



Corporate Flow



Illustration



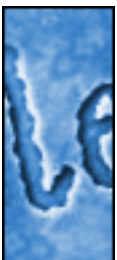
Image Editing



Automation



Web



Text Effects

Canvas Tips and Techniques



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Distress



Here is an easy way to create interesting distressed image from your ordinary photos using Canvas 7. The goal here is to give the image a rough, jagged look, much like a faxed copy of the image. This effect is becoming increasingly popular in magazine ads, nightclub invites, and trendy websites. Follow these steps and make your next project memorable.

Step 1

Start with an ordinary picture, in this exercise I'm using an image of a young man from a commercial photo CD, but any image will do. Scanned images also work fine. You could even apply this effect to text.



Change the Image Mode

With the image selected go to Image>Mode>Grayscale. You will be presented with a dialog box asking if you want to "Discard color information?". Click OK. Depending on the colors of the original image, the grayscale version may seem "flat" or without contrast. That's normal.



Convert your image to Grayscale.

Distress (Continued)

Step 2

Add Noise

Next with the image still selected, add Noise (Image>Filter>Noise>Add Noise...) until the image starts to dissolve into the background.

Note: For this example we selected Uniform, Monochromatic noise but any setting will work.

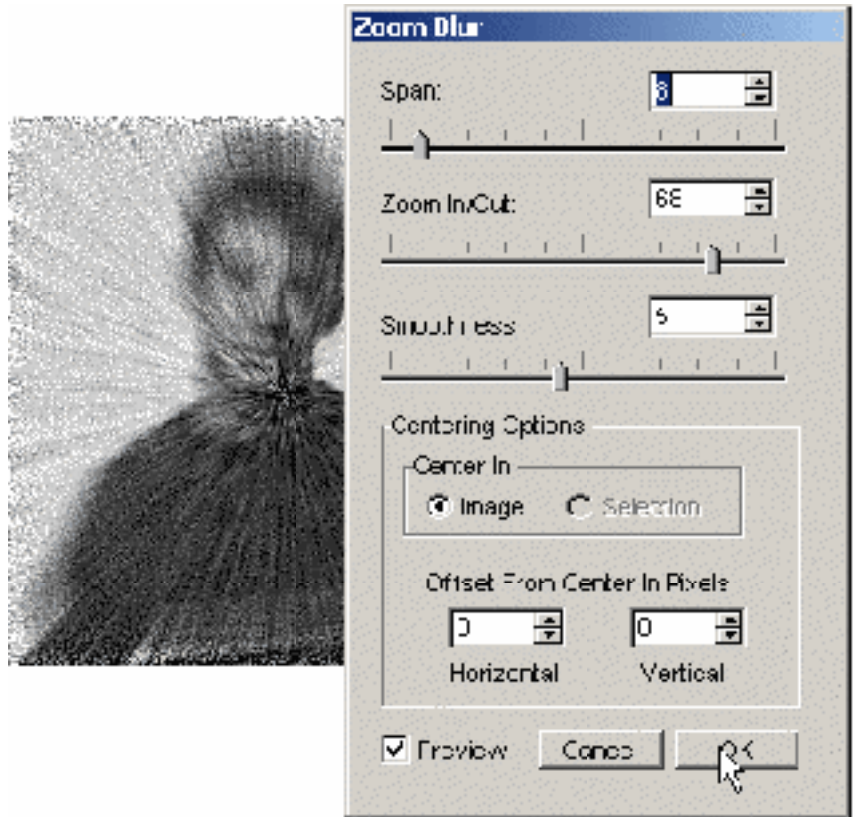


Remember to have Preview checked.

Step 3

Distress Image

Now we distress the image utilizing a Blur filter (Image>Filter>Blur>Zoom Blur). In this example I used a Zoom Blur. The Radial, Gaussian and Motion Blurs also work well and create different variations of distress. So don't be afraid to experiment!



Experimentation with blur filters will yield varied distress effects.

Distress (Continued)

Step 4

Soften Distress

At this point if you used anything other than a Gaussian Blur your image may be too harsh. Apply a small amount of Gaussian Blur (Image>Filter>Blur>Gaussian Blur) to take the edge off your image.

