Congratulations Shari aka Smiles on the winning header.

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Why Viovio

The secret to our success: Quality, Price, and Service.

Quality.

We offer bookstore quality products that meet or exceed all leading on -demand book manufacturers.

Price.

Our prices are **half of our competitor's prices**. People often ask "If your quality is the same, but your prices are half, what gives?" We have a simple one word answer: marketing. Or in our case, lack there of. A similar company who follows the same simple idea of "high quality, best price" is the NO-AD Suncare products company. For nearly 50 years, a bottle of NO-AD suntan lotion is twice the size of other leading brands for the same price. As their name implies, they don't blow their money on bikini contests, and instead pass savings on to the customer. We like this idea. A lot.

Service.

Our customer service hall of fame says it all. We will state flat out we have the best service in the industry. Great service is easy: treat others the way you want to be treated.

That's it - the secret to our success. Because of our approach, we rely heavily on customer referrals. Help us keep our prices low and **pass on the word** to friends, family, and your online community.

Image size this was done on was 2784/2766

Open image and do all your adjustments to it first.

Duplicate it and set blend mode to soft light

Now delete the background copy.

Make a duplicate copy and desaturate it

Duplicate this layer, then filter>blur>motion blur. Set the angle at zero and the other at 20, blend mode screen

Move the colored layer up to the top and set blend mode to screen, opacity between 70-80%

New layer, then edit>fill. I used a blue color #327689. blend mode soft light, opacity 80%

Merge visible

Duplicate layer, with white as your foreground color and black as background go to Filter>distort> diffuse glow (grain 1, glow amount 20, clear 18) blend mode screen

New layer and fill with white. Lower the opacity on this layer so that you can see the image below.

With the elliptical marquee tool and a feather of around 80-100 draw a circle around the head or whatever. Then either delete or clear, whatever your program says. Bring the opacity back up to 100%

Play with colors, blends and opacities to see if you like different effects. Also effect might be different on different size images so you will have to adjust accordingly. If you have any questions just yell at me on the forum.
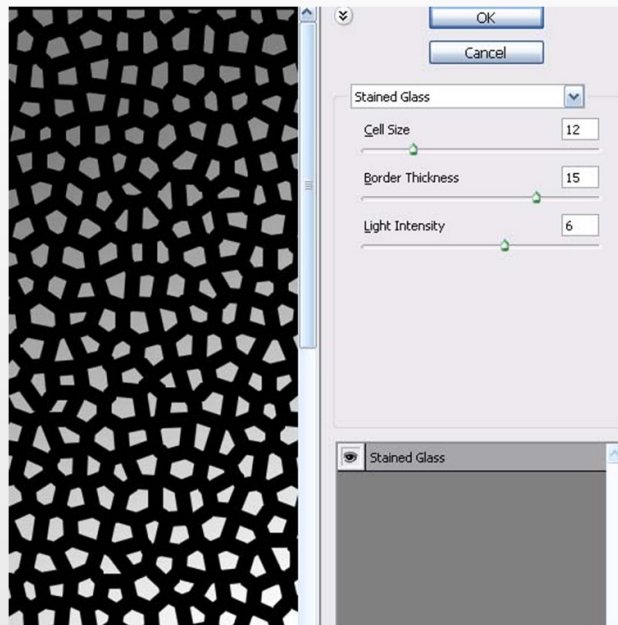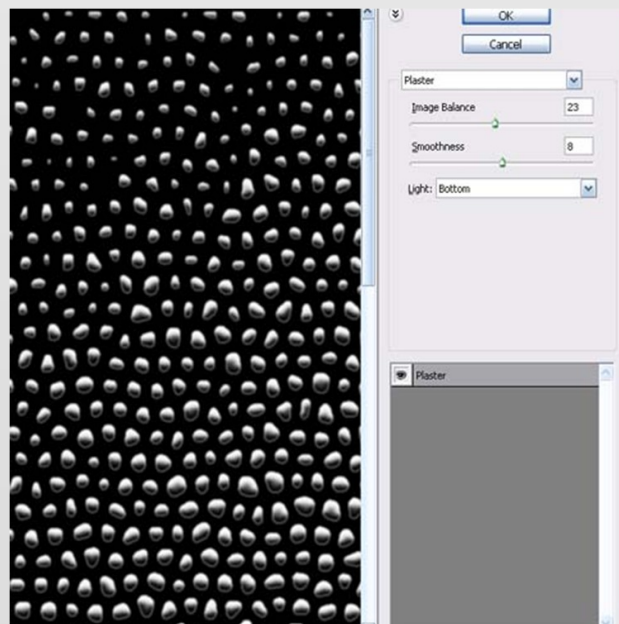
Before
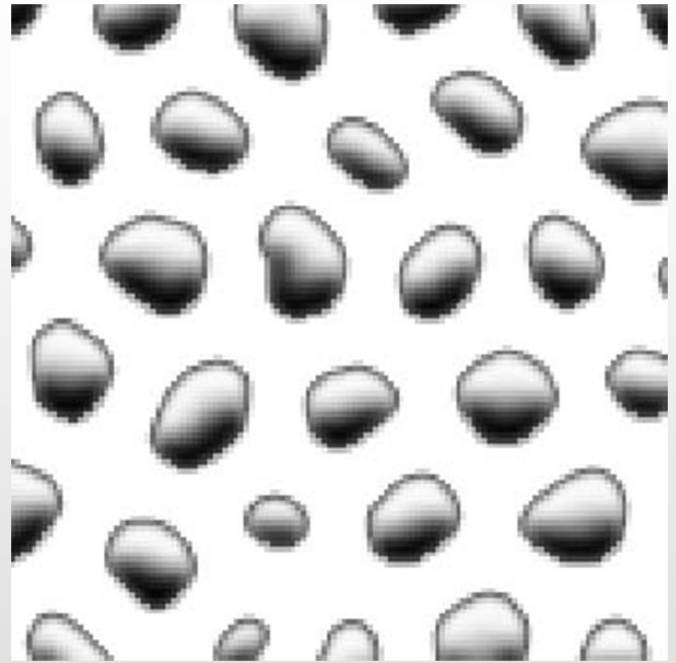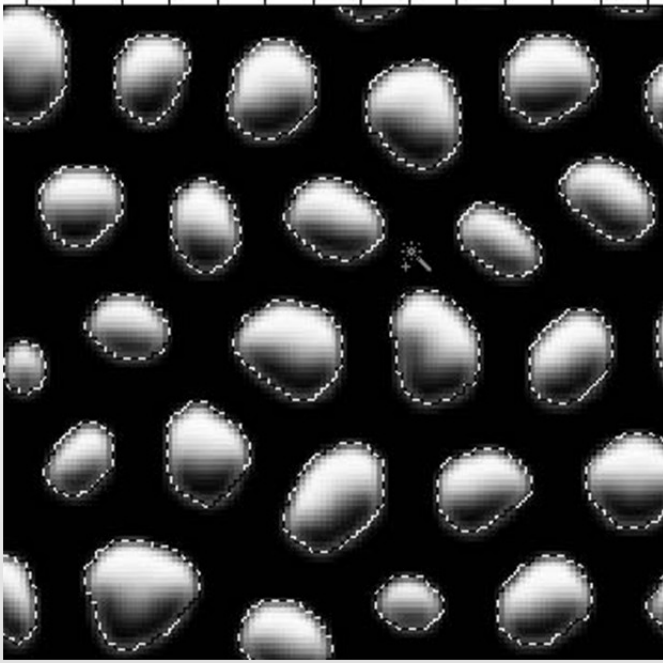
After

