

Art of Blending | Module 10 Bonus

Video 10-06 Painting with the Pattern Stamp Tool

In my interview with Shirley Lewerenz, Shirley mentioned using the Pattern Stamp tool to create her artistic images, so I thought I would show you that technique as well as a different way of doing the same thing.

Prepare Your Photo

- Open the photo you want to feature on your scrapbook page and create an artistic effect, if you want to. Shirley likes to use Poster Edges, which adds more definition to the edges of your photo, so that's what I'll use here.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Filter > Artistic > Poster Edges. Choose values that work for your photo. I used 1 for the Edge Thickness, 1 for Edge Intensity, and 3 for Posterization. Click OK.
- With the Move tool, click and drag your photo onto your scrapbook page. Resize, if necessary, and position it where you want it.

Create a Pattern

The next step is to create a pattern we can use with the Pattern Stamp tool.

- Press Alt (Mac: Opt) and click on the visibility icon of the photo layer to hide every layer but the photo.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Edit > Define Pattern. When the dialog box comes up, you can name the pattern, if you wish, or simply click OK.
- In the Menu Bar, choose View > Rulers. Also make sure that View > Snap To > Document Bounds is selected.
- Click and drag out four guides from the ruler and place them along the four edges of your photo.
- Press Alt (Mac: Opt) and click on the visibility icon of the photo layer to reveal other layers.
- You could delete the photo layer now by dragging it to the trash, or you can click on the visibility icon to hide it.
- Click on the background layer and click on the Create a New Layer icon.

Create an Artistic Look

- Get the Pattern Stamp tool. It's nested with the Clone Stamp tool.
- Open the Pattern Picker and scroll to the end where you'll see the new pattern you just made.
- Open the Brush Picker.
- In Photoshop Elements, open the Menu at the top and choose Wet Media Brushes. Double click on #74 Oil Medium Brush Wet Edges. In Photoshop, open the Brush Picker in the Tool Bar, click on the icon in the upper right corner to access the flyout menu and choose Wet Media Brushes. You can choose to either replace your current brushes or append the new ones. Double click on #74 Oil Medium Brush Wet Edges.
- In both versions, in Tool Options, increase the Size to 500 px by pressing the right Bracket key a few times and reduce the Opacity to 30 to 50%, depending on how fast you want to fill in the color and the effect you're after.
- The Mode should be Normal, check Aligned, but do not check Impressionist.
- Brush on your document, but stay within the guides, or you'll get straight edges.
- Once you're done with the painting, create the rest of your page.

Layer Mask Method

As you probably know by now, there is often more than one way to accomplish something in Photoshop or Photoshop Elements. A second way to create a painted look is to use a layer mask.

- As before, add your photo, resize it, place it where you want it, and add guides along all four sides.
- Press Alt (Mac: Opt) and click on the Add Layer Mask icon.
- Make sure the Foreground color is white. If it isn't press the letter D.
- Use the same brush, #74 Oil Medium Brush Wet Edges, set at 30 to 50% Opacity to brush in the image.
- The advantage of using a layer mask is that you can quickly switch to black to paint away some of the image

Conclusion: Figure out which method you're the most comfortable with—the Pattern Stamp tool or layer mask—and use that method. Either one will create a beautiful painted image!