Digital Scrapper Premier 2023, Volume 7
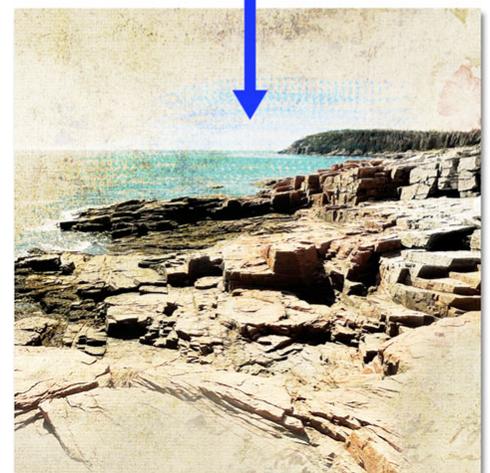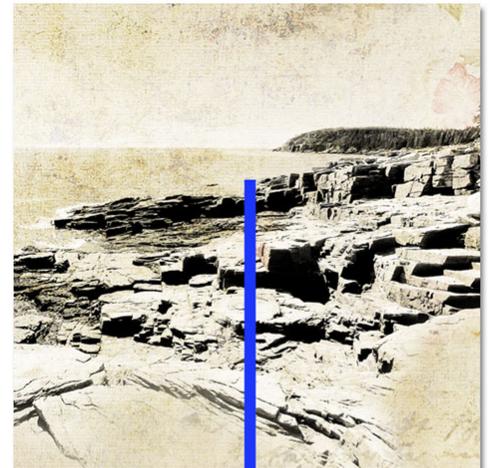
Lesson 1, Variation 2, Leaked Hard Light
by Jen White

Leak some color from your blended hard-light photo by masking away the gradient map.

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

For this lesson you will need:
* paper4 from the Class-Files folder.
* practice-photo4 from the Class-Files folder.

Quick Steps for Lesson 1, Variation 2, Leaked Hard Light

Step-by-step instructions are below.

- Create a new document and reset the Color Chips.
- Add a background paper (paper4).
- Add a photo (practice-photo4).
- 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.
- If desired, move the photo layer and lower the opacity.
- **Variation 2**
  - **Photoshop Elements:** Use a black **Plastic Wrap Light 90 Pixels** brush from the Faux Finish Brushes to mask away parts of the Gradient Map.
  - **Adobe Photoshop:** Use a black **Round Fan with Texture** brush from the Legacy Brushes > Dry Media Brushes to mask away parts of the Gradient Map.
- Finish the page and save the document.

Step-By-Step for Lesson 1, Variation 2, Leaked 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 paper4 (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 <u>2 Ways to Quickly Match a Paper to a Photo</u>.

Add a Photo
• Open practice-photo4 (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.
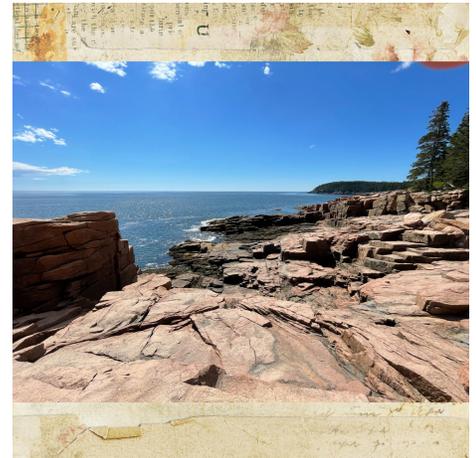
Add a Gradient Map and Blend the Photo
• In the Layers panel, click on the photo layer to activate it.
• Click on the Create a New Fill or Adjustment Layer icon and choose Gradient Map.
• In the Gradient Map panel (PS: Properties panel), click on the Clip Layer icon.
• In the Layers panel, click on the photo layer to activate it.
• Set the Blend Mode to Hard Light.

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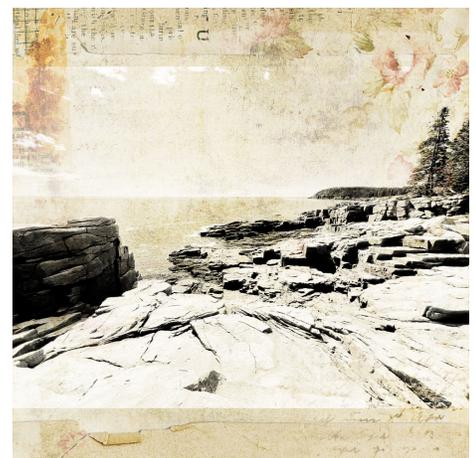
- Click OK to close the Gradient Editor.
- Right click (Mac: Ctrl click) on the tab of the panel and choose Close.