BEADED SWEAT

1. Start with a blank file I used 5 inch x 5 inch, resolution 300, white background. (black foreground).

2.   Make a new layer and call this layer sweat.

3. Edit-fill layer-50%gray.
    Filter-texture-stained glass
    Cell size 12
    Border thickness 15
    Light intensity 6

4. Filter-Sketch-plaster
    Image Balance 23
   Smoothness 8
    Light bottom

5. Zoom in so you can see the black area. Using the magic wand click on the black Area, edit-delete. Select-deselect.


6. So you can see what you have you can fill the background with a temporary color such as light blue.

7. On your Sweat layer Change the blending mode to overlay. Delete your background layer and save as a png. Name it sweat. You can close this file.

Note: You can change the opacity as you wish and play with the blend mode also.
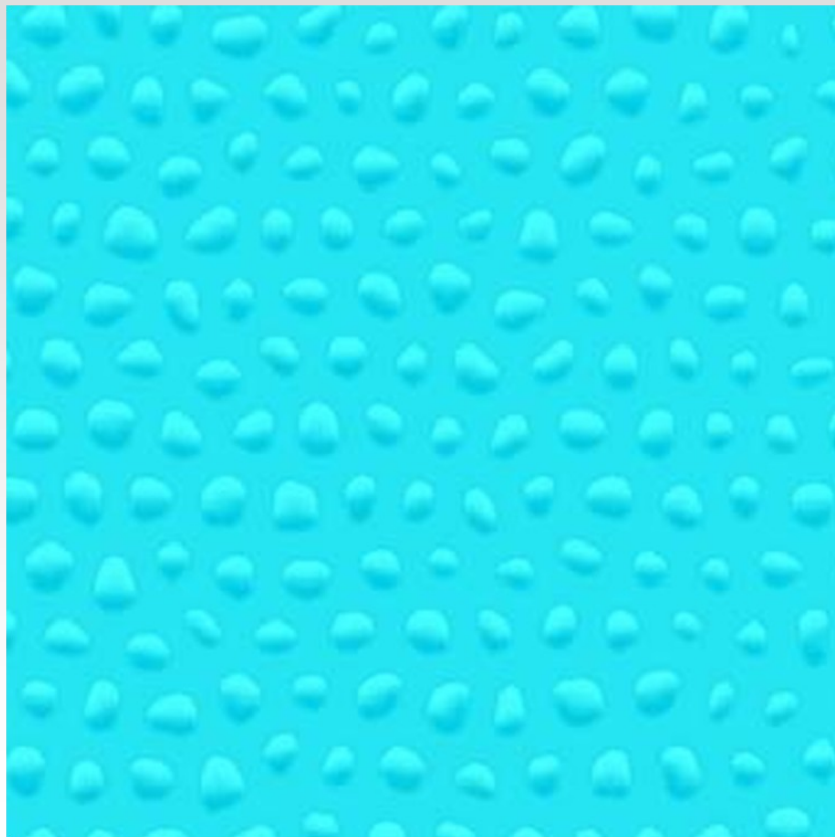
FLOWER

