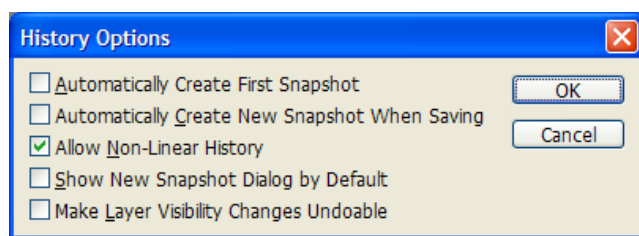
We will be using Photoshop CS2 for these creative techniques. Free 30-day trial versions of Photoshop CS2, CS3 Beta and Elements 5.0 are available for download at <http://www.adobe.com/downloads>.

Setting History Options

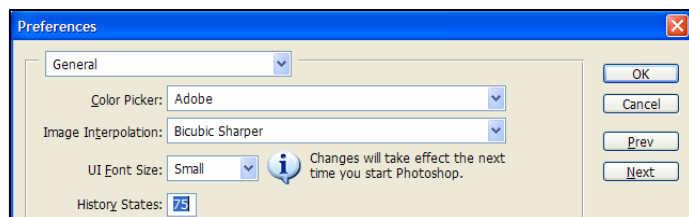
1. Verify your history palette is showing. If not, Window > Show History
2. Choose History Options from the History palette menu's top right arrow.
3. Select only the "Allow Non-Linear History" option. The other options take up precious memory space. The options are as follows:



- Automatically Create First Snapshot to automatically create a snapshot of the initial state of the image when the document is opened.
- Automatically Create New Snapshot When Saving to generate a snapshot every time you save.
- **Allow Non-Linear History** to make changes to a selected state without deleting the states that come after. Normally, when you select a state and change the image, all states that come after the selected one are deleted. This enables the History palette to display a list of the editing steps in the order you made them. By recording states in a nonlinear way, you can select a state, make a change to the image, and delete just that state. The change will be appended at the end of the list.
- Show New Snapshot Dialog By Default to force Photoshop to prompt you for snapshot names even when using the buttons on the palette.



4. Click OK.
5. Use the menu commands **Edit > Preferences > General > History States**
6. Change the number of history states to at least 75. You can always change the number anytime.
7. Click OK.



Prepared and presented by Jill Lenz
Jill.Lenz@colostate.edu
<http://www.cvmb.colostate.edu/intech/jill/pdi/2007/>

College of Veterinary Medicine
and Biomedical Sciences
Instructional Technology

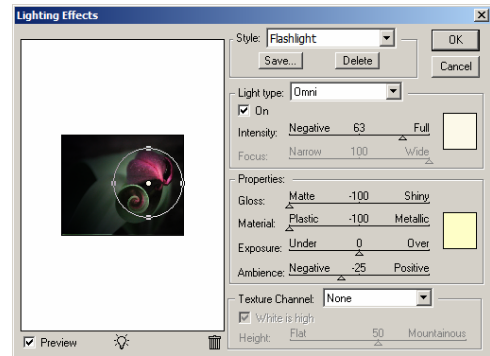
Dramatic Lighting Effect

Based on a technique by Vincent Versace, as detailed in Scott Kelby's book "Photoshop CS2 Book for Digital Photographers".

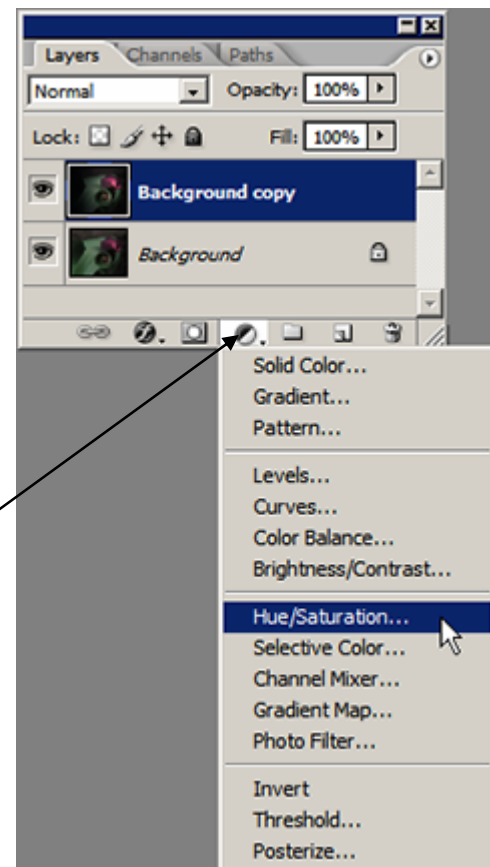
1. Open a file where you want to add this effect. For this exercise, we will use the file spiral-flower.psd.
2. Duplicate the original file for safe-keeping, Image > Duplicate. Close the original. We will work on the duplicate.
3. Duplicate the background layer in the Layers Palette, by doing one of the following: press CTRL+J or drag the background layer to the New Layer icon at the bottom of the Layers Palette.
4. Filter > Render > Lighting Effects. The Lighting Effects dialog box appears and show the default setting of a large oval light coming from the bottom-right corner.
5. Under the Style drop down menu, choose "Flashlight".
6. Position the center point of the light in the preview window into the position you want. If you want the circle of light larger or smaller, click and drag an outer point. In this example, I made the circle of light smaller. Try adjusting the other sliders in the dialog box if you want to see the effects they produce. Click OK. You're done.

