Photoshop 5.5 & 6.0 Tips & Tricks

About This Exercise

In this example, we will Posterize an image. When you Posterize an image, you are subtracting colors from the image, bringing it down to basic shapes. This works for color and black and white images.

In addition to applying the Posterize effect we will create a copy of the image and apply a filter to it. After this is done we will merge the two with a layer mode setting.

1. Open And Copy An Image

1. Open an Image

2. Open the Layers Window, if it is not already open:
   Go to the Windows menu, select Show Layers Window.
   When the Layers window appears, you should see Layer 0. This is your canvas.
   
   Note: If the layer appears with the name “Background”, change the name by holding down the option key and double-clicking on the title in the Layers window.

3. Drag the layer to the New Layer icon, located at the bottom of the Layers window (1a).
   If the copy appears below the original, move it above the original layer in the Layers Window (1b). Move it by dragging it to the top of the layers list.

4. Hide the original Layer by, clicking on the eye icon in the Layers Window so that the eye is no longer visible.
2. Posterize The Copy

1. Make sure the copy layer is selected in the Layers window. Doing so makes this the “target layer”.

2. In the Image menu select Adjust, then select Posterize from the sub menu.

3. When the Posterize dialog box appears, experiment with the Levels settings.

4. After you have experimented, Type 4 in the level settings, then click OK.

The image is now Posterized.

In this portion of the exercise you will create another copy of our original file, move the copy in the list of layers, rename the layers, apply a filter to the new layer to create an outline of the original image and blend the two layers together.

1. Create another copy of the original Image (Layer 0) by dragging the layer to the New Layer icon.

2. Move this new copy (Layer 0 copy 2) to the top of the layers in the Layers Window.
3. **Rename Layers**

Rename the Layers as follows:
- Posterized Layer: Poster
- New Layer: Edges

In Photoshop 5.5, double click the layer title, in the Layers window. When the **Layers Options** dialog box appears, type in the new name.

In Photoshop 6.0, you must hold down the **Option** key when double clicking the layer title. When the **Layer Properties** window appears, type in the new name.

4. **Apply Filter**

1. Select the Edges layer to activate it in the layers window. A layer will be shaded when active.

2. From the **Filters** menu, drag down to **Stylize**, then select **Find Edges** from the sub menu. There are no settings or dialog box for this filter.
5. Applying Layer Blend Mode

Next apply a Layer Blend Mode to the Edges Layer. This will modify the behavior of the selected layer with the layers below it.

1. Making sure that the “Edges” Layer is still the active layer, click on the layer **Blend Mode** button in the Layers window to reveal the Drop down list of layer blend mode options. Blend modes change how the various layers effect with one another. The default blend mode is set to Normal.

2. Experiment with the Blend Mode Options,

3. Choose Multiply.

Doing so combines the two layers in a way that reveals the Poster Layer below. The Edge layer above will add some outlines, adding some of the details that were lost in the Posterizing process.