Digital Scrapper Premier 2023, Volume 7

Lesson 1, Variation 3, Hidden Hard Light

by Jen White

Mask away just a portion of your Hard Light blended photo.

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

For this lesson you will need:
- paper5 from the Class-Files folder.
- practice-photo5 from the Class-Files folder.

Quick Steps for Lesson 1, Variation 3, Hidden Hard Light

Step-by-step instructions are below.

- Create a new document and reset the Color Chips.
- Add a background paper (paper5).
- Add a photo (practice-photo5).
- Clip a gradient map adjustment layer to the photo.
- Set the Blend Mode of the photo layer to Hard Light.
- **Variation 3**
  - Invert the layer mask of the Gradient Map layer.
  - **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.
  - Use a white, soft round brush to remove color from the Gradient Map layer.
- If desired, move the photo layer to a different position.
- Adjust the gradient map as needed.
- If desired, lower the opacity of the photo layer.
- Finish the page and save the document.

Step-By-Step for Lesson 1, Variation 3, Hidden Hard Light

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 paper5 (File > Open) from the Class-Files folder.
- Holding down the Shift key, click and drag the paper onto the new document.
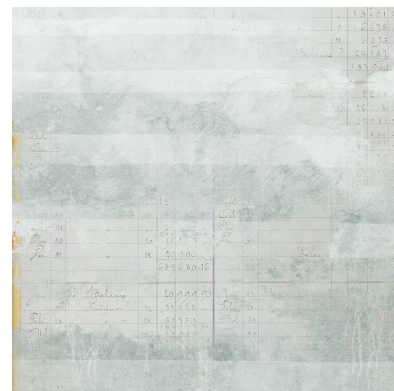
How To Choose a Good Paper for Lesson 1 and the Variations
NOTE: I recommend completing the lesson using the provided paper and photo before using ones from your own stash.
- Choose a plain, textured paper that's light in color.
- Avoid papers that have a pattern.

To match a plain, textured paper to your photos, watch <u>2 Ways to Quickly Match a Paper to a Photo</u>.

Add a Photo
• Open practice-photo5 (File > Open) from the Class-Files folder.
• Holding down the Shift key, click and drag the photo onto the new document.

NOTE: You can use any kind of photo for this variation, but you will likely have more success with a single-subject photo that has an easily defined subject.

Add a Gradient Map and Blend the Photo
• 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.
NOTE: If the Gradient Map layer does not have a layer mask, click on the Add Layer Mask icon.

• In the Gradient Map panel (PS: Properties panel), click on the Clip Layer icon.
• In the Layers panel, click on the photo layer to activate it.
• Set the Blend Mode to Hard Light.

(Variation 3) Invert the Gradient Map
• In the Layers panel, click on the layer mask of the Gradient Map layer.
• Press Ctrl I (Mac: Cmd I) to fill the layer mask with black and bring back all the color.

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!

Reveal a Small Portion of the Gradient Mask
- Get the Brush tool. Use the same brush and settings as before.
- Click on the layer mask of the Gradient Map layer to activate it.
- The Foreground Color Chip should be white; if it's not, press the letter X.
- On the document, click and drag on a small part of the image to remove color. To add color back in, press the letter X to make black the Foreground color and click and drag.

(Optional) Move the Photo
- Group the photo layers.
- Get the Move tool.
- In the Layers panel, click on the photo layer to activate it.
- Click and drag on the document.

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 set mine to 23.
  - 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.

(Optional) Further Blend the Image
- In the Layers panel, click on the photo layer to activate it.
- Lower the Opacity. I lowered mine to 75%.

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

Page & Photos: Prospect Place
by Jen White
Class: DSP23, Vol 7, Lesson 1,
Variation 3,
Kits: Digital Scrapper, Curated
Studio Mix 41 by Katie Pertiet
Fonts: Aichella, Chainprinter,
Caroni