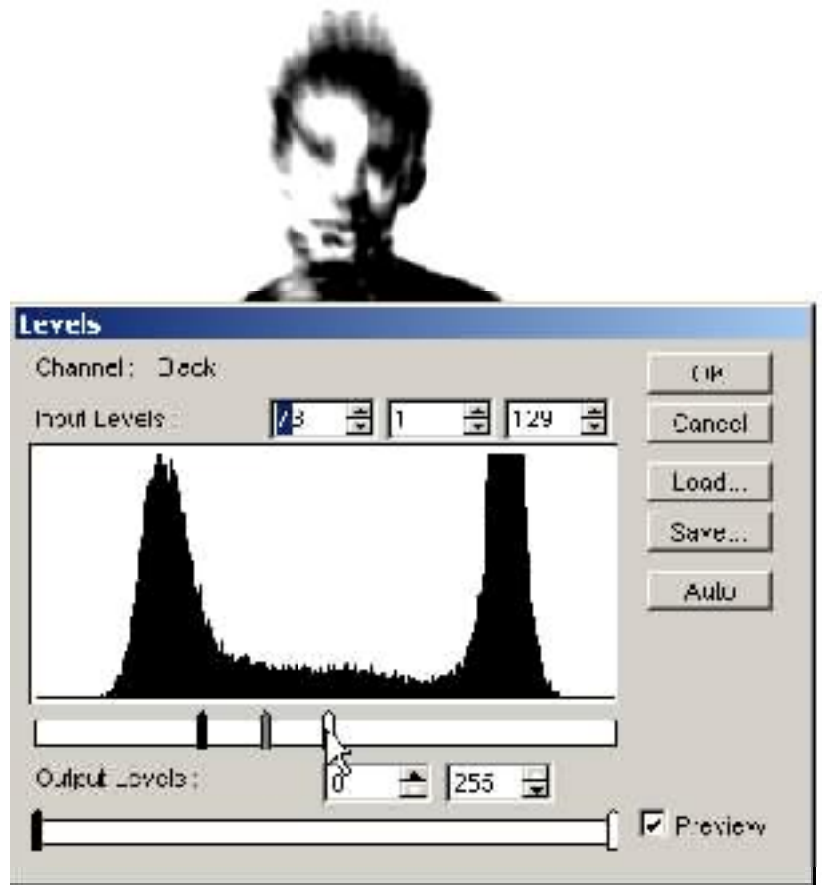
Note: You may skip this step if you prefer your image with harsh edges. Again, experiment for the best results.



Step 5

Adjust Levels

With the image selected, open the Levels palette (Image>Adjust>Levels) and drag your input levels toward the center. Generally you want to drag the levels inward until to have a solid black and white image, removing the grays.



Distress (Continued)

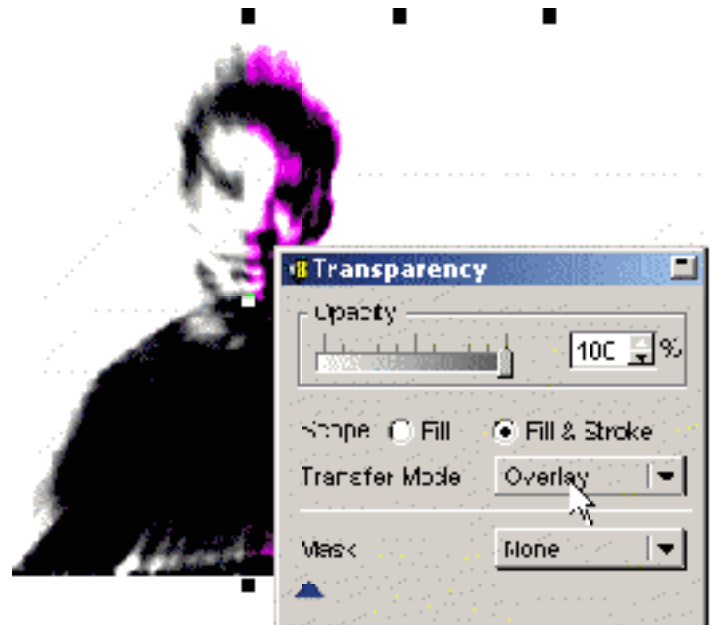
Additional Tips:

For dramatic affect, try adding color to your image, using Canvas' Transfer Modes.

Just draw a rectangle with the the Rectangle tool and place it over the image area you want to affect.



Next, with the rectangle still selected open the Transparency Palette (Object>SpriteLayers>Show Palette) and select Overlay from the Transfer Mode pop-up menu. This adds a real graphic, high-contrast shot of color to the image.



Use Overlay Transparencies to add color to you images.

Distress (Continued)

In this example we have created a CD cover by placing four different versions of our distressed image over colored squares. The images were made transparent by changing the images' Transfer Mode to Multiply. Just select the image, go to Object>SpriteLayers>Show Palette and select Multiply as the Transfer Mode. And there you have it!