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.
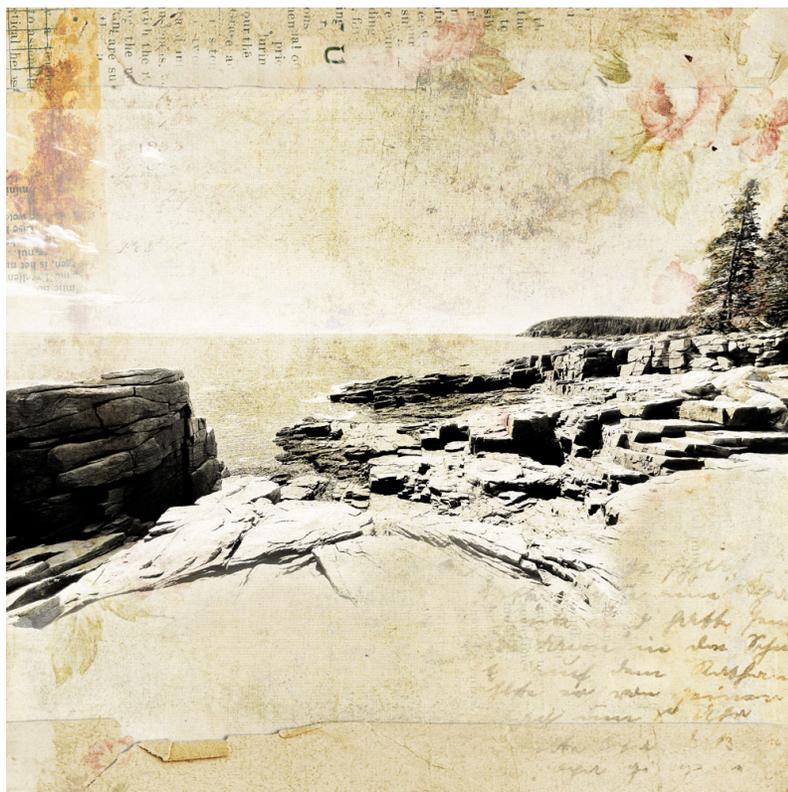
BRUSHING TIPS

- 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 and Further Blend the Image

- Get the Move tool.
- On the document, hold down the Shift key and click and drag to reposition the image.
- If desired, lower the Opacity of the photo layer.

(Variation 2) Mask Away a Small Portion of the Gradient Mask

- Get the Brush tool.
- **Photoshop Elements Only**: In the Tool Options, open the Brush Picker, open the dropdown menu, and choose Faux Finish Brushes. Choose the Plastic Wrap Light 90 Pixels brush. If you don't see the names of the brushes, open the flyout menu and choose Large List. Set the Opacity to 100 and the Mode to Normal.
- **Adobe Photoshop Only:** In the Tool Options, open the Brush Picker and open the Legacy Brushes. If you don't see the Legacy Brushes, open the flyout menu and choose Legacy Brushes. Open the Dry Media Brushes and choose the Round Fan with Texture brush. If you don't see the names of the brushes, open the flyout menu and choose Brush Name. Set the Size to 50, the Mode to Normal, the Opacity to 100, and the Flow to 100. In the Brush Settings panel (Window > Brush Settings), set the Shape to Round Fan, the Bristles to 46, the Length to 246, the Thickness to 25, the Stiffness to 97, the Angle to 0, and the Spacing to 11. In Brush Tip Shape settings, uncheck all settings except Texture.
- In the Layers panel, click on the layer mask of the Gradient Map layer to activate it. If there is no layer mask, click on the Add Layer Mask icon.
- The Foreground Color Chip should be black; if it's not, press the letter X.
- On the document, click and drag on a small part of the image to bring back some color. To take color away, press the letter X to make white the Foreground color and click and drag over the color.
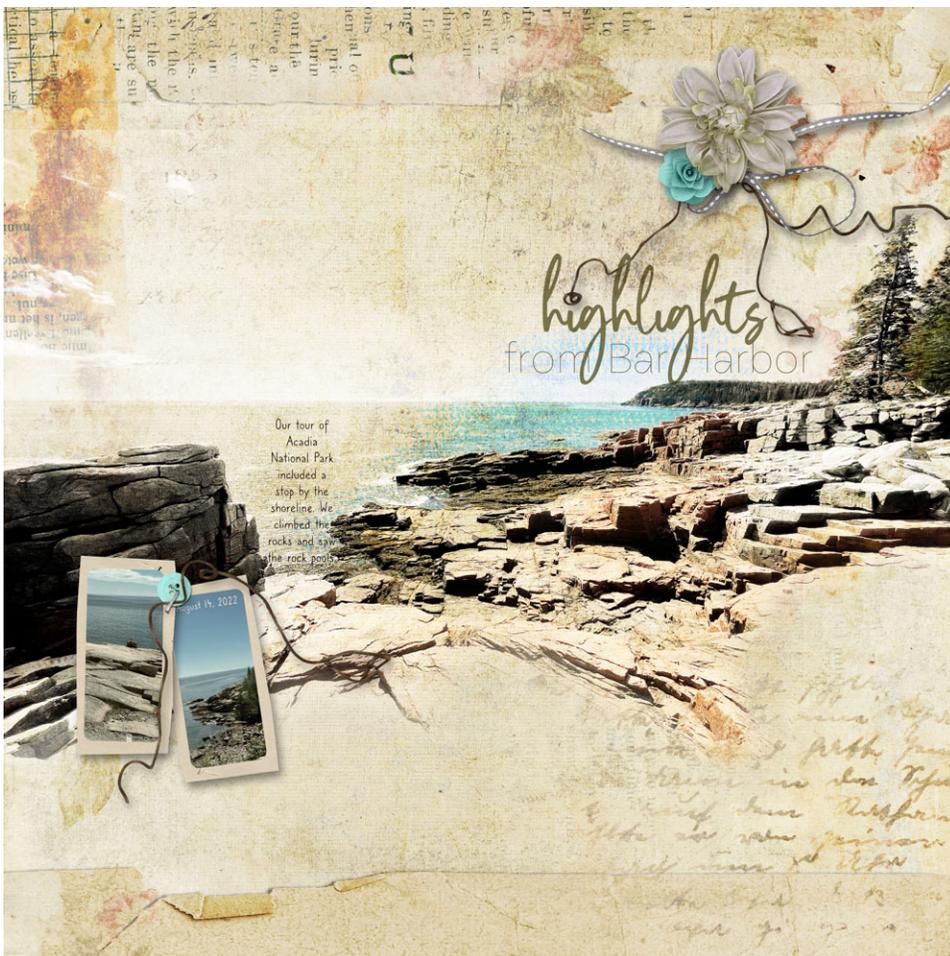
Finish the Page and Save

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

Page & Photos: Jen White
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