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Adobe Seminars: Web Page Design

by Lisa Lopuck and Sheryl Hampton

Adobe Seminars: Web Page Design is a portable seminar on web page design taught by experienced professionals that documents Adobe software such as Adobe Photoshop 4, Adobe Illustrator 7, and Adobe PageMill 2, as well as the latest HTML language protocols.

This October 1997 Adobe Press book will bring all the essential information of a two-day seminar into a compact and reusable format, complete with CD and step-by-step techniques. Two noted Web seminar instructors, Lisa Lopuck and Sheryl Hampton of ElectraVision, have distilled their training sessions into over a hundred two-page techniques using popular Adobe applications to simulate how Web pages are actually created. The result is a reference book of clear, simple explanations and designs that are reusable page after Web page.

Adobe Seminars: Web Page Design

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Creating a Collage



One of the more common tasks in Photoshop is combining images to create a custom collage. In this exercise, you create a Web site banner, complete with text, that wraps to the image by combining multiple images in Photoshop, (see Session **D10**).

PHOTOSHOP 4.0

Object Gear Gentleman's Study: Personal Letter

Object Gear Travels: Helm, Water

Object Gear Amusements: Starfish 2

Font: Adobe Kepler



STEP 1: OPEN ALL IMAGES FOR THE COLLAGE

In Photoshop, open a few images that you would like to incorporate into your collage so that each image is open in a separate window. Create a new file with a white background that will be large enough to assemble your collage.



STEP 2: COMBINING IMAGES INTO ONE FILE

Using the Move tool, click one of the images and drag it into the new file. Drag the remaining images into the new file in the same way. If the image is on a solid background, the background comes with the image when it is dragged into the new file. To bring in just the image, select the background with the Magic Wand tool set on a tolerance of at least 32, with the anti-aliased checkbox selected. Invert the selection, and then drag the image into the new file using the Move tool.

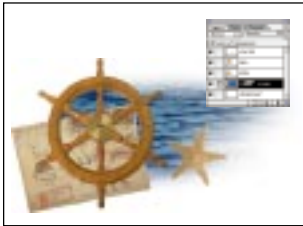
TIP: Image Club graphics have a perfect selection stored as a path. Simply go into the Paths palette, and load the path as a selection. To quickly convert the path to a selection, Hold down the Command key (Mac) or the Control key (Windows), and click the path's icon.



STEP 3: RESIZING IMAGES

Resize each of the elements of your collage using the Free Transform function located in the Layer menu. To scale the image proportionately, hold down the Shift key while dragging one of the corner handles. To rotate the image, click and drag outside of the envelope.

TIP: You can access other Free Transform functions by pressing the Control key while clicking and holding anywhere in the document. A pop-up menu appears with more Transform functions like Skew and Perspective.



STEP 4: CREATING SOFT EFFECTS

To create the faded effect on the ocean image, create a layer mask for the ocean layer. Using the Paintbrush tool and a large brush, paint black into the layer mask. Painting with black is like painting with transparency. The advantage to using a layer mask is you can “erase” your image without really erasing your image. To turn on and off the effects of the layer mask, hold down the Shift key and click the Layer Mask icon.



STEP 5: FINISHING TOUCHES

Now that all the images are in place, you can add a few finishing touches to polish the look. Add an instant drop shadow (see Session **D1**) for the starfish, and create cast shadows (see Session **D2**) for both the helm and the letter. Enhance the color contrast of the helm using both the Curves and the Levels functions. Finally, you can add text that wraps to the shape of the helm by following the instructions in Session **D10**.