1. **Start with a blank file I used 5 inch x 5 inch, resolution 300, white background. (black foreground). Make a new layer and call this layer petal 1.**

2. **With the elliptical marquee make a selection similar to mine below.**
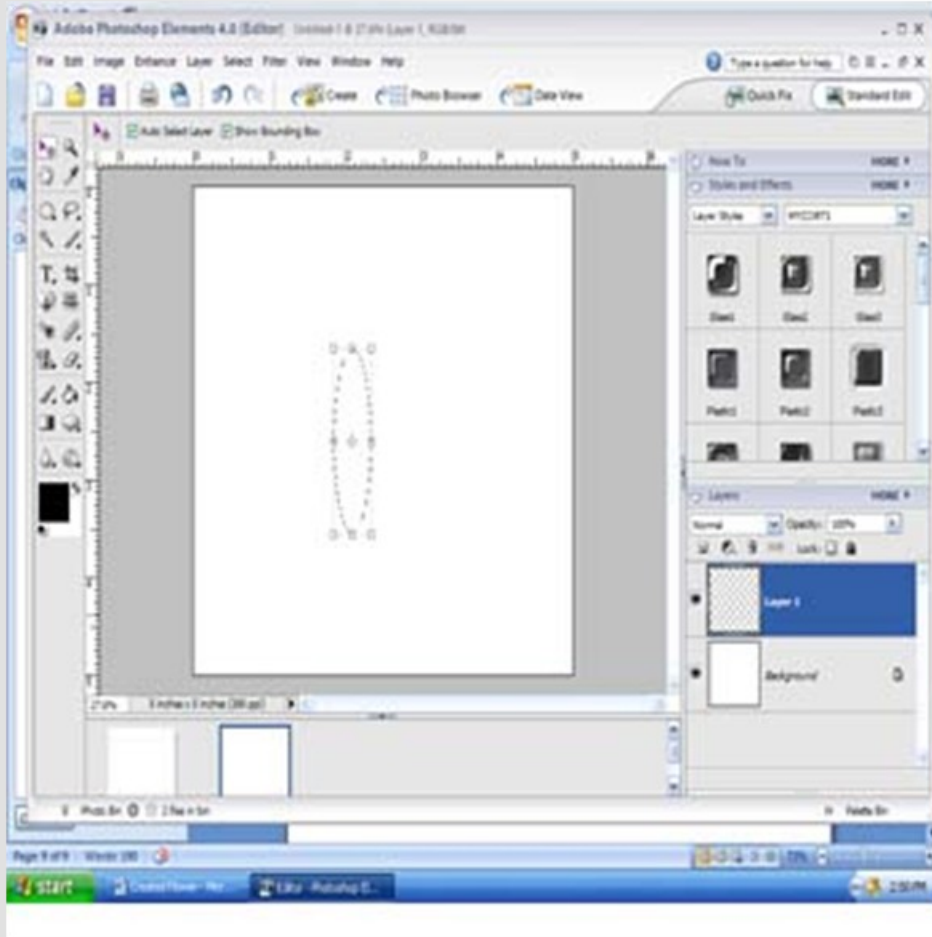
3. **Change your foreground color to #F51212 and your background color to #0b0a0a. Using the gradient tool foreground to background. Radial gradient. Go from point a to point b as shown below.**
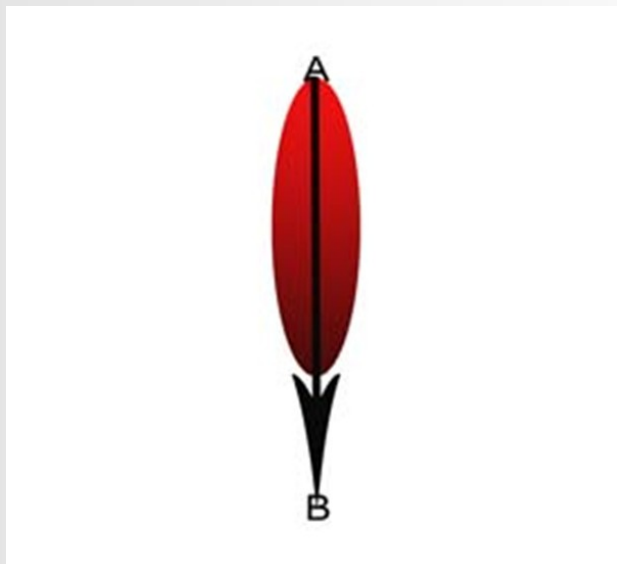
You can now deselect petal. Put a low drop shadow on the petal.

