

Helpdesk

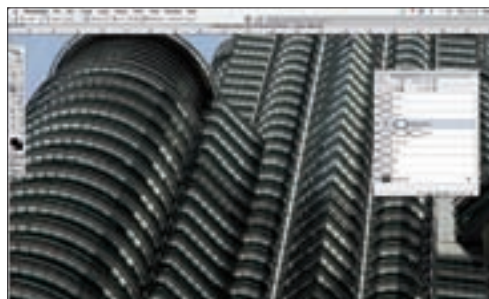
We have some great tips for improving workflow and much more in this issue's Helpdesk provided by Imagine Publishing's Interactive Media Manager **BY LEE GROOMBRIDGE**

HIDE ALL LAYERS!

Hello *Advanced Photoshop*, I was wondering if you could help me with a layers problem I am having. I'm currently working on a project where I am using a Photoshop document with about 30 layers in it. I'm doing a digital make-over on a portrait you see, and wondered if there is a shortcut for making all the layers in a document invisible apart from the original one, so I can quickly compare what I've done?

Michael Barnett, Manchester

Hello Michael, as with most things in Photoshop, there is more than one way to answer your question. You could put all your manipulation layers into a group (click the little folder icon at the bottom of the layers palette). This way you can hide the group. Alternatively, you can Alt-click the Indicator icon (the eye icon) on the original layer. This will hide all the other layers immediately. Alt-click the indicator again to bring all the layers back.



DIGITALLY ENHANCE: Perfect your images with a few little clicks to make layers easy to access

DIGITAL EFFECT

I am currently creating a set of images for a client that all need to have an effect on them like they're from a television screen. Is there a plug-in I can buy or a filter I can use in Photoshop, as I cannot find one anywhere?

Sharon, via email

Unfortunately there isn't a filter in Photoshop. To be honest with you Sharon it's very easy to create a pattern fill for this kind of thing, so please don't go out and buy an expensive plug-in. Let us show you how to do this. First open the image you want the effect to be applied to,

then create a new document that is three pixels by one pixel and 72dpi (ie this creates a document that effectively contains three pixels on top of each other.) In this small document create a new layer and fill the top pixel in black. Now with this layer selected, Select All (Apple+A or Shift+A) and go to Edit>Copy. Now select Edit>Define Patterns and in the pop-up fill in a name like 'Digital Lines'. Now move back to your original image, select the Paint Bucket Tool, from the Options choose Pattern instead of Foreground and select your 'Digital Lines'. Now create a new layer and fill it with this pattern. You should now have the effect you desired, and for free!

WHAT ARE SMART GUIDES?

I currently work on Photoshop 6 so am a bit behind the times, but wondered if you could help me with a query. When creating web designs I often use the guides for lining up, and to be honest I find them so valuable. I was reading up about Photoshop CS2 and came across an article mentioning all the new features – one of which was Smart Guides. Can you explain what these actually are please as I can't find any info on them?

Dave Overton, Lemington Spa

Well seeing as you're working in Photoshop 6 and like using guides, Smart Guides alone should be a reason for you to upgrade now, if for no other reason! We actually use them a lot now and sometime forget how much



GET SMART: Find Smart Guides in the View menu and use them to revolutionise the way you align your creations

of a luxury they are. For the benefit of other readers we'll describe how to access them first. Create a new document and a few layers, then draw some boxes in them. Now go to View>Show>Smart Guides. Now select one of the boxes you have drawn and try and line it up with one of the other boxes. You'll see pink lines appear when the object is aligned. This hopefully answers your question Dave, Smart Guides are simply the evolution of guides and automatically appear to help you align elements of your document.

OLD FILES

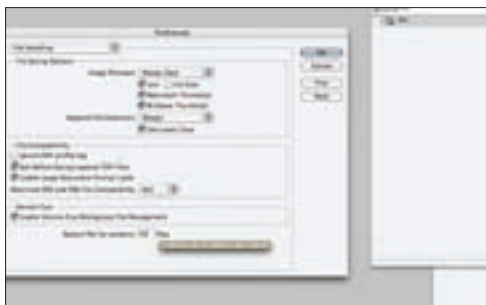
Hi *Advanced Photoshop*, first off I'd like to say, great mag – I'm really enjoying it well done! My question is to do with a problem that I haven't been able to solve for ages on my Mac. Photoshop has this great feature, as do many other programs now, that allows you to Open Recent Documents from the File menu. My question to



FILL: Begin your television effect with a simple fill on a new layer



CLEVER EFFECTS: Don't spend money on expensive plug-ins when you can create the effect yourself! Simulate this TV effect using simple layers and pixel manipulation



RECENT DOCUMENTS: Alter the number of documents that appear in this list in the Preferences panel

you is whether you can adjust the number of documents that appear in this menu. At present it only holds ten files and I'd like it to hold maybe up to 50. Is this possible?