But if you want to take it a step further...

7. Add a Hue/Saturation Adjustment Layer and increase the Saturation slider by moving it to the right. This intensifies the color and is something I do for many of my images.



Lighting Effects dialog box
(Filter > Render > Lighting Effects)



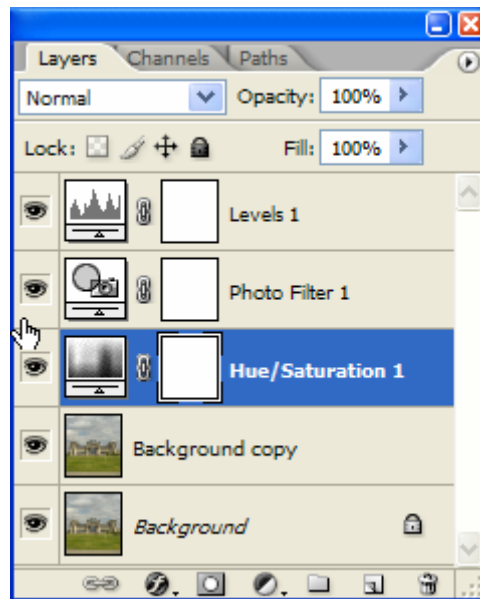
Adding a Hue/Saturation Adjustment Layer

Filter Effects to Enhance Images

Based on technique found at BetterPhoto.com

<http://www.betterphoto.com/forms/discussionDetail.asp?threadID=507834>

1. File > Open filter-effects.psd
2. Make a copy of the file to preserve the original, File > Save As... filter-effects-copy.psd
3. Make a copy of the background layer to work on. One way to do this is CTRL + J. Select this new layer.
4. Add a Levels Adjustment Layer to balance the exposure of the image. If you are unfamiliar with the Layers dialog box, chose Auto, click OK.
5. Show/Hide this new layer, by clicking the eyeball in the layer palette associated with the layer to see the image before and after applying the Levels Adjustment Layer.
6. Return to the Background Copy Layer and add a Photo Filter Adjustment Layer, choosing one of the Warm Filters to warm up the image. Each Filter also has a density slider to explore. These Photo Filters are equivalent to filters you would attach to a camera lens. Click OK.
7. Show/Hide the layer, by clicking the eyeball in the layer palette associated with the layer to see the image before and after.
8. Return to the Background Copy Layer and add a Hue/Saturation Adjustment Layer, increasing the Saturation slider to your liking, probably somewhere between +10-25, click OK.
9. Show/Hide the layer, by clicking the eyeball in the layer palette associated with the layer to see the image before and after.



Layer Palette showing the Background Layer duplicated and three common Adjustment Layers: 1) Hue/Saturation, 2) a Warm Photo Filter and 3) Levels.

Photo-Grid-Style Poster

Another technique from Scott Kelby, as demonstrated at Photoshop World 2005 and detailed in his book "Photoshop CS2 Book for Digital Photographers"

