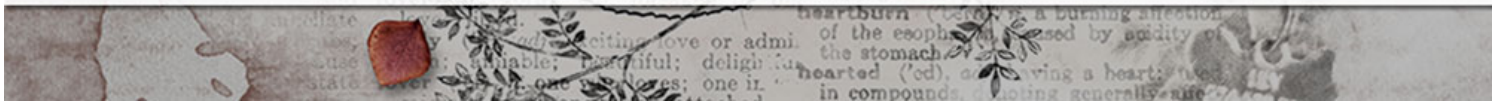




Digital Scrapper Premier 2023, Volume 7

Lesson 1, Variation 1, Hard Light Masked Photo



Digital Scrapper Premier 2023, Volume 7

Lesson 1, Variation 1, Hard Light Masked Photo

by Jen White

Take Lesson 1 to the next level by using a brush and a layer mask to further blend a single-subject photo into the background of your page.

© 2023 Digital Scrapper
Terms of Use

NOTE: Please complete the lessons in the order they are provided.

For this lesson you will need:

- paper2 from the Class-Files folder.
- practice-photo2 from the Class-Files folder.
- paper3 from the Class-Files folder.
- practice-photo3 from the Class-Files folder.



Quick Steps for Lesson 1, Variation 1, Hard Light Masked Photo

Step-by-step instructions are below.

- Create a new document and reset the Color Chips.
- Add a background paper (paper2).
- Add a photo (practice-photo2).
- Clip a gradient map adjustment layer to the photo.
- Set the Blend Mode of the photo layer to Hard Light.
- Adjust the gradient map as needed.
- **Option 3: Blended & Masked**
 - Add a layer mask to the photo layer.
 - Use a black, soft round brush to mask away unwanted portions of the photo.
- Group the photo layers.
- Move the photo group and lower the opacity.
- Finish the page and save the document.
- For extra practice, repeat the process with paper3 and practice-photo3.

Step-By-Step for Lesson 1, Variation 1, Hard Light Masked Photo

Prepare Your Workspace

- Create a new 12x12 inch document (File > New > Blank File) at 300 ppi with a white background. (PS: Choose File > New.) Letter-sized documents will also work for this tutorial.
- Press the letter D to reset the Color Chips to the default of black over white.

Add a Background Paper

- Get the Move tool.
- In the Tool Options, uncheck both Auto Select Layer (PS: Auto-Select) and Show Bounding Box (PS: Show Transform Controls).
- Open paper2 (File > Open) from the Class-Files folder.
- Holding down the Shift key, click and drag the paper onto the new document.



How To Choose a Good Paper for Lesson 1 and the Variations

NOTE: I recommend completing the lesson using the provided papers and photos before using ones from your own stash.

- Choose a plain, textured paper that's light in color.
- Avoid papers that have a pattern.

To match a plain, textured paper to your photos, watch [2 Ways to Quickly Match a Paper to a Photo](#).

Add a Photo

- Open practice-photo2 (File > Open) from the Class-Files folder.
- Holding down the Shift key, click and drag the photo onto the new document.



How To Choose a Good Photo for Lesson 1, Variation 1

NOTE: I recommend completing the lesson using the provided photos before using ones from your own stash.

- For Blending Option 3, you will need a photo with a single subject that is clearly definable.
- Scenery photos will not work for this variation.
- Avoid photos with multiple subjects.
- The photo should have good exposure (be well lit).



Add a Gradient Map to the Photo

NOTE: In the next two variations for this lesson, we will capitalize on the colors in your photo, but in this lesson, we'll use only black and white.

- In the Layers panel, click on the photo layer to activate it.
- Click on the Create a New Fill or Adjustment Layer icon and choose Gradient Map.
- In the Gradient Map panel (PS: Properties panel), click on the Clip Layer icon.



Blend the Photo With Hard Light

- In the Layers panel, click on the photo layer to activate it.
- Set the Blend Mode to Hard Light.

Adjust the Gradient Map

- In the Layers panel, double click on the thumbnail (not the layer mask) of the Gradient Map layer to open the Gradient Map panel (PS: Photoshop panel).
- In the Gradient Map panel (PS: Photoshop panel), click once the gradient (not the dropdown) to open the Gradient Editor.
- In the Gradient Editor, click on either the Black or White Color Stop to get a Midpoint slider. Click and drag the Midpoint slider to the left or right to add more or less black to your image. I'll set mine to 53%.
 - Dragging to the left will decrease the black pixels and make the image brighter.
 - Dragging to the right will increase the black pixels and make the image darker.



TROUBLESHOOTING TIPS

- If you accidentally click off of the Midpoint slider, you will create another Color Stop. If that happens, click Cancel and redo the steps to adjust the gradient map.
- If your gradient is not black to white (Foreground to Background) like mine,
 - **Photoshop Elements:** Open the Preset dropdown menu and choose Default. Click on the first gradient, Foreground to Background.
 - **Adobe Photoshop:** In Presets, open the Basics folder and click on the first gradient, Foreground to Background.
- Click OK to close the Gradient Editor.
- Right click (Mac: Ctrl click) on the tab of the panel and choose Close.

NOTE: You will find Blending Option 2 and Blending Option 3 in the previous lesson.

