Painting with Photoshop

Learn how to harness the power of a Wacom drawing tablet and Photoshop. Learning objectives include:

* using and configuring a Wacom tablet
* using the Mixer Brush
* using a drawing tablet for selections and other techniques

Outline: Wacom drawing tablets are essential for taking advantage of the new Mixer Brush and Bristle Tips in Adobe Photoshop. These new tools allow students an unprecedented ability to create natural and realistic painting effects on a computer. The new Mixer Brush lets you define multiple colors on a single tip to paint with subtle color blends, or you can use a dry brush to blend a photo's colors to create a beautiful painting. New Bristle Tips enable you to easily paint with lifelike, naturally textured brush strokes using defined bristle properties like shape, length, and stiffness, and you can experiment away by adding Bristle Tips to a variety of Photoshop brush tools.

This workshop utilizes self-guided modules that include templates, handouts, examples and step-by-step video tutorials. This approach individualizes instruction and allows users to move at their own pace and maximizes the instructor interaction with the participants because they can focus on their own instructional needs. These materials are all copyright free and can be used by the participants in their own classrooms.

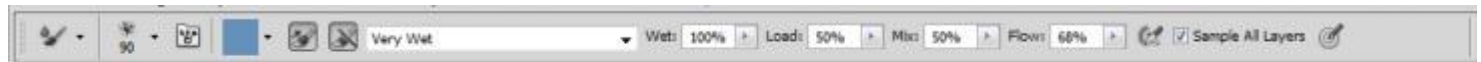--

Painting with Photoshop: http://paintingwithphotoshop.weebly.com/
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Tablet Introduction Activity

Getting Started (1:35): In this tutorial I will show you how to set the Wacom Tablet properties for a dual monitor setup.

Warm Up Activities (2:55) In this lesson I will give you a couple warm up exercises. If you are in my class you will need to turn these files into with the rest of your activities.

If you just got a new tablet and need more help setting it up check out the Wacom YouTube Channel.

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Scratch Art

I was browsing around in the Adobe Education Exchange and came a cross a fantastic lesson by fellow Adobe Education leader Nicole Dalesio titled "Scratch Art: Photoshop for Kids of All Ages". My students loved the lesson and so I made up a couple of my own to get you started.

Activities

The Scratch Art Basics (1:17)
In this lesson I will show you how to use the gradient tool and a solid black layer to create a quick scratch art. The idea is that you will play around with the idea after the video.

Scratch Art Stencil (2:28)
In this lesson we will use the "Text Masking" tool to create a scratch art stencil.

Scratching a Photograph (2:36)
In this lesson we will start with a brightly colored photograph for our scratching base.
Tip: *Notice how cool the stratched lines of the Dragon look when they follow the contours of the body.*

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Mixer Brush

I would like you to launch Photoshop and open up a file to practice with. If you are on a PC just go to the "Sample Pictures" and open one of the images. Then follow along with the tutorial and pause and practice each step.

Expectations: Practice with an image as you watch the tutorial.

Then download a cool image and do your best. We don't have tons of time so pick a large simple image. Here are some good examples.

Mixer Brush Options

1: Sample color (click the arrow to clean or load the brush)
2: Auto Load Brush
3. Auto Clean Brush
4: Presets
5: Wet –sets that way the paint on the canvas interacts with the brush
6: Load –sets how quickly the brush goes dry
7: Mix –defines the amount of paint mixed from canvas to brush

Important Keyboard Shortcuts
Hold "**i**" = temporarily switch to eye dropper to sample color
Hold "**alt**" and click = samples multiple colors

Additional Lessons

Here are some more valuable lessons on how to use this powerful tool.
Photoshop for Kids: Digital Painting: This is a great video tutorial that walks you step by step through the process. If the tutorial above went too fast, you will enjoy this one.

Working with the New Bristle Brush Tips
Paint lifelike brush strokes with the new bristle tips in Photoshop CS5. Customize bristle qualities ranging from shape and length to thickness and stiffness.

Photoshop CS5 Digital Painting Tutorial: This is a nice written tutorial with good screen shots.

Animated Version: Check out this cool example of an animated title sequence for "Robin Hood".

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Painting on a Layer Mask

A drawing tablet and a layer mask is a powerful combination. Here are three lessons that should give you some experience with a variety of ways to use this combination. For these exercises I use an image from the "practice files" page but you can use any image.

Black and White Adjustment Layer

Black and White Adjustment Layer (6:46)
This is a popular technique for wedding photographers and learning how masks work.

Keyboard Shortcuts
[and] - Resize the brush
Shift + [or] - Adjust the hardness of the brush
X - Toggle between foreground and background color (black and white)
Alt + click on layer mask - toggle between viewing layer mask and image

Painting Color into a Black and White Image

Painting with Color Blend Mode (4:35)
This is a popular technique for working with black and white photographs. I start with a colored photo but many people start with a photograph that was shot in black and white.

Keyboard Shortcuts
[and] - Resize the brush
X - Toggle between foreground and background color (black and white)

Depth of Field

Depth of Field Tutorial (5:46)
This will cover how to apply a filter like the lens blur to a selective part of your image using a layer mask.

Keyboard Shortcuts
[and] - Resize the brush
D - Default colors (black and white)
X - Toggle between foreground and background color (black and white)
Alt + click on layer mask - toggle between viewing layer mask and image
Ctrl + J - copy via layer

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Draw Tablets in Education

Digital Painting Basics
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gjFk7EpWiNs&feature=related

How to Digital Paint
http://www.howtodigitalpaint.com/

Sheldon High animation students create 'Tea Time' animated short
http://www.cgw.com/Press-Center/Online-Exclusives/2011/Sheldon-High-animation-students-create-Tea-Time-.aspx
Wacom YouTube Channel
http://www.youtube.com/user/Wacom?feature=watch
Dodge and Burn with a Wacom Tablet
http://tv.adobe.com/watch/photoshopcafe-tv/dodge-and-burn-with-a-wacom-tablet/

Photoshop Secrets: Wacom Tablets and Photoshop CS5

http://www.photoshopcafe.com/video/products/CS5_Wacom.htm
This is the 5th edition of THE best-selling video on Wacom tablets and Photoshop. The most complete training on the Wacom Tablet and Adobe Photoshop ever! This fully updated video will show you how to unleash the power and creativity that only comes from a pressure-sensitive tablet. Set up your tablet correctly and stop working like a mouse user in Photoshop. Two of the Top instructors in the industry combine their talents to bring you a video that will totally change the way you approach graphics on your computer.