1. Create a new file for positioning the nine images. File > New. Under the Preset drop down menu, for this exercise choose 8x10, click OK.
2. Turn on Photoshop's grid temporarily to help position images, View > Show > Grid.
3. Open 9 images of the same theme, for example images from a vacation, of a person or a special event.
4. Choose the first image and crop it into a perfect square using the Rectangular Marquee tool. To do this, press-and-hold the Shift key when dragging the cursor to create a perfect square. (Click, press Shift, drag cursor, final click.) Holding the Shift key is essential to keeping it a perfect square.
5. You can move the marquee around the image by clicking and dragging within the dotted lines or using your arrow keys. If you want to start over, click outside the marquee and it disappears. What you choose to appear in the marquee is what you will use as your perfectly square image for the poster.
6. Get the Move Tool and click inside the marquee of the first image and drag it into the 8x10 poster image.
7. Scale the image to fit on the grid with the other photos. Press Control+T (Edit > Free Transform) and a bounding box appears around the image. Press the SHIFT key and grab a corner of the image and drag inward to downsize the image. In this example, scale it to be eight squares wide and eight squares tall.
8. Move the image to the top left corner of the 8x10 poster, avoiding the pivot point in the center of the marquee, positioning it so there are four grid squares above it and three to the left.
9. To complete the transformation, do one of the following: double-click inside the bounding box, press Enter or click on the check mark in the Options Palette.
10. Choose the next photo and switch back to the Rectangular Marquee Tool. Press-and-hold the Shift key as you select a perfect square.
11. Switch to the Move Tool and click inside the marquee and drag and drop the image onto the poster.
12. Scale the image to fit on the grid using the Photoshop command "Transform Again" (Shift+CTRL+T) and the same size chosen the previous time will be applied again now. To complete the transformation, do one of the following: double-click inside the bounding box, press Enter or click on the check mark in the Options Palette.
13. Use the Move Tool to place this photo just one grid square to the right of the first.
14. Optional: name the individual layers, each containing one of the square images, in the layer palette to stay organized.
15. Repeat steps 10-13 with the remaining photos. Note: If "Transform Again" misbehaves, you may have to start over with "Free Transform" and remember to hold down the Shift key as you drag a corner.
16. Turn off the grid when all nine photos are positioned with one grid square between each image, View > Show > Grid.
17. Add a title at the bottom using the Text Tool.



Photo-grid-style poster

18. Review the layer palette; you will see each image is on its own layer. Layers can be named for easier identification if you decide to rearrange the placement of the nine images. You can stop here or...
19. If you want a background color other than white, add a new layer above the Background layer, choose a color from the Color Picker and use the Paint Bucket Tool to fill the layer with color.

Turning all the images black and white helps unify the images if the colors don't seem to be working well together. In Scott Kelby's book he explains how to take it a step further, with this additional tip that works especially well if the images are of uneven flesh tones of humans or the images came from different photographers or different lighting conditions.

20. In the Layers palette, select the top layer then click the Create New Adjustment Layer from the bottom of the Layers palette and choose Channel Mixer.
21. Click the Monochrome check box. Now all the images are black and white giving it an artistic look.
22. Fine-tuning the black and white images involves adjusting the Red, Green and Blue amounts with their slider or retyping the numerical value. Notice Red is at 100%. The sliders can be moved to any combination that equals 100%. More details below. After the R-G-B values are set, click OK.

Note about the Red-Green-Blue (R-G-B) channels. Often the Green channel provides the most detail so most times you want the amount of Green set the highest. Each image is different so your numbers for R-G-B will vary for each image, but most will NOT look their best at this *default setting of R=100%-G=0%-B=0%*. In this exercise, the red flower that is the first image in the 2nd row of the sample poster appears "blown-out" when the Monochrome check box is checked in Step 20 and left at the default settings. In other words, all the detail in the flower petals disappeared. After playing around with the sliders, I preferred R=30%-G=70%-B=0%. Settings are subjective and to your taste. Just remember all three should add up to 100%.



Comparison of the original red flower (A), then converted to black and white first using a Channel Mixer Adjustment Layer default R-G-B settings of 100-0-0 shown "blown-out" in the middle (B) vs. a customized R-G-B setting of 30-70-0 shown on the right (C), which is a better conversion, showing more details in the petals.

Adding a **sepia tone** is another effect. This effect was used in a collage of animals. The individual images were from multiple sources and looked mismatched when they were together in color. Although this is a collage of overlapping images with drop shadows used on a Web site instead of a photo-grid poster, you can apply the same effect to your poster.

23. In the Layers palette, select the top image layer then click the Create New Adjustment Layer from the bottom of the Layers palette and choose Hue/Saturation.
24. Click the Colorize check box.
25. Adjust the sliders. Hue set at 0 gives a tradition sepia tone, but you can move the Hue slider and choose any color to unify the whole poster or collage. Set Saturation to your taste somewhere between the amounts of 18-25. Leave Lightness at zero. Click OK. You're done.



Sepia tone applied to collage of overlapping images.

Web Photo Gallery

You use the Web Photo Gallery command to automatically generate a Web photo gallery from a set of images. A Web photo gallery is a Web site that features a home page with thumbnail images and gallery pages with full-size images. Each page contains links that allow visitors to navigate the site. For example, when a visitor clicks a thumbnail image on the home page, a gallery page with the associated full-size image loads.

Photoshop provides a variety of styles for your gallery, which you can select using the Web Photo Gallery command. If you are an advanced user who has knowledge of HTML, you can also customize a style by editing a set of HTML template files or create a new style.

