

Applying Textures to Images

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My first thoughts...

There are many ways to add textures to your images. There is no right or wrong. The creative possibilities are endless, and will go as far as you wish to take it. When the image is pleasing to the eye, save it and you are done. Then you will probably continue to play!

- Warning...this is highly addictive, so get ready to learn, have fun, and be excited with turning your images into something special. Sometimes results are achieved quickly, sometimes it takes multiple attempts till you find something that works for the image.

Collecting textures...

It's good to have choices. Every time I go out to a destination, I take pictures of walls, floors, cement, grass, just about anything. Newsprint, text, skies, peeling paint, rust, and the ideas are endless.

You can also buy some, and there are many freebies out there too. I will give names of sites that I have used at the end.

Layers

You will need to work in layers. It will give you control over both the image and the texture.

- 1- It's non-destructive to your image.
- 2- You have blending modes to change the interaction of texture with the image.
- 3- You can change the opacity of any effect you apply.
4. You can use layer masks to work selectively on your image.

Masking Basics

- White reveals, black conceals
- "B" selects the brush tool (This is the tool you will work with)
- "D" sets the color palette to Black or White
- "X" switches between black and white
- numbers on the keyboard, affect the opacity i.e. -5 =50%
- the "[" left bracket will decrease the size of the brush
- the "]" right bracket will increase the size of the brush

Blend Modes

Photoshop has 27 blend modes. The modes give you a variety of ways for the layers to interact with each other. I scroll through all the modes to see what they will look like...I do it every time, which helps you get to know them. Most often, I use Multiply, Overlay, or Soft Light, but I do use some others as well.

I will list some Texture Sites, at the end. Most of them have tutorials that are easy to follow. Some differ in small ways, but will all get similar results.

You can also Google, "Photoshop Textures", and you will get many links for Free Textures and Textures to purchase. There will also be tutorials to check out there.

NOW...with all that said...this is the basic way to do a Quick Start...

- Make all adjustments to your image before starting. Blurring out the background works wonderful!

1-Open an image to work on. Duplicate image!!

2-Go to File>Place>browse through your textures and select one to use, and hit Place.

3-The texture will open up over your image with the transform tool already active. Move the handles around the texture to fit the image. You can rotate the texture also at this time, if necessary. When done, hit "enter".

4-Experiment with the blend modes. A quick way to scroll through them, is to click on the mode "normal", then hold the shift key (PC) or Option (Mac). Press the plus or minus keys on the keyboard, or in some cases the up and down arrows.

5-Now you can adjust the opacity of the texture, or make adjustments to the texture using the adjustment layer at the bottom of the layer palette.

6- At this time you may want to remove texture from your main subject. Click on the "mask" icon at the bottom of the layer palette. Select your "brush" from the toolbar, use a soft brush. Make sure "black" is the "foreground color" and "white" is the "background" color. Start with the BLACK brush at about 20% opacity. The opacity slider for the brush is along the top of the image. Move the cursor over the area you want to make clearer from the main image, hold down the left click (PC), and move around to reveal more of the original image. If you need a stronger mask, increase the opacity, or click again until it looks good.

- If you go too much, then change the brush to white and do the same thing. Sometimes you have to keep going back and forth to fine tune it.

You need to experiment and play with every step, to get results you desire or like!

A few tips...If you want to warm up an image, pick a texture with a golden/yellow/warm brown tone. To add coolness to an image, add texture with blue/gray tones.

Try texture with different blend modes and opacities.

Duplicate the texture layer to intensify.

Anything you can do to an image, you can do to a texture...Let your creativity go!

I hope you enjoy this kind of processing, and will be pleased with your results, and will share them with us soon!! Have Fun!!!