

# Beckham Digital Tutorials

## Photoshop CS4 - Lets Get Creative with a PC or Mac

This DVD is the natural successor to our Starter DVD. After looking at the basics in that earlier set of tutorials, here we spread our wings a little and Get More Creative with the tools and techniques of Photoshop CS-4.

The DVD runs for well over 5 hours and is made up of a series of topics and tutorials you can see below. As we go through these techniques we always include many other relevant tips and tricks to help you get the very best from Photoshop. Also included on the DVD are many of the images we used for the tutorials and in some cases our completed images too. These are not copyright free images and we include them to allow you to follow the tutorials using our images if you wish. However, the images should not be reused without permission.

Photoshop is a fascinating program and the only limit is our own creativity, but perhaps we can help there too. As well as demonstrating the techniques you will need we also try to do so in a creative way, creating images to inspire as well as educate.

We have also continued our new practice of creating the videos on this DVD for Mac users. However Mac users will have to access their videos directly from the Mac Video folder on the DVD.

### Creating a Sparkling Monochrome - 33:25 mins



Well, despite the digital revolution monochrome images appear to be alive and well and as popular as ever. In the darkroom days and before it became a bit easier to print colour, our only option was Black and White photography, so why is it so popular still?

There are a number of reasons, but the number one

reason is that in some images colour adds little or nothing to the appeal of that image and when it is right to do so a monochrome can bring that image to life. What we should not be doing is selecting a colour image and removing that colour because a Camera Club competition allows us both B&W and colour entries. That is the wrong reason to convert to monochrome.



Here we choose the right subject and demonstrate how to get a sparkling monochrome using Photoshop CS-4. We say sparkling because without that sparkle, our monochrome images can be dull and lacking in appeal.

### Creating a Panorama via PhotoMerge - 27:26 mins

In this section we take you through the process of creating a Panorama image using PhotoMerge. This is both easy to do and Photoshop does such a great job.



Yes, there are a lot of guidelines about how we should take the images, but see how we get on here with three hand held shots taken without making any changes to our camera controls at all.

We think you will agree that the result is pretty good.

## Adjustment Layers and Colour Popping - 21:23



Here we kill two birds with one stone by introducing Adjustment Layers, but including with that technique this great Colour Popping image.

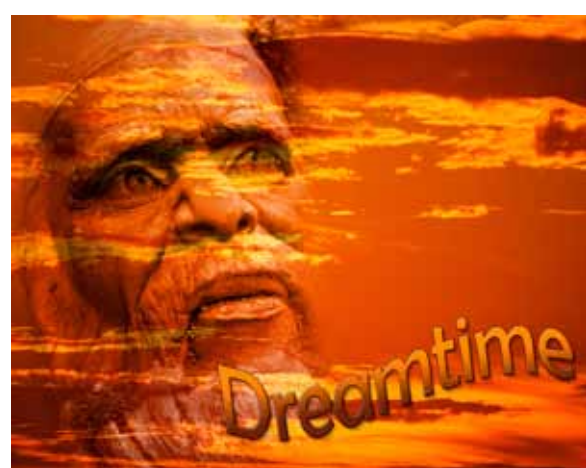
Now Colour Popping seems to be what people are calling this particular colour technique these days.



However, whatever we call it, the end result can be striking and here it helps us to make a fussy background far more acceptable, you could say we killed three birds with one stone.

Adjustment Layers are one of Photoshop's must know tools and here we use it to good effect.

## Text Effects Part 1 - 39:23 mins



The Text tools in Photoshop and what we can do with them is impressive, but you will not see the full extend in our small image in this Pdf. We really need to see the results on screen at print size.

There is so much in the Photoshop Text tools, especially when we add layer Fx and styles that we could fill a DVD with videos of different examples.

What we have done here is to take the Type Text tool only and demonstrate how that particular tool works and some of the neat text effects that we can apply to that text.

## Text Effects Part 2 - 19:05 mins

In this section we switch to the Type Mask tool because this tool works a little differently to the standard type tool and we can create different effects with it.

Most of these text tutorials also require us to work in layers, so we not only get some great ideas about text, but our knowledge of layers is also building up too.



## Making Effective Selections 39:05

Making effective selections is another of those "Must Know" techniques for any Photoshop user. You only have to see how many different ways Photoshop allows us to create selections to realise that they will play an important part in our photography.

There is no one size fits all solution to this and the success of your selections will depend on the techniques you use to create them and the care and attention to detail too.

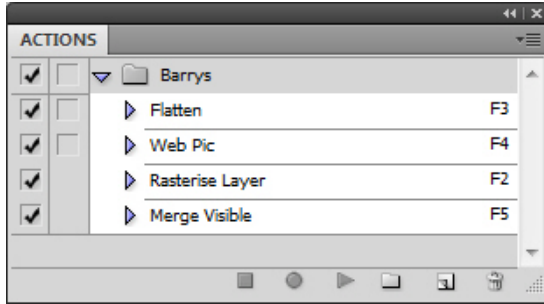


We cover a few of the selection tools in this video and include some great tips and tricks to enable you to make believable selections.

