PHOTOSHOP FOR PHOTOGRAPHERS

Part 7 Special Effects

1. For this exercise drag the following three files into the Photoshop workspace:

    14a-Merritt-Island_MG_4887-Small.jpg

    14b-Shuttle-Launch-Tower-11-12-05_MG_4753-Small.jpg

    14c-Backyard-Lightning-5_MG_9183-Small.jpg

2. With all three open, use the **Move** tool (**Toolbox**; upper right) to select-and-drag **14b-Shuttle . . .** into **14a-Merritt-Island . . .**

3. Bring up the **Layers** panel **<F7>**, reduce the opacity of **14b-Shuttle** (now labeled *Layer 1* in the layers panel) to 50%.

4. Using the **Move** tool, drag the **14b** layer (now called *Layer 1* in the Layers panel) into position so that the shorelines in each image are perfectly aligned. Once aligned, bring the opacity back to 100%.

5. Keyboard "D" to bring the color palette to default B&W. Keyboarding "D" brings them to default. *(Do this often. You will find that the colors change when you're not looking.)*

6. In the main menu, go to **Layer/Layer mask/Reveal all**.

7. In the **Toolbox**, get the **Gradient** tool (sixth tool down on the right side—packaged with the *Paint Bucket* tool). Then place the cursor about ¼ inch below the waterline and drag it *directly* upward to the top of the tower (the *tower*—not the antenna).

8. Notice that the person's head has a piece of shoreline going through it. We will paint this out with the paintbrush tool.

9. Again, hit the "D" on the keyboard to make sure the foreground and background colors are **Black and White**.
    Note: In this particular mode, the background and foreground colors act as a reversible eraser, but in this case, take care not to paint out the gradient shoreline past the head area. If you make a mistake, use <Ctrl+Z> to undo. Painting over the mistake with white will not match the gradient's tone.

10. Set the Paintbrush to 50% on the options bar and gently remove the shoreline from the head. If you remove too much, or if removal bleeds out into the sky areas, simply reverse the background and foreground colors by hitting the "X" on the keyboard and painting the tones back in.

11. Now drag **14c-Backyard-Lightning . . .** into the frame, and reduce its opacity to 50% as you did in step 3.

12. With the **Move** tool, bring the bottom tip of the lightning to line up with the top of the launch tower's antenna.

At this point you can use either of the following two options:

OPTION 1 - THE BLENDING PANEL
1. With **14c . . .** still active in the **Layers** panel, bring the opacity back to 100%.
2. Double click on the blue area of the **14c** layer (now *Layer 2*) to bring up the **Layer Style** panel (a shortcut to the main menu's **Layer/Layer Style**).
3. There are two grayscales at the bottom of the panel. At the upper grayscale (labeled "This layer") pull the left slider to the right until it reaches 100
    At this point almost all of the black has disappeared and only the white lightning remains. If not exact, then tweak it until the lightning is isolated.

OPTION 2 - GRADIENTS AGAIN (cancel the previous option and start fresh.)
1. With **14c . . .** still active in the **Layers** panel, bring the opacity back to about 90%.
2. Repeat steps 5 thru 7 above, but this time start at the 5-inch level and drag the cursor to the 1-inch level. (If the rulers are not visible, then keyboard **<Ctrl+R>.)**
3. Now drag the **Layer** panel opacity slider back down to 50%, or whenever you have a pleasing balance of tones.

FINISHING TOUCHES

At this point the image is a bit flat-looking from all the layers, so we should spruce it up with some contrast, saturation, and finally some sharpening.

1. Let's use a **Curves Adjustment** layer for this. At the bottom of the **Layers** panel click on the split circle icon, and click **Curves** on the drop-down menu.

2. The curser now becomes an eyedropper. While holding down the **<Ctrl>** key, click the eyedropper on one of the lighter pixels within the lightning bolt. Use the up arrow key to raise the curve close to the top.

3. Now click the eyedropper on the middle gray tone somewhere in the sky near the lightning. Use the down arrow key to bring *that* part of the curve back to where it was.

Typography with Special Effects

Photoshop is great for creating title slides and special effects graphic design with photography. And that's an understatement! Let's make a title slide using the image we just made.

1. Before we go any further we should save this image as a PSD file with a new filename, without flattening or merging down, in a folder called "Working Images." ***Then—flatten the image.***

2. Keyboard the "D" and the "X" to select white (the background color) as your type color.

3. Click on the "T" in **Toolbox** and drag a type area across the image from upper left to lower right—covering most of the image area.

4. In the options bar at the top of the screen there are four pull-down menus. Click the arrow on the first one and choose a typeface. For this title I chose Arial Black, and hit the **"Caps Lock"** key on the keyboard. The second pull-down menu should remain "Regular." In the third pull-down menu block the entry and fill in 190 for 190pt type size.

5. Type in a short title. I used my company name "TERN MEDIA" using two lines. Then turn off the **"Caps Lock"** key.

6. In the main menu, go to **Window/ Paragraph** to bring up the **Paragraph** panel. Be sure the leading box and all other boxes are set to "0." This minimizes the space between the lines, and negates any default setting that may be present.

7. With the **Magic Wand** tool, click on one of the letters in the title. Then go to **Select/Similar**. All of the type should be selected.

8. Go to **Select/Save Selection** in the main menu and save it as "Type."

9. Go to **Layers** panel and throw away the type selection, and **Flatten** the image.

10. Copy the newly flattened image to the clipboard using **<Ctrl+A>** then **<Ctrl+C>**.

11. Go to **Select/Load Selection**.

12. Go to **Edit/Paste Into** in the main menu, or simply keyboard **<Ctrl+Shift+V>.**

13. *Don't panic,* the type is still there. Keyboard **<Ctrl+L>** and move the middle slider to the right to darken the image within the type. Click **OK.**

14. Go to **Select/Load** selection. Select the **Type** selection. Grab inside the selection with the **Magic Wand** tool *(the magic wand cursor turns into an arrow)* and move the selection up and to the left. Then select the top layer *(Layer 1)* in the **Layers Palette**.

15. Again, in the main menu, go to **Edit/Paste Into,** or simply keyboard **<Ctrl+Shift+V>.**

16. Keyboard **<Ctrl+L>**, but this time move the middle slider to the left to lighten the image within the type.

You should have a title with a drop shadow that includes all the image details in different tones.

ENHANCING TYPE

17. In the Layers panel, double-click on the blue highlight area of the top type selection to bring up the Blending palette.

18. Check the box next to bevel, then click the word bevel and play with the controls.

As always, if you have any problems working with these lessons, please call me at 407-658-4869. Best times are Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday between 7:30 and 9:30 PM.