4. Select the move tool. Holding the alt key down click on the petal and move it a little you will see it dupli cated the petal. I made 12 duplicates. Now move the petals around until they form a nice circle. Turn the eye off on your background. Merge all your petals together. It should look similar to the picture be low.Rename flower 1

5. Duplicate this flower and hold the shift key down and decrease its size.Rename flower 2.

6. Duplicate flower 2 hold the shift key down and decrease the size then rotate it just a little.   Picture below.

7. Now open your sweat png. Drag it onto the top of your flower so it is the top layer size it to go on top of the flower. Change the blend mode to overlay. Ctrl click between the sweat layer and the flower layer in order to group the sweat with the flower.   At this point you can erase any drops you don't want.

8. On a new layer and Using the elliptical marquee make a circle in the center like in the picture below .

9. **Using red as the foreground and black as the background color fill the circle using the radial gradient fore ground to background. Deselect. Put a low drop shadow on this circle. Zoom in close. Rename center circle.**

10. **Select the move tool. Hold down the alt key and left click on the mouse you now have a duplicate. Make a few of these to your liking.**

We are almost done!

11. Merge all visible layers.

12. Make a new layer above the flower. the Fill with white. Filter-noise-add noise-400-gausasan.
   I changed the blend mode to dissolve and changed the opacity to 8 %.
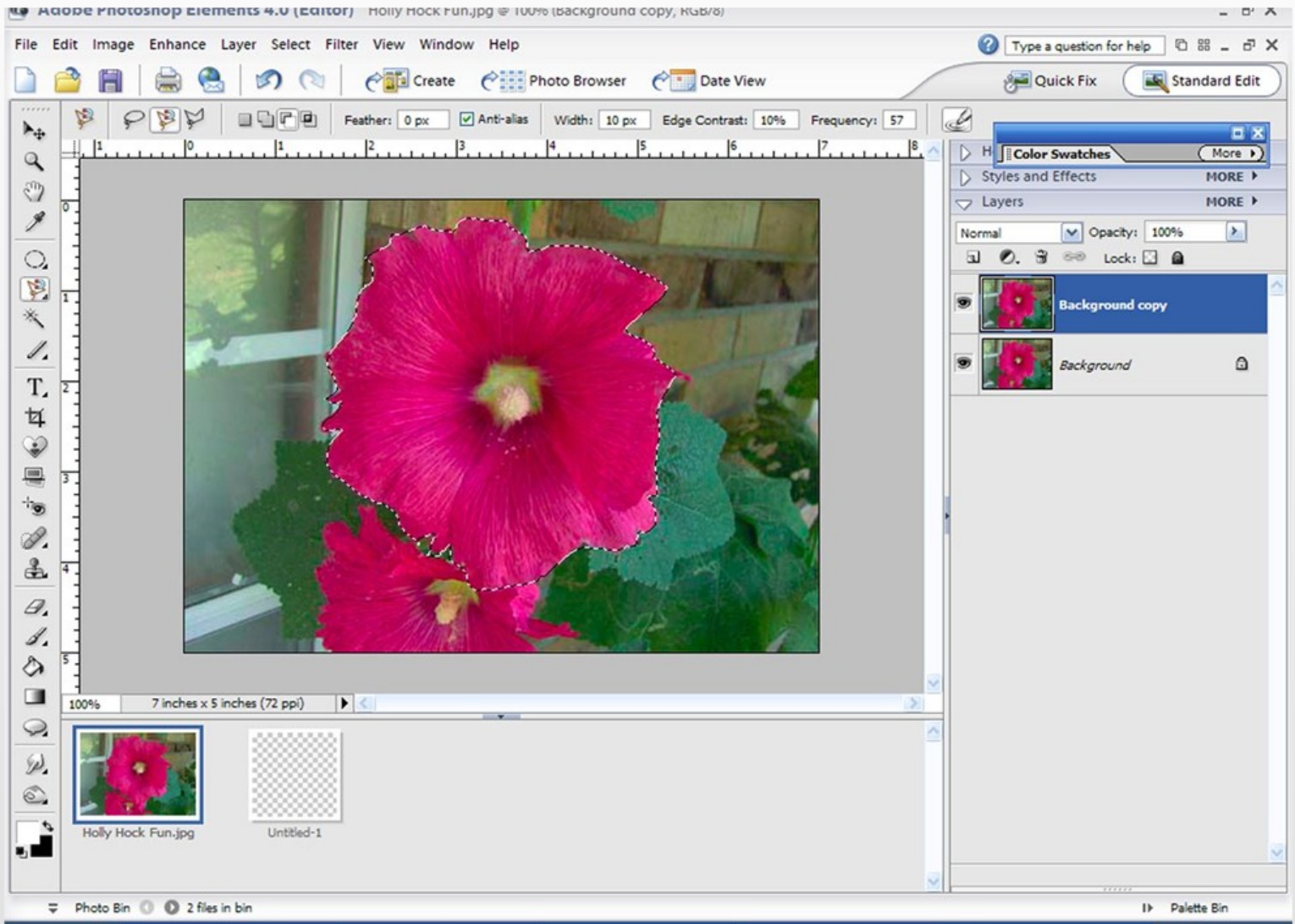   **I added a black background. Hope you all enjoy doing this. I look forward to seeing yours. If you really**
   **want to see the glitter changes your picture to an 8 x 8 or 12 x 12.**