Believable selections are what we call it when we do a cut and paste and get the techniques right. The resulting image is believable and does not have that tell tale look of an image manipulated.

## Creating Photoshop Actions 44:01

Actions are a part of Photoshop where we can speed up various processes and repetitive tasks and they can be applied to either a Key Stroke, a Button or a Batch command.



Want to create a web sized image, with unsharp mask added, a simple presentation effect and a gif thumbnail at the touch of F3? Well, with actions you can do that. Add anything you want to your images in this way, a Sepia tone maybe.

Also if you have 30 images to work through you can apply your own personally created action to a whole folder of images.

## Shooting and Manipulating through Adobe Camera Raw - 16:23

It is debatable whether shooting in Raw should be included in this DVD, or perhaps held back for a dedicated DVD on that subject. On the one hand this subject does need a number of tutorials to cover it adequately.



However, on the other hand Raw is now being so widely used that an introduction has to come sometime, so why not now.

In this video we briefly explain the benefits of shooting Raw files and take you through a typical manipulation to transform our image. Even if you do not have any intention of shooting Raw yet, you certainly will be before long, so this tutorial can be viewed as a straight tutorial, or an introduction of something to come back to later.

## Creating a Filter Effect 33:58

You can be forgiven for asking why you may need a tutorial to add a filter effect and you would probably be right, but perhaps there is a bit more to this than meets the eye.

If we use filters straight out of the Photoshop filter menu, the effects soon lose their appeal after being used a few times. The other problem is that they are identical to the filter effects created by others.

Here we change that by using a number of filter effects and layers to create a unique watercolour.



## Blend it like Beckham 31:45

One of the most rewarding and interesting aspects of Photoshop is our ability to create a Montage by blending layers together. One of the great things about this technique is that we can use it simply with just two images or expand it into a multi- - image montage.

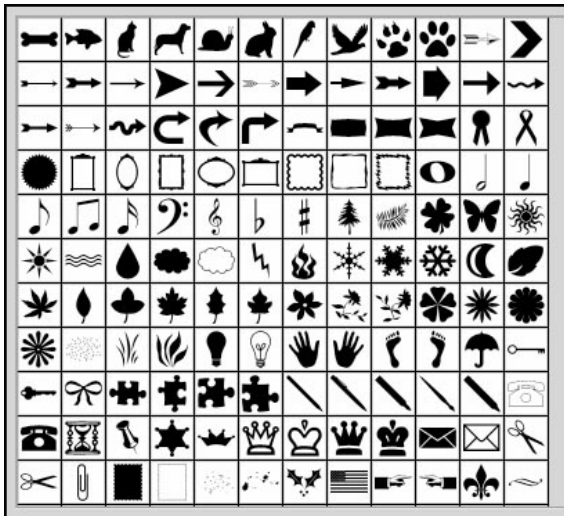
The techniques we need to use are the same no matter how many layers we choose.

So here we take just two images and demonstrate how we can blend them together. In addition we include some great techniques to help us put things right when that blend does not go 100% right.

Montages are fun, we control the composition and colour balance and then they often work very well indeed.



## Creating Graphic Shapes - 17:13 mins



Here we demonstrate how we can add graphics to our image or use them to create any artwork you may have planned.

We can create them as vector graphics or as a path that can be converted into a selection.

We can create any shape we choose and those shapes can accept the full range of layer Fx and styles, plus all the other filters and textures that comes with Photoshop. Use shapes to create arrows that will help improve your tutorials or any of your instructional projects.



## Creative Distortion Techniques - 28:29 mins



In this tutorial we use the Photoshop distortion tools to produce a creative image from one that did not have a great deal of impact to start with.

These are fairly simple digital steps that individually don't add that wow value we are looking for, but collectively they just might.

This technique opens up a world of different photographs from those ordinary household objects.

## Manipulating Portraits - 37:00 mins



People pictures always play an important role in our photography and we need to know how to get the best from those images while working in Photoshop.

In this demonstration we go through this image from start to finish, adjusting the colour balance, dealing with skin blemishes and unwanted high-lights in and around the eyes and teeth.

We use digital techniques to add a sparkle to the eyes and teeth and use Photoshop tools to remove laughter lines and wrinkles in the skin.

Finally we produce three final images all included on the DVD. One is a standard colour version, we then apply a soft focus and finally make some adjustments to produce a monochrome version.

The monochrome portrait really sparkles with those great black and white tones and bags of contrast, without losing any details of course.

And finally - Enjoy the DVD