1. Choose File > Automate > Web Photo Gallery.
2. Under Files, click Source. Then select the folder containing the images that you want to appear in the gallery, and click OK. Select Include All Subdirectories to include images inside any subfolders of the selected folder. For this exercise choose c:\userdata\yourname\
3. Click Destination. Then select the destination folder that you want to contain the images and HTML pages for the gallery, and click OK. For this exercise choose "desktop"
4. For Styles, choose a style for the gallery. A preview of the home page for the chosen style appears in the dialog box.
5. To set options for the banner that appears on each page in the gallery, choose Banner from the Options pop-up menu. Then do the following:
 - For Site Name, enter the title of the gallery.
 - For Photographer, enter the name of the person or organization that deserves credit for the photos in the gallery.
 - For Date, enter the date that you want to appear on each page of the gallery. By default, Photoshop uses the current date.
 - For Font and Font Size, choose options for the banner text.
6. To set options for the gallery pages, choose Gallery Images from the Options pop-up menu. Then do the following:
 - For Border Size, enter the width of the border around the image in pixels.
 - To have Photoshop resize the source images for placement on the gallery pages, select Resize Images. Then choose an option for the image size from the pop-up menu or enter a size in pixels. For JPEG Quality, choose an option from the pop-up menu, enter a value between 0 and 12, or drag the slider. A higher value results in better image quality but larger file size.

7. To set options for the home page, choose Gallery Thumbnails from the Options pop-up menu. Then do the following:
 - For Caption, select Use Filename to display the filename under each thumbnail.
 - Select Use File Info Caption to display caption text from the File Info dialog box under each thumbnail and on each gallery page. For more information, see Adding title and copyright information to HTML files. This is new in version 7.
 - For Font and Font Size, choose options for the thumbnail text.
 - For Size, choose an option for the thumbnail size from the pop-up menu or enter a value in pixels for the width of each thumbnail.
 - For Columns and Rows, enter the number of columns and rows that you want to be used to display the thumbnails on the home page. This option doesn't apply to galleries that use the Horizontal Frame Style or Vertical Frame Style.
 - For Border Size, enter the width of the border around each thumbnail in pixels.
8. To set options for colors of elements in the gallery, choose Customize Colors from the Options pop-up menu. To change the color of a particular element, click its color swatch, and then select a new color using the Color Picker. The Background option lets you change the background color of each page. The Banner option lets you change the background color of the banner.
9. Click OK to create the gallery.

Photoshop places the following HTML and JPEG files in your destination folder:

- A home page for your gallery named index.htm. Open this file in any Web browser to preview your gallery.
- JPEG images inside an images subfolder.
- HTML pages inside a pages subfolder.
- JPEG thumbnail images inside a thumbnails subfolder.

You can share this gallery with others by viewing it locally, copying it to a USB memory stick (flash drive) or to a CD/DVD, or posting it on the Web. CSU students and staff have free Web space provided by Academic Computing and Network Services (ACNS) on the Lamar server, see <http://www.acns.colostate.edu/aspx/www.acns/bulls/nt05.html>.

Full-Screen Slide Show

Adobe Bridge not only has the ability to show your detailed info about your images, but it can also play full-screen slideshows. You have the choice to manually control the show or let it play automatically. This is a quick and easy way to display and work with large versions of all the graphics files in a folder.

1. Open Adobe Bridge, File > Browse. (This is only one of many ways to open Bridge.)
2. In Bridge, navigate to a folder of images that you want in the slide show. For this exercise, go to the sub-folder "hands-on/slide-show"
3. Choose View > Slideshow or CTRL+L
4. The first image appears full screen.
5. Instructions on how to use the slide show are also displayed on the screen. You can press the H key to hide or show the Slideshow Commands anytime.
6. Automatic vs. manual advance. Automatic is the default mode. To manually advance forward, click with the mouse or press the Right or Down arrow keys. To go back, press the Left or Up arrow keys.
7. Try some of the other basic functions:
 - Space bar = Play/Pause
 - W = Window mode on/off
 - D = change display mode
8. Add background music. Unfortunately this can't be done in Bridge, yet. You can always open your computers music player (Window Media Player, QuickTime, iTunes, etc.), and start the background music first, then switch to Bridge and begin your slide show.

There is a music file in handson/slide-show/from-Mexico.m4a that will play in QuickTime Player. From Windows Explorer, navigate to the file and Right-click and Open With... QuickTime Player. Then switch to Bridge and begin your slide show.

Learn More

Photoshop CS2 Book for Digital Photographers book by Scott Kelby
Available at CSU Morgan Library

Photoshop TV, free video podcasts
Hosted by Scott Kelby and the Photoshop Guys, <http://www.photoshoptv.com>

ProPhotoSecrets Web site, free video tutorials, membership also available
Hosted by Shane Goldberg, <http://www.prophotosecrets.com/>