Judy Woodard
Aka lady bug 1/5/09

Holly Hock Fun by Ladybug

1. Open up Holly Hock Fun picture.

2. Duplicate background.

3. Using the magnetic Lasso tool go around the large holly hock.

4. Ctrl J to place flower on its on layer (name this layer flower). Turn the eye off of your background and back ground copy. Now erase any stray areas you don't want from your flower.

5. Place a blank layer under your flower layer fill with black. Name Black layer.

6. Using the magic wand and working on the flower layer select the background. Select-inverse- Then Select-modify-expand-10 pixels. Do not deselect.
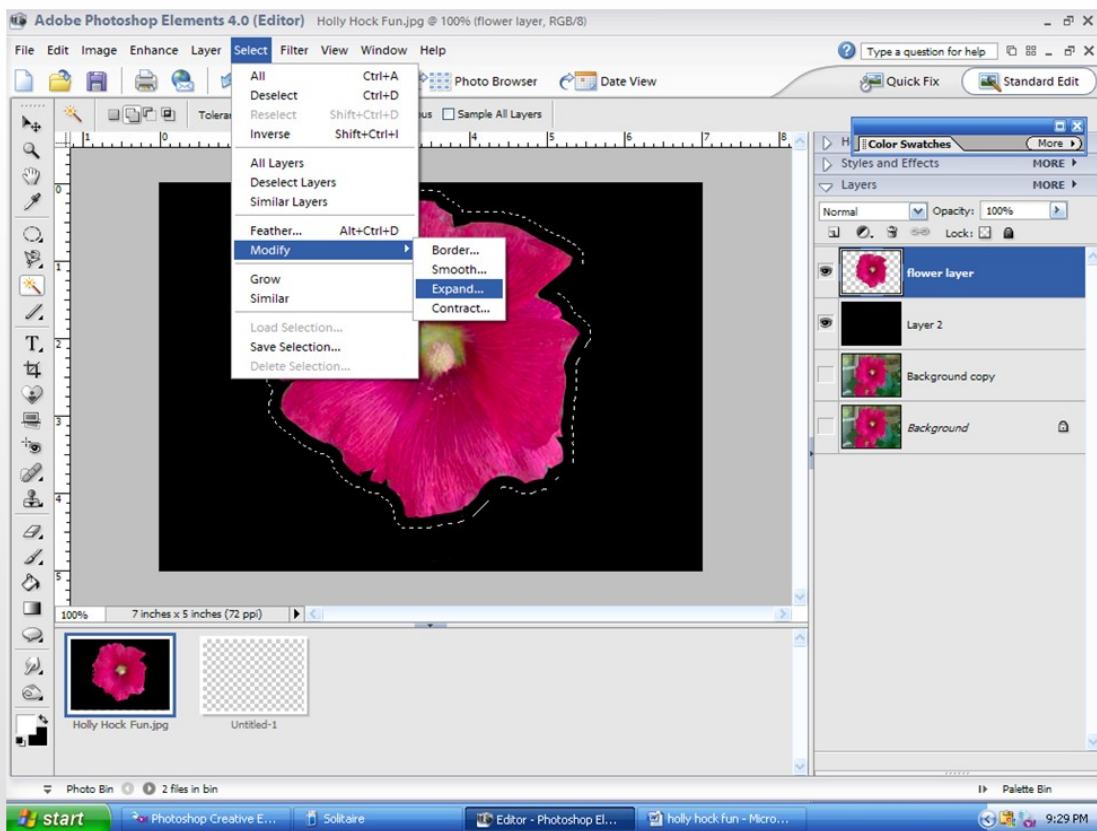
7. Create a new blank layer. Place this layer below the flower layer. Fill with white. Edge layer. Deselect.

