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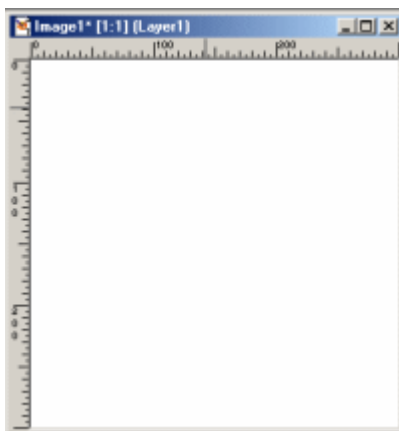
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Creating Cool Abstract Backgrounds - Paint Shop Pro (PSP) Tutorial



Want to know how to make those cool abstract / grunge / trendwhore backgrounds you see? Now you can, with this tutorial. Step by step, now you can make your own cool looking wallpapers, splash pages, and backgrounds. This tutorial was written for Paint Shop Pro (PSP), but can probably be used for other versions as well.

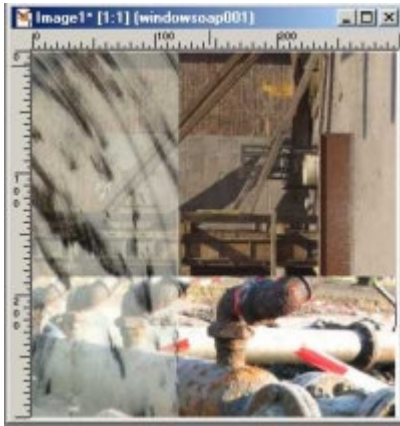
1



Create a new image , 300x300 with a white background. It can be any size, but I will keep it small for the purposes of this tutorial. The general idea behind this effect is opening random pics, then using color and dodge layers to make it look cool. Therefore you need stock photos. A good place for these are [Morgue Files](#). There are others, just search google for "stock photos". Later in the tutorial I will place links to them when I use them. They are not hosted on my site.

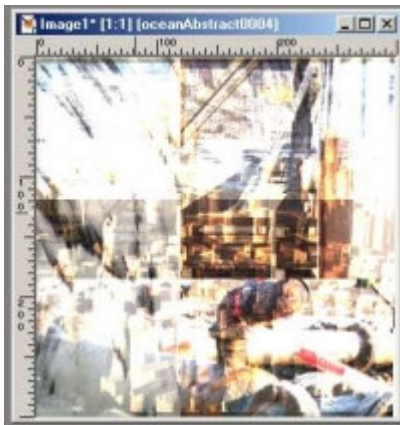
Depending on the effect you want to create, try to get images with lots

2



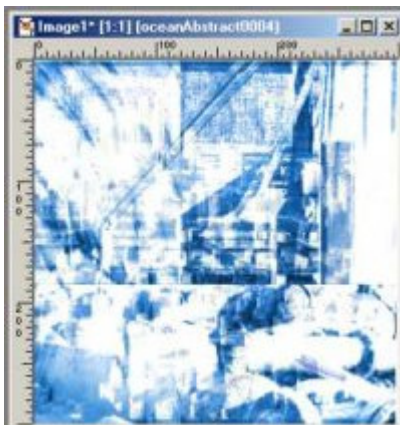
small detail. I like objects such as pipes, wires, computer components construction, etc. Now open up all these images. Go to the first image (**detail**), and select all (Ctrl-A) and copy (Ctrl-C). Now go back to your background and paste as a new layer (Ctrl-L). Repeat this process for other images (**detail**). On all the layers, change the opacity in the layer palette to anywhere from 50-100. The more they blend, the better it will look. **Here is a page with screen shots, layer settings, and file names for each image I added. A MUST IF YOU ARE HAVING TROUBLE! FOR THIS TUT..** Remember, depending on the size of your stock photo and image, you may need to resize your image (Images | Resize, then look at the ruler on your image and type a number in the top box.



3



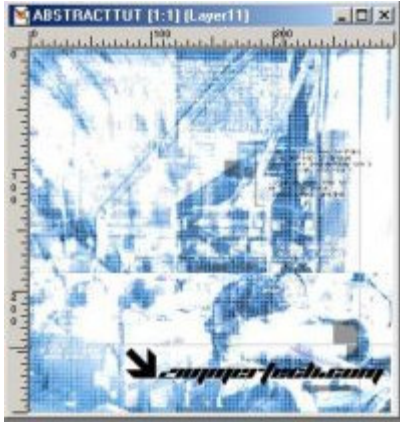
The next step is to dodge. Take some of the upper layers, and set blending mode to dodge in the layer palette. You can also adjust the opacity from there. Remember, **EXPERIMENTING IS THE KEY.** [Here](#) is a screen shot of my layer palette.

4



The next step is optional. I would like to color the image. Create a new raster layer , and select all (Ctrl-A). Select the flood fill  tool and the selection with any color you want. Now change the blending mode that layer to "color" in the layer palette. Experiment to see which color you like. I used #0670D2.

5



Done! Wasn't that easy? Experiment with different pics, blending mod and opacity until your are happy with your image. Now add cool text, grids, micro text, and shapes to spice up your image. If you have any questions are comments, feel free to [contact me](#).

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