

Surprinting and wrapping text over a vignetted image

It is quite simple to vignette an image to white in Photoshop. There are probably about a hundred ways to go about it, but I will describe one that is quick and easy. The beauty of this process is that distracting backgrounds can be eliminated. Also, by surprinting type over a photograph, a sense of three dimensional layout comes into play. Your dark type contrasts well with the lighter background. Keep in mind that you can also burn or darken the backgrounds of photos if you wish to surprint reverse type. This works very well with headlines.

Once you have opened the image in Photoshop, do any colour correction that you deem necessary. I saturated the image over all (Hue and Saturation under the Image menu) and then further saturated the yellows. I find that digital images tend to be slightly under saturated overall. I also slightly changed the hue of the yellow in the direction of red. You can do this visually with a calibrated monitor. If there is any retouching to be done on the image, do that first as well.

Now, choose the lasso tool from the tool box. Select the area you want to blur and vignette. Go to the channels palette and across the bottom you will see a row of buttons. Click on the "save selection as channel" button () to save your selection as a channel. You can now use the same selection again, which you will want to do.

Go back to layers. Your selection will still be there. From the edit menu, choose copy, then paste. Photoshop will automatically paste the selection on a new layer. You will have more control of the image by doing your blur on a new layer. Now choose blur from the Filters menu. If you are using an action shot, a motion blur would look great. I used my favorite - Gaussian blur. Blur visually until you like what you see. If you have used Gaussian blur, choose noise from the Filters menu. Add a bit of noise to the blur to replace the noise that Gaussian blur removed. This should not be necessary with motion blur.

Now, go back to your background layer. If your selection is no longer showing, go to channels and choose the selection that you saved. (by default, it will be called Alpha 1) Click on the "load channel as selec-



tion" button () and return to the layers palette, and click on your background layer. You will see that your selection is there. Click on the "create adjustment layer" button () at the bottom of the layers palette and choose brightness and contrast. When the dialog box opens, turn the brightness up to the top. The edges of your image will go white. Click ok. You will see that Photoshop has made another layer for you, a brightness and contrast layer, and it is this layer that you will also use to soften the edges of your vignette.

Make sure that your adjustment layer is selected. Go to filters and select blur - Gaussian blur. Drag the handle on the dialog box in the Gaussian blur menu until you have the effect that you desire.

The brightness and contrast adjustment layer you made is a "layer mask". When you paint on the layer mask layer with the brush tool, black will paint the effect out, and white will paint the effect in. If you want to adjust your vignette, select a soft edge brush and set the flow of the brush low - maybe about 15% or so. You have complete control of your vignette this way.

On a side note, all kinds of effects can be achieved with an adjustment layer and a selection. Instead of lightening, try adding hue and saturation to the selection and see what happens, or you can decrease brightness and "burn in" the edges. With selection and adjustment layers you can make all kinds of interesting images.

For this technique, however, lighten the edges to vignette to white. When you are happy with your image, flatten it. Go to the channels pallet and discard the Alpha 1 channel that you created. The channel will create problems when to take the image into Pagemaker, and you do not need it anymore. Save as Photoshop tiff file which is ready for placing into your Pagemaker document.

In our last issue of Yearbook Connections, we discussed wrap-around text. However for new subscribers, here is a quick review. After identifying the placement size in your Pagemaker document, make certain that your Photoshop document is sized accordingly. The resolution can be set for 300 dpi. Remember to never import a file into Pagemaker and then increase the size. The image may look okay on your computer screen but the printing results from your yearbook publisher will be disappointing.

Now, with your Pagemaker document open, go to 'File Place' and locate your file in the folder where it has been saved. Once selected, you will be asked if you want to include the complete copy. Select 'No'. Now once you have positioned your photograph, leave it selected and choose 'Text Wrap' under the 'Element' menu. Select the center icon under 'Wrap Option' and the right icon under 'Text Flow'. Now, click and drag points into your photograph to identify the path around which the text will flow. Note that in the photograph to the left, we have actually extended our path into the light areas of the vignetted photo. There is excellent contrast and separation of type with the background and a three-dimensional effect is attained. Try this in some of your layouts this year and enjoy the dynamic results. Note how this technique has also been used in a similar fashion on the next page of our newsletter.