8. Merge flower layer and edge layer. Using the dodge tool go around the edges of the flower with the dodge tool. Here are some possible ways of using this from here. You can save psd file, png of flower, make a brush, pattern, or place a background behind it.

In the above picture I used a pattern made from the flower and a png with a background with a bevel of the flower. Play around with your flowers and have some fun. I have made a bookmarker and a frame let's see what you make. Post your creations on the forum.

Judy   Aka Ladybug

Freebie by Smiles

Template by Smiles

Click preview to download.

This download includes the template as a .psd file and the font used,
Renaissance

Title

Textures by Smiles

Click HERE to download

For file size purposes only four

textures are shown.

The zip file contains

24 different textures
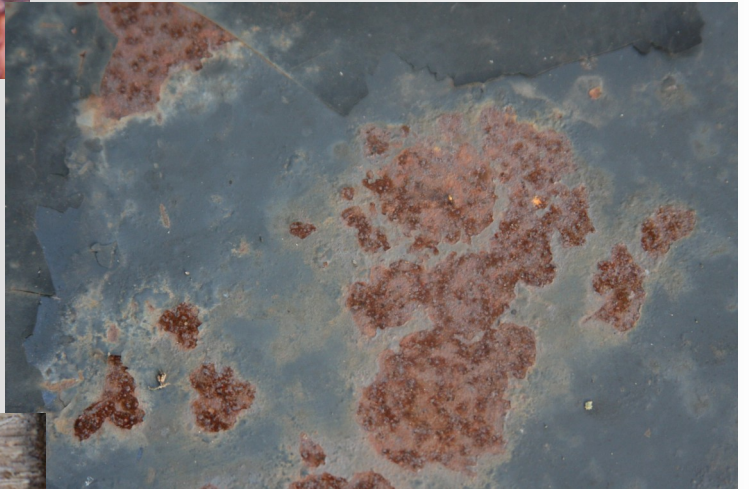
January Hall of Fame
Image of the Month

Thank you Steve (stevea) for being this months Tag Judge.

Congratulations Judy dka Ladybug

Image of the Month

2nd Place

SuziB

3rd Place

Snowfall

January Scraps of Fame
Page of the Month

Thank you Reka (Hukari) for being this months Tag Judge.

Congratulations Dawn dka InTheGym

Page of the Month

2nd Place

Kimi_boo

3rd Place

Suzib

Where in the World

ICI KINGSTON!

By Geoff Chalcraft

See also my original page with more pictures...... http://home.cogeco.ca/~gchalcraft/camera/.
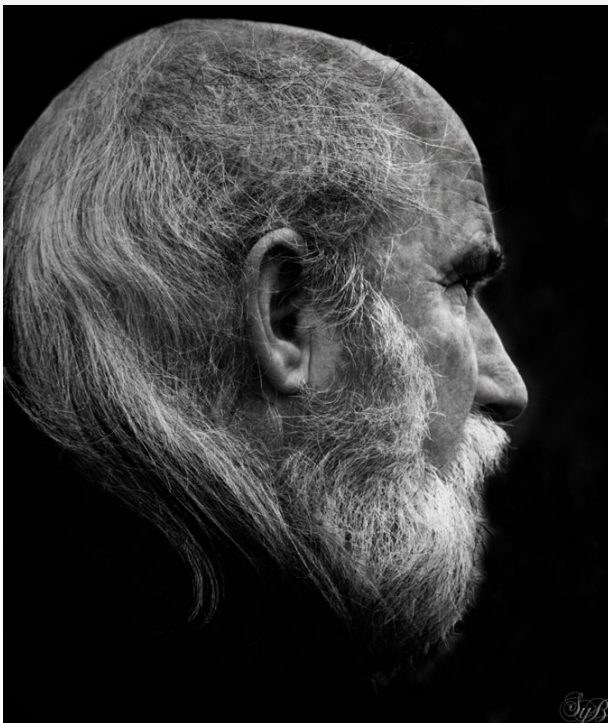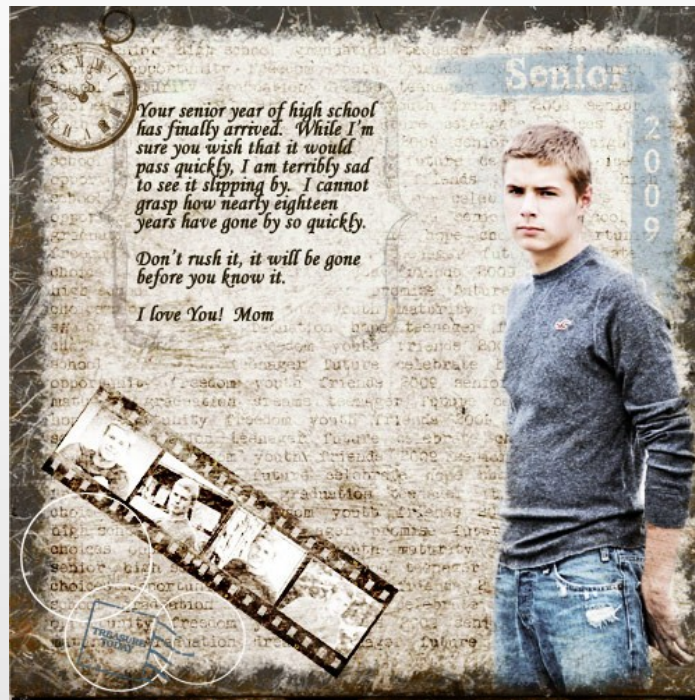
On July 12, 1673, the Gouverneur of New France, the Comte de Frontenac, arrived at the mouth of the Cataraqui River to meet with leaders of the Five Nations of the Iroquois to encourage them to trade with the French. While the groups met and exchanged gifts, Frontenac's men hastily constructed a rough wooden palisade on a point of land by a shallow, sheltered bay. On that day, Fort Frontenac was founded.

