



Corporate Flow



Illustration



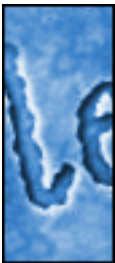
Image Editing



Automation



Web



Text Effects

Canvas Tips and Techniques



Creative Department

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Highlighting Cartoons

In this series on Canvas 7 transparency features provided by SpriteLayer technology, we've seen examples of transparency in technical illustrations. Here, we explore a few cool transparency techniques for cartoon-style illustrations.

Step 1

Making motion

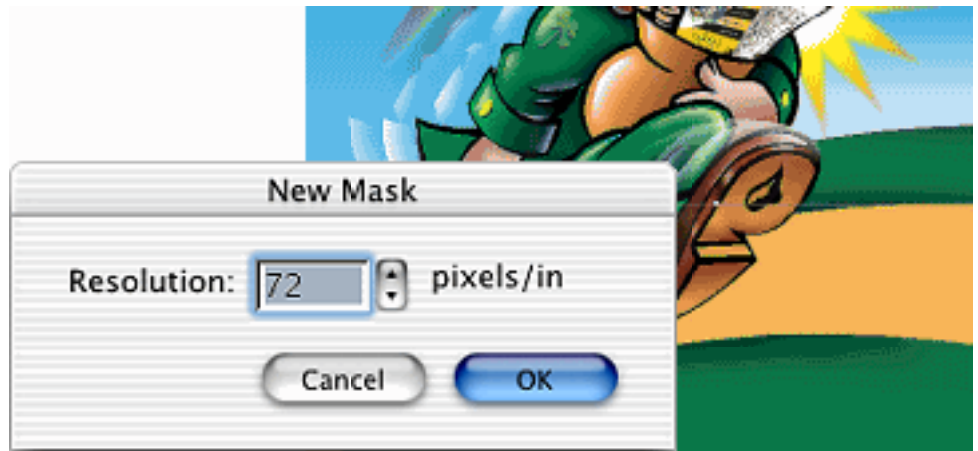
SpriteLayer technology makes it easy to create outlines that suggest motion, like in the cartoon celebrating St. Patrick's Day by Deneba artist Cesar Santalo. Notice the set of soft white outline shapes to the left, which give a visual spring to the striding leprechaun. To create these motion outlines, Cesar used channel masks, a transparency feature provided by Deneba's SpriteLayer technology.

First, he duplicated the leprechaun and filled the copy with white. He positioned this highlight figure to the left of the main figure.



Step 2

Next, he clicked the highlight figure with the Sprite tool to add a channel mask. To make the figure completely transparent, he selected the entire channel mask (by pressing Command+A or Control+A). Then, with the background color set to black, he pressed Delete to fill the channel mask with black. This makes the masked object completely transparent, so it disappears.



Step 3

Then, Cesar painted in the channel mask to make the edges of the motion figure visible. He used the Airbrush tool with a medium brush and a low Pressure setting in the Brushes palette. With white as the foreground paint color, he airbrushed at the left edge of the figure, applying less paint to the right so the motion figure fades out.



Step 4

Cesar then duplicated the object. He moved the copy to the left of the first motion figure. He scaled the second figure about 80 percent. Then, he simply dragged the opacity slider in the toolbox to 50%, to make the second set of motion outlines lighter than the first.



Step 5

Cesar used a channel mask and a similar painting technique to airbrush highlights onto the beard and clothes in his leprechaun cartoon.



Highlighting Cartoons (Continued)

For example, he drew a vector object filled with a light color for the highlights on the leprechaun's red beard. He added a channel mask to the highlight object and filled the mask with black. Then, he airbrushed in the mask with white to make the soft highlights appear just where he wanted them.



Step 6

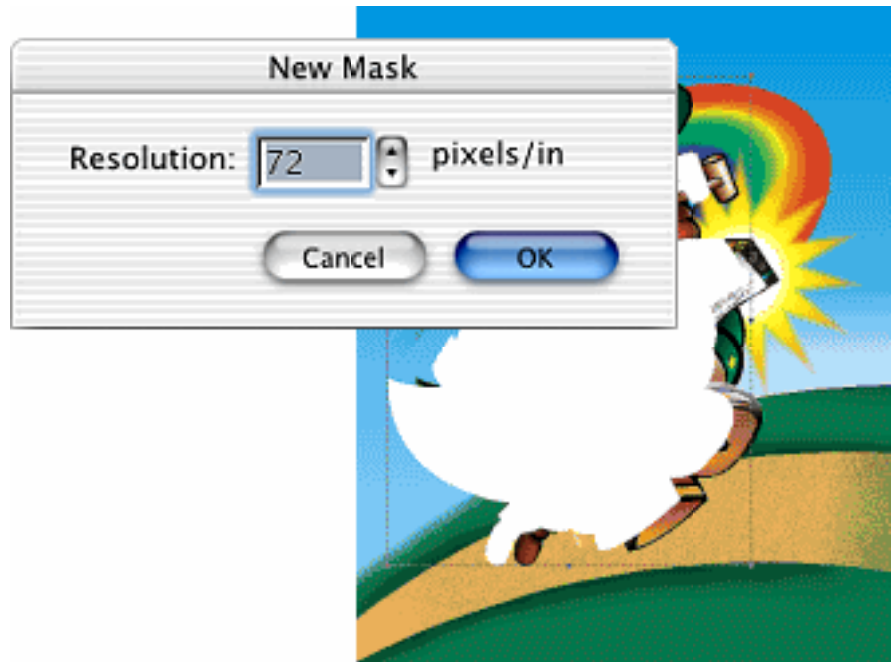
You can use the Edit > Undo command to erase brushstrokes, or paint with black to reverse the transparency effect in the channel mask.



Step 7

Transparent texture

Look at the rainbow under the leprechaun's feet to see another neat transparency effect. The rainbow is a vector object filled with a gradient from orange to yellow. Cesar added a channel mask to this object and dragged the Blend tool in the channel mask. The blend from white to black makes the rainbow fade from opaque to transparent.



Step 8

Blend tool settings

Then, Cesar used the Image > Filter > Noise > Add Noise command to add texture to the channel mask. In the Add Noise dialog box, he set the Amount to 50, and selected Uniform and Monochromatic.

The noise Cesar applied to the channel mask adds just the right sparkle to the rainbow in his St. Patrick's Day tribute. No wonder this leprechaun is so happy -- he's got Canvas!

