
PHOTOSHOP 2: TEXT & BRUSH

Step 1: Open one of the photographs found on the Exercises page of our course website (<http://sorapure.net/105nm>). Arrange your workspace so that you have the Character, Layers, and History palettes open, along with the Toolbox. Close all other palettes.

Character

Selecting the Type tool (“T”) in the toolbox enables you to type. The Character palette lets you modify text by choosing its font, leading (space between lines), tracking (space between characters), color, and other features. To modify text, the text itself must be selected (highlighted).

When you select the Type tool (or any tool), notice that additional options for that tool appear across the top of the canvas, just under the Menu Bar. For the Type tool, you can change the text orientation (vertical or horizontal); the font family, style, and size; the anti-aliasing method (which determines how the edges of the text blend into the background color); the text alignment and color; and text-warping (with which you can cause the text to arc or bulge or twist in different ways). Some of these options for modifying text are also available in the Character palette.

Step 2: Select the Type tool and type some text. Use the Type tool options and/or the Character palette to adjust the font, tracking, color, and other features of the text. You need to have the text selected (i.e., highlighted) in order for these transformations to apply to the text, just as in MS Word.

Notice that when you click on canvas with the Type tool selected, a new layer automatically appears in the Layers Palette; this new layer should have a “T” to designate it as a Type layer.

Layer Style

You can apply special effects, such as shadowing and beveling, to the text by using the **Layer Style** button at the bottom of the Layers palette (shaped like an “f” in a circle). Selecting a style from the menu will pop up a dialog box in which you can choose certain features of the style. For instance, the dialog box for “Drop Shadow” allows you to choose the color of the shadow, the distance of the shadow from the text, the contour of the shadow, and other features. The “Bevel and Emboss” style allows you to choose from different styles, contours, and other features of beveling.

Notice that when you apply a style to a layer of text, a sub-layer with that style appears in the Layers palette under the category of Effects. If you want to modify the style that you’ve already applied, double-click on the style sub-layer to re-open the dialog box for that style.

Step 3: With the text selected, use the Layer Style menu to apply some effects to this text. After you’ve applied the style, double-click on the style sub-layer to alter the style.

Rasterizing Text

As mentioned above, Type layers are designated with a “T” and are different from other layers in Photoshop. In Photoshop, type is vector data, which means that it can be scaled and edited without a loss in quality; all other images in Photoshop are pixel data. For some processes (filter effects, for example), you need to convert the vector data to pixels by “rasterizing” it.

Once you rasterize type, you can no longer go back and change it except on the pixel level. For instance, if there is a spelling error that you want to fix or if you want to change the font style, you cannot do this after the text has been rasterized. You rasterize type by selecting in the Layers palette the layer with the type on it and then going to **Layer > Rasterize > Type**. You may have to deselect the Type tool before doing this; it’s always a good idea to select the Move tool (the arrow) as your default tool. The shortcut for the Move tool is to type the letter “V”.

Step 4: Rasterize the text that you just typed.

Filters

You remember from the previous lesson that filters are used to achieve different kinds of artistic effects. You cannot apply a filter to text unless that text has been rasterized.

Step 5: Apply a filter effect to the rasterized text. Keep in mind that not all filter effects will show results if the text is a solid color. The Liquify effect will usually work well with text.

Brush Tool

The Brush tool is located under the Pencil tool in the Toolbox. When you select the Brush tool you have a variety of options to choose from, including the type and size of brush, the color you're painting with, and the "blending mode." Your choice of blending mode can create significantly different colors when you're laying one color on top of another.

You can append different types of brushes to your brush selection by clicking on the small arrow in the brush selection palette. Select a group of brushes and choose "Append" to add these brushes to your collection.

Step 6: Create a new layer and give it a name; turn off the visibility of the other layers. Experiment with the Brush tool by attempting to write a word on the layer using different brush colors, textures, and sizes. If you don't like the results, use the History palette to erase your actions.

Transform

You can adjust the size of a layer or a selection by using the Free Transform command (Edit > Free Transform, or Control-T (PC) or Command-T (Mac). When you choose Edit > Free Transform, a box with handles appears around the layer or selection you're working on. Drag on one of the handles of this box to make the layer or selection smaller or larger; holding down the Shift key when you drag will constrain the proportions of the layer or selection. You can also rotate the layer or selection by moving the cursor slightly away from one of the edges of the box, until a curved line with arrows appears. Click and drag to rotate.

When you're finished, you have to hit the Return key for the transformations to apply. If you don't like what you've just done, undo it by going to Edit > Undo, or Control-Z (PC) or Command-Z (Mac), or by using the History palette.

Step 7: Select a layer in the Layers palette. Transform that layer in size and rotation by using the Edit > Free Transform command.

Finishing Up

Continue experimenting with different text effects. Remember that if you want to work on this project later, you need to save the Photoshop file (.psd extension) so that you can preserve your layers.

When you're finished save the file as a JPEG (.jpg extension) and submit this file for your Photoshop Exercise #2.