Frontenac's aim in establishing the fort was to control access to the fur-rich Great Lakes basin and the Canadian Shield, thereby controlling the highly profitable fur trade. Furthermore, he and his colleagues hoped to benefit personally from the venture. To the most trusted of these associates, Robert Cavalier, Sieur de La Salle, Frontenac granted the fort and surrounding lands in seigneury, reserving for himself the right to trade at the fort.

La Salle used the fort as a base for his explorations into the interior. By 1685 the wooden palisade was becoming a fortress with walls of local limestone, square stone bastions, and a complex of buildings within the walls. A habitation was developing to the southwest of the fort along the lakeshore. According to maps and descriptions of the period, there were several habitant houses, an Indian village, a convent, and a Recollet Church. It seemed as though the outpost of New France was off to a good start.

La Salle, however, had grander ideas than to remain as simply seigneur of Fort Frontenac for the rest of his days. His destiny was to explore the lands south of the Great Lakes in search of furs. In 1682 he did not return to the fort, and the settlement fell into the hands of his creditors. They were interested only in the fur trade, and the habitation was ruined.

The fort's shaky position was further weakened by the outbreak of fighting with the Five Nations, spurred on by the conflict between the French and the British for control of the fur trade. The French government increasingly questioned the expense required to defend a post the usefulness of which was uncertain. In 1688, the garrison was attacked by the Iroquois, and 93 men died of scurvy, confined to the fort by a long siege. The following year, the garrison was instructed to raze the fort and return to Quebec: they set charges in the walls and departed. By 1695 the war had ended, and Count Frontenac set out with a force of 300 soldiers, 160 habitants, and 200 Indians to restore the fort.

Over the next fifty years the fort was manned by a small garrison. Trade continued, but became increasingly unprofitable; various observers noted that the fort was dilapidated and outmoded. During the tense period preceding the Seven Year War (1756-1763) with the British, the French attempted to remedy the situation by increasing the size of the garrison, installing gun platforms on the ramparts, and adding new barracks. Their effort was in vain, however, for in August of 1758, a British force of 3000 men commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Bradstreet assaulted the fort. The vastly outnumbered French garrison of 110 men surrendered after three days; the fort was ransacked and abandoned.

For twenty-five years the fort lay abandoned apart from the occasional visits by Natives and the activities of independent fur traders. The usefulness of the fort was once again perceived when the British were forced to move their civilian and military establishment from American soil at the end of the American Revolution.

In 1783, Major Samuel Holland was sent to survey the condition of the fort, and in the same year temporary barrack facilities were constructed. A town plan was laid out in preparation for the arrival of Loyalist settlers: the streets of Kingston still follow this plan.

Following the end of the American Revolution in 1783, Frederick Haldimand, Governor of Quebec,

approved the resettlement of loyalist refugees in what is now southern Ontario. Favourable reports on the Catara-coui area led to its occupation by British forces in the spring of 1783 and to the commencement of surveys the following October. In June 1784 a party of Associated Loyalists from New York State under the command of Captain Michael Grass, part of a loyalist flotilla travelling from Montreal, established a camp here on Mississauga Point. Grass later recalled: "I Led the loyal band, I pointed out to them the site of their future metropolis and gained for persecuted principles a sanctuary, for myself and followers a home".

Though their numbers were small, the Loyalists would have a profound effect on future development at Kingston. Dissatisfied with the existing French legal system and seigneurial system of land tenure, they encouraged the passage of the Constitutional Act in 1791, which created the province of Upper Canada; their demand for education resulted in the founding of the first school in 1786 by the Reverend John Stuart.

