Adobe Photoshop Introduction Part 3
(Basic Photo Manipulation - Retouching Photographs with the Clone Stamp Tool)
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Overview

Photoshop is an excellent tool to help manipulate, restore, and improve your photographs, whether they originated from a digital camera or were scanned in from tradition film. This workshop will introduce concepts, tools, and information which are fundamental to the manipulation of photographs. These tools include the clone stamp tool, which allows dramatic restoration and altering abilities, and the healing brush, which allows pixels to be blended with pixels in a different area of the image.

Source files required to follow along with the exercises can be downloaded here.

Objectives

- Copy portions of an image to another area with the Clone Stamp Tool
- Copy portions of an image onto different layers
- Restore or “Heal” a blemished image with the Healing Brush

Photoshop Fundamentals

New to Photoshop?

Some of the exercises in this guide build on other Photoshop skills. If you are new to Photoshop, you might want to check out our Photoshop Introduction Guide.

Clone Stamp Tool

Typical Photoshop Brush tools replace pixels with a selected color. The Clone Stamp tool is similar to a typical Brush tool except for one important difference: it replaces pixels with other pixels taken from a different part of the image.

A common example would be using a small part of an image to cover up an unwanted element, such as telephone wires in a landscape photograph or a skin blemish in a portrait.
How To Use the Clone Stamp Tool

The best way to learn the Clone Tool is to jump in and experience it. However, to use it we need an image to manipulate. In this exercise, we will open an image and use the Clone Tool to copy one puppy into three.

Exercise

1. Open the provided image Puppy_01.jpg. *File > Open > Puppy_01.jpg*

2. Create a copy of the image as a new layer. *Layer > Duplicate Layer*

3. Select the Clone Tool on the left hand tool bar. The icon looks like a stamp.

4. In order to copy some pixels in this image, we need to tell Photoshop which pixels we want to copy. This is known as sampling. To sample an area, hold down the Alt key on the keyboard. Notice how the cursor changes to a cross shape. *While holding the Alt key, click on the puppy somewhere around the nose area. Once you’ve clicked, you can release the Alt key.*

5. Once you have sampled an area, *begin painting on an empty part of the image.* As you hold down the left mouse button and move the cursor around, you will notice a second cursor mirroring your movements, beginning at the spot you sampled earlier, in our case the puppy’s nose. Continue painting until you have a complete copy of the puppy.
6. Repeat the steps above until you have a total of three puppies on the image.

Exercise

1. Open the provided image Child_on_Lawn_01.jpg. File > Open > Child_on_Lawn_01.jpg
2. Create a new Layer. Name it anything you wish. *Layer > New > Layer*

3. Select the original background layer.

4. Select the Clone Stamp Tool on the left hand tool bar.

5. Holding down Alt, sample a starting point on the child’s head. Remember that nothing will visibly happen.
6. Select the new, blank layer you created earlier.

7. Begin painting on the new layer with the Clone Stamp Tool. Continue painting until two children are running through the grass.

8. Move the new layer around to shift the position of the new child.

9. Repeat steps 2 through 8 until you have several different children on different layers.

The Healing Brush

Photoshop’s Healing Brush is very similar to the Clone Stamp Tool. The difference is while the Clone Stamp Tool replaces the pixels painted with those sampled; the Healing Brush blends the two. In this way, texture, lighting and other details which might be desired can remain, while blemishes or unwanted portions can be removed.

As its name implies, the Healing brush is a great tool for repairing or “healing” damaged images or photographs with unwelcome blemishes.

Exercise

1. Open the provided image Messy_Child_01.jpg. File > Open > Messy_Child_01.jpg
2. Create a copy of the image as a new layer. *Layer > Duplicate Layer*

3. *Select the Healing Brush* on the left hand tool bar. It looks like a band aid.

4. As with the Clone Stamp Tool, *hold down Alt and sample a starting point on the child’s face*. Remember that nothing will visibly happen.

5. *Begin using small painting strokes to “heal”* the messy places on her skin. Resample after almost every stroke.

6. *Continue until her face is clean*. Remember to use the history panel to undo actions if you make a mistake.

7. *Check your progress* by hiding the working layer and viewing the original image.
Putting it all Together

The Clone Tool, Healing Brush, and similar tools are meant to be used together. Often, one tool will not be the best option for an enter image. The Clone tool might be the best in one area, and the Healing brush the best for another, and so on.

Exercise

1. Open the provided image Wires_01.jpg. File > Open > Wires_01.jpg

![Image of Wires_01.jpg]

2. Create a copy of the image as a new layer. Layer > Duplicate Layer

3. Use a combination of cloning tools to remove the wires from the sky.

![Image of wires removed from sky]
Exercise

The Clone Stamp Tool and the Healing Tools allow you to copy and paste pixels in a fluid and dynamic way. However, altering images often requires portions of an image to be created without an obvious sample point. In other words, you don’t always have a great place in the image to copy from.

This next exercise is intended to be difficult and perfect results will be difficult to achieve. Mastering photo-manipulation takes more than tools, it takes practice and experience.

Work on this challenging image a few times if necessary.

1. Open the provided image Child_Nose_01.jpg. *File > Open > Child_Nose_01.jpg*

2. Create a copy of the image as a new layer. *Layer > Duplicate Layer*

3. Use the Clone Stamp Tool and the Healing Brush Tools to *remove the frog from this child’s nose.*

Photoshop Resources

Adobe Photoshop is constantly changing and there is a huge variety of great free walkthroughs and tutorials online. Additionally, we offer a few other guides for various Photoshop tools and abilities.

- Adobe Photoshop Guide - Introduction: basic fundamentals of Photoshop for those just getting started.
- Adobe Photoshop Guide - Selections: can be used to modify specific areas of a digital image, make more accurate selections within an image, and modify an image without affecting the original. In a similar fashion, adjustment layers allow users to dramatically alter the color settings of a digital image without changing the original.