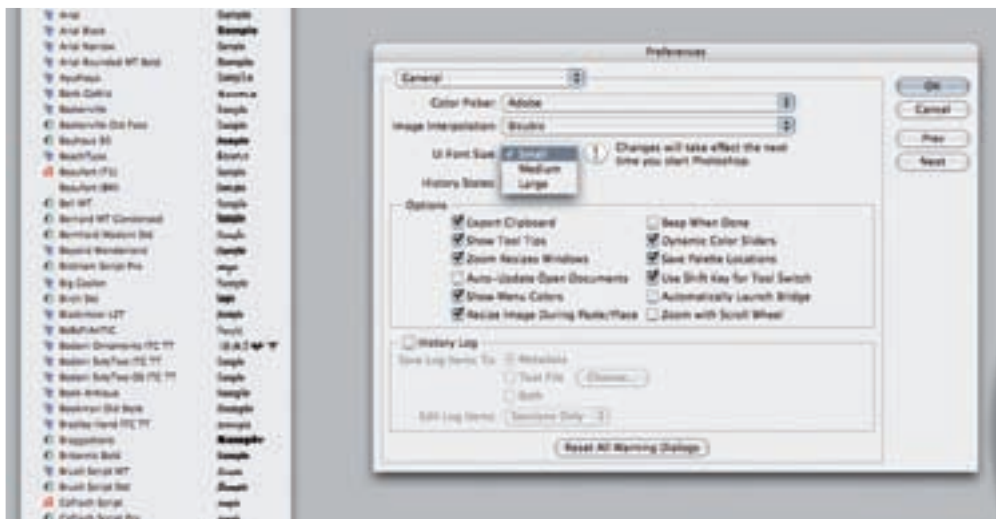
Tim Fairhead, Chelsea

Thanks for your compliments on the magazine Tim. In short, the answer to your question is yes, you'll be happy to know! It's actually quite simple. First go to your Preferences palette (Apple+K) and click Next or select File Handling from the drop-down menu. You'll then see at the bottom of that dialog box a sentence that says 'Recent file list contains' with a number next to it. Now you said you wanted about 50 files in your list, we're not quite sure why you want that many, but as it happens you can only have a maximum of 30 anyway – still better than 10!

FONT PREVIEWER

Hello *Advanced Photoshop*, I've got a question that I'm not sure if there is a fix to or not, but I'll ask it anyway! I work on a 17 inch monitor and have a very high resolution when working in Photoshop. The problem I have with this, is that the menu text is too small. In particular, the new feature in Photoshop that allows you to preview the fonts from the drop-down menu. This is a great feature, but on my settings the previews are too small to see. Is there a way of making these previews bigger? Any help to save my tired eyes would be greatly appreciated!

Steve, Scarborough



TIRED EYES: Fed up with squinting at the screen? Then simply change the UI Font Size to Large in your Preferences

WHAT ARE EMAGS?

Hi, I've just looked at the forum post about the *Photoshop Creative* eMags disc? Can you give me any more information about this and also are you going to be making an *Advanced Photoshop* version of this disc?

PM via Advanced Photoshop Forum

For the benefit of readers that have not read the post, or in fact been on the forum at all please visit the link at: www.advancedphotoshop.co.uk/forum.



FORUM FUN: If you haven't done so yet, be sure to check out the Advanced Photoshop forum for more tips

EMAGS: Photoshop Creative's eMag has been receiving a lot of positive feedback, so watch this space for an Advanced Photoshop version!



"IN ORDER TO MAKE THE MENU TEXT EASIER TO READ, CHANGE THE UI FONT SIZE IN PREFERENCES TO LARGE"

HELPDESK

CALL FOR QUESTIONS

Want help with your Photoshop problems? Then let our team of experts sort you out.

Send your emails to us at: advancedpshop@imagine-publishing.co.uk Remember to specify whether you're using a PC or Mac and the version number of your edition of Photoshop.