Introduction to Photoshop Assignment 1: Working with Layers

Due Wednesday February 15th by 11:59 PM

Upload to Google Drive folder Introduction to Photoshop → Assignment Uploads → Your folder in format of Lastname_FirstInitial (e.g., Doe_J)

What you will upload:
1. A Photoshop file with the following naming convention: Lastname_FirstInitial_Lesson1.psd (example: Doe_J_Lesson1.psd)
2. A text file associated with the Photoshop file with the following naming convention: Lastname_InitialFirstName_Lesson1.txt  (example: Doe_J_Lesson1.txt)

Conventions Used throughout the assignments:
Keyboard commands are placed between less than / greater than signs and brackets, e.g., <[ ]>
Mac command key (cmnd) = Windows control key (ctrl)
Mac option key (opt) = Windows alt key (alt)
Keyboard commands are shown for both Mac/Windows, e.g., <[cmnd /ctrl+o]> means:
"On Mac do a command+o key sequence / On Windows do a control+o key sequence"
Actions that you are to do start with a "==>" sequence (no quotes)
"Menu" indicates a command selected from using the corresponding Menu sequence

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1) Start Photoshop
If not already set up, have Photoshop record all activities to an external text file - see the following set of instructions or watch the tutorial on how to start the History Log:
On Mac
==> Apple Icon: Photoshop → Preferences → General
==> Make sure that the "History Log" is checked
==> Make sure that "Save Log Items To..." is set to "Text File"
==> Set the name of the output text file: Lastname_FirstInitial_Lesson1.txt
(example: Doe_J_Lesson1.txt)
(You can also rename the file at the OS level when done with assignment)
==> Make sure that "Edit Log Items" is set to "Concise"

On PC
==> Menu: Edit → Preferences → General
(Follow same set up instructions as for Mac above)

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2) Open an image; this can be an image of your own or one downloaded from the Internet

==> Menu: File → Open, or;

==>  Keyboard: <[cmnd / ctrl+o]>

Navigate to where your image is located Image is to be either a GIF, JPEG, or TIFF; do not open a RAW file! If you do happen to open a RAW file, simply click on the "Open Image" button.


3) You will make a new empty layer above the Background layer by either:

==> A) Menu: Layer → New Layer, or;

==> B) Keyboard: <[shift+cmnd / ctrl+n]>, then click on "OK" in the box, or;

==> C) Clicking on the "New Layer" icon at the bottom of the Layer panel


4) Delete this new layer by either:

==> A) Click and drag the layer to the Trash Can icon at the bottom of the Layers panel

==> B) Control-click on the Layer Menu icon (upper right) and select Delete Layer from the menu

==> C) Select the layer to make it active and press the <[Delete]> key


5) Make a selection with the Rectangular Marquee tool:

==> A) Press the <[m]> key on your keyboard to select the Marquee tool

==> B) <[shift+m]> on the keyboard until the Rectangular Marquee selection appears

==> C) Click and drag a selection on the image, covering at least 50% of the image

==> D) Release the mouse button, you now have a rectangular selection (marching ants)


6) Make a new layer via copy. With the selection still active (marching ants) either:

==> A) Menu: Layer → New → Layer via Copy

==> B) Keyboard: <[cmnd / ctrl+j]>

The selection is now copied into a new layer called "Layer 1"


7) Hide the Background layer by clicking on the visibility mode (eye)


8) Repeat step 5, this time making an oval marquee selection in Layer 1. If Layer 1 is not the active layer (it should be), then click on the layer in the Layer panel first to make it the active layer (it will be highlighted), then make your selection


9) Make a new layer via cut. With the selection still active (marching ants) either:

==> A) Menu: Layer → New → Layer via Cut

==> B) Keyboard: <[shift+cmnd / ctrl+j]>

The selection is now cut to a new layer called "Layer 2" and it is now the active layer

10) Add an adjustment layer to Layer 1*

==> A) Click on Layer 1 to make it active

==> B) At the bottom of the Layer panel, click on the circle that is half black / half white

==> C) From the pull down menu select "Hue/Saturation..."

==> D) In the Hue/Saturation window click on "Colorize" and set the following fields:

Hue: 180 / Saturation: 50 / Brightness: -25

Click off of the adjustment panel and a new layer will appear between Layer 1 and Layer 2 called "Hue/ Saturation 1"; to close the adjustment panel group, click on the double arrow icon ">>" in the upper right of the panel.

* While these instructions call for a Hue/Saturation adjustment layer, you are encouraged to try different adjustment layers such as Vibrance, Black & White, or Gradient Map and may submit an alternate adjustment layer other than the Hue/ Saturation.

11) Add two layer effects to Layer 2*

==> A) Click on Layer 2 to make it active

==> B) Click on the "fx" icon at the bottom of the Layers panel

==> C) From the pull down menu select "Bevel and Emboss..." and click on "OK" in the window

==> D) Repeat steps B & C, this time select "Drop Shadow..." and click on "OK" in the window

* Like with the adjustment layer, you are encouraged to play around with the layer styles; you must at least do the Bevel and Emboss and Drop Shadow, which are two of the most used layer styles, but feel free to try the Inner/Outer Glow, Inner Shadow, and Gradient Overlay (which functions differently than the Gradient Map adjustment layer).

12) Hide the adjustment layer (Hue/Saturation 1 or other) and make the Background layer visible again

13) Change the blend mode of Layer 2 to Multiply, Screen, then Soft Light

==> A) Click on Layer 2 to make it active

==> B) In the Layer Blend Mode menu, first select Multiply, then Screen, then Soft Light; observe how each one works with the Background layer, leave it to the one you like best

14) Change the fill of the adjustment layer

==> A) Click on the adjustment layer to make it active and make it visible again

==> B) In the upper right hand corner, change the Fill from 100% to 0%, then back up to 50%; note how the colorization faded out then came back

15) Change the opacity of the adjustment layer

==> A) The adjustment layer should still be active

==> B) In the upper right hand corner, above Fill, change the opacity from 100% to 0%, then back up to 50%; note how the colorization went away and came back ==> C) Leave opacity at 50% and now put Fill at 100%.

* Fill can be thought of "how much" of a thing is on a layer, while opacity is "how transparent" are the things on the layer. Layer effects are attached to a layer but are not affected by fill (if you take fill down to 0%, the layer effect will still be visible); layer effects are, however, affected by opacity.


16) Save the file; do not flatten (discard) the layers:

==> A) Menu: File → Save As... or;

==> B) Keyboard: <[shift+cmnd / ctrl+s]>

==> C) When the dialog box comes up: Save As... → Lastname_InitialFirstName_Lesson1.psd

Make sure that Format is selected to "Photoshop"

Make sure that "Layers" is checked under the "Save:" options

Color options don't matter

When dialog box comes up for Maximizing Compatibility click Yes

==> D) Click on Save


17) Quit Photoshop

==> A) On Mac: Photoshop → Quit Photoshop or Keyboard: <[cmnd+q]>

==> B) On PC: File > Exit or Keyboard: <[ctrl+q]>

==> C) Upload the lesson files (.psd and .txt) to the appropriate Google Drive folder for your class

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In this lesson you have learned:

1) How to set up your preferences to record your actions to an external text file.

2) How to open up an image file within Photoshop.

3) How to create and delete a layer.

4) How to use the rectangular and oval marquee tools to make a selection.

5) How to create a layer via copy (non-destructive) and cut (destructive).

6) How to add a non-destructive adjustment layer.

7) How to add destructive layer effects.

8) How to use non-destructive blending modes.

9) How to adjust layer fill and layer opacity.

10) How to save a Photoshop format file.