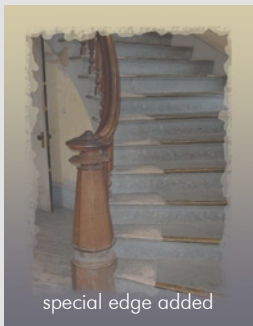
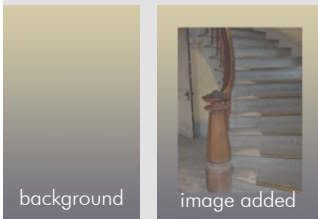


slick tricks continued...

slick trick #10

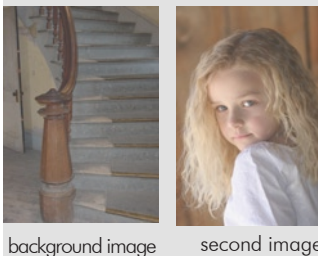


Create a colored gradient background

1. Click Apple N for a new, blank document. Choose 8.5 x 11 at 150 resolution, or the desired document size, then choose OK.
2. Click on the foreground and background color boxes (at the bottom of the main tool palette), and choose two colors that match the image you plan to use.
3. Click on the Gradient tool and set the gradient picker at the top of the menu bar to "Foreground to Background"
4. Draw a line with the gradient tool from the top to the bottom of the document, or vice versa, or draw the line from one side to the other. This will insert a gradient fill with the two colors chosen.
5. Open an image. Choose Image-Image size. Check the Constrain proportions and Resample boxes. Change the resolution to 150 px. Change the document size to fit your needs. Choose the Move tool. Click, drag and drop the image onto the gradient background. Apple R will show the rulers on the sides. Drag a ruler guide by clicking in the ruler and dragging out a guide. Use the Move tool to position the image as desired.

Option: To blend the image edges, follow steps 4-7 of the following trick (layer mask & black paint). Try using Special Effect brushes 4 and 12 for a cool edge.

slick trick #11



Blend images with layer mask & black paint

1. Open a high quality image to use for the background (or follow the previous trick to create a colored gradient background). Choose Image-Image size. Check the Constrain proportions and Resample boxes. Change the resolution to 150 px. Change the document size to your desired page size, such as 8.5 x 11.
2. Open a second image to blend into the background image. Choose the Move tool. Click, drag and drop the second image onto the first image.
3. Hold down Shift and drag in the corner of the image to size it down proportionally. Making it larger will reduce image quality. Double-click to apply the size transformation.
4. Add a Layer Mask to the second image by clicking on the icon at the bottom of the layers palette. Click on the layer mask to be sure you are selected on it.
5. Choose the paintbrush tool. Choose black paint for foreground color. Adjust the size as desired, and adjust the hardness down to give a very soft brush.
6. Adjust the brush opacity to 100% (on the top of the menu bar), and paint away the hard edge of the image. Look in the white layer mask, and you will see the black paint on the white mask. Black paint hides the layer. You can change the paintbrush color (foreground color) to white and paint the image back in.
7. Lower the opacity of the paintbrush (on top) as you paint away more of the image to leave a partially transparent edge that will blend over the background.
8. If desired, reduce the opacity of the layer (on top of layers palette) to see through the image slightly.

Note: This method may also be done without a mask, using the eraser tool to erase the actual image. It is much better to use the layer mask to hide and reveal the image with black and white paint, rather than erasing away parts of the image. For example, you may decide later you have taken away too much. With a mask, you can simply paint white back in where the black was painted.

Remember: white shows the layer; black hides it and shows what is underneath.

slick tricks continued...

slick trick #12



horizontal type mask tool

Use the type mask to insert an image inside type

1. Open an image.
2. Choose a heavy font such as *Impact*. Select the type tool (T), and hold it down to reveal other choices. Select the Horizontal mask type tool.
3. A red color will appear over the image when you click to add text. Ignore it, and type a word.
4. Select the Move tool. The red color will disappear and leave a marquee, or marching ants around the word. Now you have a selection.
5. Now copy and paste the word. You may also drag it to another document. This will “cut it out” and leave a hole in the image. Also, you can hold down Option while you drag it, and it will copy the selection instead of cutting it out.

Note: *This trick can also be done without the type mask tool (Photoshop Elements does not support masks). Use the following instructions “Change a shape to a marquee.”*

slick trick #13



pseudo-mask: another way to insert an image inside type

Change a shape to a marquee (pseudo mask)

1. Draw a shape or add some type over an image.
2. A new layer will automatically be added to hold the new shape.
3. Apple-Click on the new layer *inside the layers palette*, and the shape will transform into a marquee of “marching ants.”
4. Click on the image layer *inside the layers palette* below the shape/type layer.
5. Now click Apple C to copy the selection. You may choose Apple-N-return and then Apple V to paste this into its own document, or open any image or document and choose Apple V to paste this selection. You will see the the text with the image placed inside of it.

