

ADDING TEXTURES TO YOUR IMAGES USING PHOTOSHOP

presented by Carol Dillon and Carol Abel

1. Open your image in Photoshop. To make this layer editable, **flatten** the image by double-clicking on the image in the layers palette. **Rename** it. Name it whatever your image is.
2. **Enlarge the Image Canvas** an inch or more to have ample space for adding a vignette later. Image>Canvas Size>Resize.
3. Make a **new layer** above the tree layer and set the layer **Mode to Linear Dodge**.
4. **Open the Texture Image** “Canvas Channel” (this would be your own texture file) and **copy it and paste it** into your (named) file. Using Image>Adjustment>Brightness/Contrast (use Levels if you prefer; it will accomplish the same thing). Make adjustments to that you have distinct highlights and deep shadows. Set the **opacity to around 30%** to now see your image.
5. Now **add a Layer mask** to that layer (the square donut at the bottom of the layers palette) and use a large **brush filled with Black to mask away the areas of the image you prefer not to texture** as heavily as others. You can vary the area you mask and the opacity as you wish. Remember you can use the “X” key and paint back areas you decide not to mask.
6. Now **add a Vignette layer** by clicking the make layer icon at the bottom of the Layers palette and set its layer **Mode to Multiply**. Set opacity to **about 30% and Fill with black**.
7. Make a **rectangular selection of the area you want to be the focal area**. Use the arrows to nudge your selection around until you have it just right.
8. Feather this selection by using menu> SELECT>**Feather and set to 200**. Note: Feather size will vary with differing file sizes. **Press Enter** or O.K. You will know your feathering has taken effect when the rectangular selection becomes rounded at the corners. Leave this feathered selection active.
9. Finally, **hold down the Option (Mac) or Alt (PC) and click the Layer Mask icon** at the bottom of the Layers palette. When the Layer Mask appears, it should automatically fill the area you had feathered with Black. Now the textured image shows through softly, the outer edges vignetting to a darker shade. You may adjust the opacity of this layer and also the levels directly in the layer mask (channels palette) to vary this vignette effect. The artistic effects possible are limited only by your imagination!

David Julian, Illustrator, Artist and Instructor at the Lepp Institute of Digital Imaging recommends this method primarily because it is completely editable along the way and in this one technique provides lessons in combining images, making feathered selections, making layer masks, using layer modes, varying opacity—all essential Photoshop skills.