Blending Option 3: Blended & Masked

- Get the Brush tool.
- **Photoshop Elements Only:** In the Tool Options, open the Brush Picker and choose a Soft Round brush from the Default Brushes. Set the Opacity to 100 and the Mode to Normal. In Brush Settings, set the Fade to 0, the Hue Jitter to 0, the Scatter to 0, the Spacing to 25, and the Hardness to 0.
- **Adobe Photoshop Only:** In the Tool Options, open the Brush Picker and choose a Soft Round brush from the General Brushes. Set the Mode to Normal, the Opacity to 100, and the Flow to 100. In the Brush Settings panel (Window > Brush Settings), set the Spacing to 25%. Uncheck all Brush Tip Shape options.
- In the Layers panel, click on the photo layer to activate it.
- Click on the Add Layer Mask icon.
- The Foreground Color Chip should be black; if it's not, press the letter X.

- Making sure the layer mask stays active, click and drag on the document to mask away harsh edges and unwanted pixels. To add pixels back in, press the letter X to start brushing with white.

BRUSHING TIPS

- A smaller brush size will have less of a blurry edge.
- To mask away more detailed edges, make the brush smaller by pressing the Left Bracket key.
- To mask away larger areas, make the brush larger by pressing the Right Bracket key.
- Change the size of the brush as you go along.
- It does not have to be perfect!



(Optional) Reposition the Image

- Group the photo layers.
- Get the Move tool.
- On the document, hold down the Shift key and click and drag.
- If you need to mask more pixels after moving the image, click on the photo's layer mask, get the Brush tool, and click on the document with a black brush.



Finish the Page and Save

- Finish the page.
- Save the document (File > Save).

Page & Photo: Merman by Jen White
 Class: DSP23, Vol 7, Lesson 1, Variation 1
 Kits: Digital Scrapper, KimB Designs
 Fonts: Chainprinter, Caroni

For additional practice, continue to the next page.

Prepare Your Workspace

- Create a new 12x12 inch document (File > New > Blank File) at 300 ppi with a white background. (PS: Choose File > New.) Letter-sized documents will also work for this tutorial.
- Press the letter D to reset the Color Chips to the default of black over white.

Add a Background Paper

- Get the Move tool.
- Open paper3 (File > Open) from the Class-Files folder.
- Holding down the Shift key, click and drag the paper onto the new document.

Add a Photo

- Open practice-photo3 (File > Open) from the Class-Files folder.
- Holding down the Shift key, click and drag the photo onto the new document.



Add a Gradient Map to the Photo

NOTE: In the next two variations for this lesson, we will capitalize on the colors in your photo, but in this lesson, we'll use only black and white.

- In the Layers panel, click on the photo layer to activate it.
- Click on the Create a New Fill or Adjustment Layer icon and choose Gradient Map.
- In the Gradient Map panel (PS: Properties panel), click on the Clip Layer icon.



Blend the Photo With Hard Light

- In the Layers panel, click on the photo layer to activate it.
- Set the Blend Mode to Hard Light.

Adjust the Gradient Map

- In the Layers panel, double click on the thumbnail (not the layer mask) of the Gradient Map layer to open the Gradient Map panel (PS: Properties panel).
- In the Gradient Map panel (PS: Properties panel), click once on the gradient (not the dropdown) to open the Gradient Editor.
- In the Gradient Editor, click on either the Black or White Color Stop to get a Midpoint slider. Click and drag the Midpoint slider to the left or right to add more or less black to your image. I'll leave my slider at 100%.
 - Dragging to the left will decrease the black pixels and make the image brighter.
 - Dragging to the right will increase the black pixels and make the image darker.

TROUBLESHOOTING: If you accidentally click off of the Midpoint slider, you will create another Color Stop. If that happens, click Cancel and redo the steps to adjust the gradient map.

- Click OK to close the Gradient Editor.
- Right click (Mac: Ctrl click) on the tab of the panel and choose Close.

NOTE: You will find Blending Option 1 and Blending Option 2 in the previous lesson.

Blending Option 3: Blended & Masked

- Get the Brush tool.
- **Photoshop Elements Only:** In the Tool Options, open the Brush Picker and choose a Soft Round brush from the Default Brushes. Set the Opacity to 100 and the Mode to Normal. In Brush Settings, set the Fade to 0, the Hue Jitter to 0, the Scatter to 0, the Spacing to 25, and the Hardness to 0.
- **Adobe Photoshop Only:** In the Tool Options, open the Brush Picker and choose a Soft Round brush from the General Brushes. Set the Mode to Normal, the Opacity to 100, and the Flow to 100. In the Brush Settings panel (Window > Brush Settings), set the Spacing to 25%. Uncheck all Brush Tip Shape options.
- In the Layers panel, click on the photo layer to activate it.
- Click on the Add Layer Mask icon.
- The Foreground Color Chip should be black; if it's not, press the letter X.
- Making sure the layer mask stays active, click and drag on the document to mask away harsh edges and unwanted pixels. To add pixels back in, press the letter X to start brushing with white.



(Optional) Reposition the Image

- Group the photo layers.
- Get the Move tool.
- On the document, hold down the Shift key and click and drag.
- If you need to mask more pixels after moving the image, click on the photo's layer mask, get the Brush tool, and click on the document with a black brush.