Note: *If this won't work, make sure you Apple-Click on the layer in the layers palette, and not on the shape/type itself, and be sure you are clicked on the image layer when you try to copy the selection (step 4).*

slick trick #14



liquified background

Liquify the background of an image

1. Open image and choose Filter-Liquify.
2. Click on the Turbulence tool in the left toolbar. It is the eighth one down, and it looks like a wave.
3. Click and drag across the background to distort and swirl the colors together.

Options: The Forward Warp tool (first one in the left toolbar) is used to make someone look thinner. The question here is “how ethical is this?”

The other various tools each serve to warp and drag pixels around. With permission of the model, funny cartoons can be made by distorting the eyes and other features. There is a company that makes greeting cards using this type of effect on dogs and cats. You may have seen the cards with large-eyed, silly pets.

photo montage

overview

A photo montage tells a story by blending a few images together smoothly. The images should be similar in some fashion and work to represent a central theme. Alternately, a collage incorporates a larger variety of images, illustrations and even unrelated elements to create a more random effect. Type may be used in a collage or montage to illustrate the theme or add a quote, scripture or thought.

step 1

Preparing the background image

1. Choose a theme and two images: one for the background and one to blend in.
2. Open a 8.5 x 11 document (or desired size) with a resolution of 150.
3. Open and size the background or main image to 150.
 - a. Choose Image - Image size
 - b. Change resolution to 150
 - c. Change the height to 11 inches, and the width will change proportionally (if all three boxes at bottom of window are checked).
4. If needed, crop the image to fit the document, or you may want to extend the background area of the image to make more space to add in the next image.

adding to the background image

To extend the canvas size of your image: see examples on next page

- a. Choose Image - Canvas size.
- b. Enter a larger width or height measurement. For example, if the width is 8.25", change it to 8.5"
- c. Click on the anchor arrow(s) at the bottom to shift the extra space to the desired edge.
- d. Select desired background color. Select OK.

To clone a selection of the image to fill the new empty space:

- a. Drag the rectangular marquee (12 feather) over a slice of the image.
 - b. Select the Move tool.
 - c. Hold down Option while dragging the selection to the empty space. Release. Be sure to allow extra to overlap feathered seam.
 - d. Select Apple D to deselect the "marching ants."
 - e. Use the clone tool to fill in any feathered edges.
5. Drag this image to the document as layer number one.
 6. Add desired filters and effects. (Use the history palette to backup several steps.)

step 2

Adding another image

1. Open and size another image, usually much smaller.
2. Drag the second image on top of the first image, and position it for good flow.
3. Reduce the opacity of this second layer to "see through" to the first layer by using the opacity slider on the layers palette.
4. Use the lasso tool, with a large feather applied, to delete unwanted areas of this partially transparent image. Refer to smart trick #1, photo blend.

step 3

Adding a type layer

1. Add a type layer, and choose an appropriate font to complement the design.
2. Add filter effects to the type layer, such as shadow, emboss and stroke.

photo montage continued...

important tip:

Make sure you are on the correct layer when blending. If you delete a feathered edge selection and it does not disappear, you are probably on the wrong layer.



Add to the background shot.

Creating a montage usually involves adding to the background image to make room for the second layer. For example, the wide beach shot used here was cropped on the left and "more ocean" was cloned in on the right to make room for the close-up of the child digging in the sand. The edges of the close-up shot were feathered away using the photo blend trick in the *smart tricks tutorial*. It is best to feather away the edges *after* you place the second image on top of the first, so you see how much feathering to use on the edges. Using a mask would also work well.



Keep it simple! Creating a good blend does not have to take a long time. Beginners often make a montage too busy because they try using too many images. The secret is finding the right shots to combine, so plan ahead before you go out to shoot.



Try making one of the images an action shot.

Jake photos taken by Kris Randall, free-lance photographer

more ideas

Add more image layers and type layers as desired. You may also try making the first layer partially transparent and coloring the background (layer 0). Moreover, you may add a frosted or misty effect by adding a white or colored transparent layer over part of the montage.

This tutorial explains only one of many ways to create a photo montage. Masks are another effective method for blending images. Many tutorials are available online by typing one of the following phrases in a search engine: "Photoshop montage tutorial," "Photoshop mask tutorial," or "Photoshop collage tutorial."