Fort Frontenac served as the main British military base for the eastern end of Lake Ontario until it was deemed obsolete after the war of 1812, at which point it was replaced by the Tete-de-Pont barracks, which now bears the name Fort Frontenac.

In 1792, Elizabeth Simcoe, the wife of John Graves Simcoe, the first Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada, wrote, "Kingston is... a small town of about 50 wooden houses and merchants' storehouses. Only one house is built of stone. It belongs to a merchant. There is a small garrison here and a harbour for ships. They fired a salute on our arrival & we went to the house appointed to the Commanding Officer at some distance from the Barracks... The situation of this place is entirely flat, and incapable of being rendered defensible. Therefore, were its situation more central, it would still be unfit for the seat of government."

The War of 1812 - an attempt by the Americans to take advantage of the fact that the majority of British military forces were busy fighting Napoleon around Europe - had little effect on Kingston. The British corvette HMS Royal George - built in the dockyard in Kingston - was caught in November 1812 by an overwhelming force of seven American ships, but managed to reach the safety of Kingston, where the Americans were beaten back by the shore batteries. From then on, Fort Henry, Fort Frederick and the new Fort Frontenac were built during the 19th century during several times of tension between the USA and Canada.

After a short tenure of being the first capital city of Canada (1841-1844), Kingston life gradually settled down. The city's main interests were in being the home for Queen's University and the Royal Military College, and carrying on as a busy port.

Above – Kingston Docks and Railyard around 1900.

Kingston has many fine buildings, mostly dating from that time, though there is also new construction of hotels and apartments. Most of the original buildings along the lake side have disappeared under various hotels and apartment blocks, but just a street away can be found the original houses, interspersed with all types of civic building.

With its proximity to the Rideau Canal, linking Lake Ontario with the Ottawa River, and to the famous 1000 Islands, Kingston is a popular place for tourists.

Kingston hosted the sailing events of the 1976 Olympic Games and is considered the best fresh water sailing area in the world. The Kingston Yacht Club shown here is but a part of the sailing complex and the area abounds with marinas.

 A strategic location for the defence of the Loyalist settlement at Cataraqui (Kingston), this point was reserved in 1788 and named after Sir Frederick Haldimand, Governor of Quebec (1778-86). In 1790-91 a guardhouse and storehouse were built. By 1792 a dockyard was in operation and during the War of 1812 this vital naval base was fortified. This structure, one of four massive stone Martello towers built to strengthen Kingston's defences, was erected in 1846-47 during the Oregon boundary crisis between the United States and Britain. In 1852 the dockyard was closed and in 1870 Fort Frederick was abandoned.

Following the withdrawal of British forces from Canada in 1870-71, the federal government recognised the need for an officer training college in Canada. Located on Point Frederick, the site of the former Royal Naval Dockyard, the new college opened on June 1, 1876, with 18 cadets under Lt.Col. Edward O. Hewett, R.E. Named the Royal Military College of Canada in 1878, it offered academic and military training courses designed to prepare cadets for both military and civil careers. The college was reorganised in 1948 as a tri-service institution and, in 1959, it became the first military college in the British Commonwealth to achieve degree-granting status. The main entrance arch is shown here. It is used twice in a RMC student's career - once to enter, once to pass out after training.

Above - The Royal Military College, with Fort Frederick in the foreground.

The RMC, seen from the East, around 1900.

Just to the East of the City of Kingston, overlooking the St Lawrence River and the start of the 1000 Islands, is Fort Henry. Now a UNICEF World Heritage Site, these impressive old stones were first built as a deterrent to the USA's incursions into British North America starting with the War of 1812. The Fort was the base for a British Army Battalion right up until 1867 and nowadays those soldiers are represented proudly by the "Fort Henry Guard" - a group of students and young people in Summer jobs. However, that does not mean that they take it lightly - the Guard is superbly drilled and while in uniform remain true to their 'calling'. In the summer months they perform weekly in a 'Sunset' parade, marching smartly, playing music with their fifes and drums and firing their guns in a manner that the world's regular armies would be justly proud of.

As well as the Guard's weekly sunset ceremonies, there are often Tattoos, featuring guest Military bands, such as the US Marine Corps Band, the US Navy 'Great Lakes Band', and others. and other events at the Fort, such as music and drama - there is an annual "1812 Overture" evening with the Kingston Symphony Orchestra, with real cannons firing, and their own restaurant has the novelty of being staffed by "officers' servants". You can also go on guided 'haunted walks' around the ramparts and inside the old messes and barrack rooms.

The recent elevation of the Fort to UNESCO World Heritage Site status, along with the Rideau Canal, will ensure that it is a thriving attraction for many years to come.

Fort Henry also hosts Symphony Concerts – the 1812 Overture, every July, is a sight and sound to behond – it uses real cannons!