

Helpdesk

We solve all your digital difficulties, from problems with brushes to faking weather effects in photography **BY ADAM SMITH**

DISAPPEARING BRUSHES

I have a problem with my Brush tool. Usually, I have a lot of different brushes thanks to **Advanced Photoshop**. I change them all on my Photoshop browser with the choice of the brush shapes. But from time to time, my Photoshop reinitialises all that I've changed before, deleting all the brushes, and there are a lot of them. My Photoshop does it by itself. I swear I do nothing. I have to change my huge collection of brushes again and again.

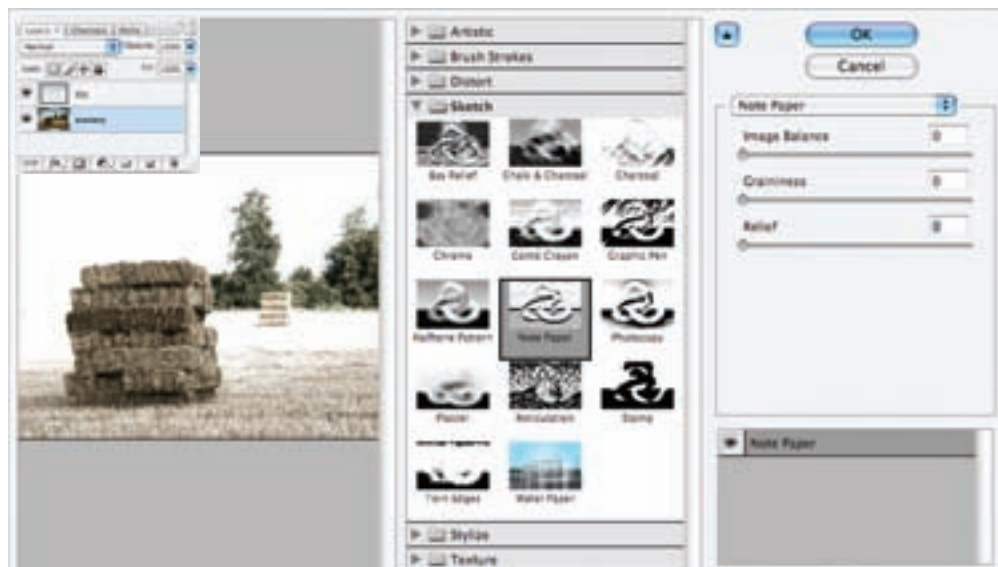
Marie P, Advanced Photoshop forum

Hi Marie. This can happen if you keep your brushes in an inappropriate location, say in a desktop folder, and load from there. What you'll need to do is place all your brushes in your Brush Preset folder. To do so you'll have to access your Photoshop Program folder by selecting HD>Applications>Adobe Photoshop on a Mac, C: Drive>Programs>Adobe Photoshop on a PC. Next, locate the Presets folder and within this you'll find the Brushes folder. If you place your brush samples here and load from this destination, you should find the problem solved.

However, if this does not work, it's likely to be a problem with an erratic Preference function. To resolve this you can hold down Opt/Alt+Cmd/Ctrl+Shift while starting Photoshop. A dialog box will appear asking if you wish to delete the Preferences file. Doing this will allow you to start afresh.



KNOWLEDGE IS POWER: It's handy to understand the properties and placement of each Preset folder



SNOWY OUTLOOK: For a more in-depth and creative look at these types of effects, check out issue 29 of our sister magazine *Photoshop Creative*

WEATHERED EFFECT

In past issues you've had some really cool tips and tutorials in the magazine, and I'm sure you guys can help me with creating this one.

I am looking to turn normal and out-of-season pictures into snowy ones. This is just for fun and the photos I have are great, but we don't get much snow in the south of England. So what should I do?

Darren, Plymouth

Start by opening the desired image and activate the Channels palette, duplicating the Blue channel. Cmd/Ctrl-click this copied channel's thumbnail, then paint the sky white. Press Cmd/Ctrl+I to invert the image and paint black over all values you don't want, specifically the foreground. Invert again and activate the Layers palette. Copy>Paste a new sky layer, naming it accordingly. Now back in the Channels palette, duplicate the Green channel and Cmd/Ctrl-click the layer thumbnail. Hit Cmd/Ctrl+L and apply Levels treatment, increasing the highlights until they are blown. Click OK. With the selection active and the image (not sky) layer active, go to Filter>Sketch>Note Paper. Decrease all values to 0 before hitting OK – and there you have it, a nice bit of snow.

CREATING ATMOSPHERE

I am working on creating some of my own broody and moody landscapes, and I will be using these as a template for some digital paintings I will be doing, fantasy style. I'm a big *Lord Of The Rings* fan.

I wondered if you could show me how to make my landscapes that little bit more dramatic and bleak – but in a way that isn't too much fuss. After all, these are just guides for the paintings!

Steve, Ecclesfield

What we suggest Steve, is that you first open up your desired source photograph and then proceed to duplicate the image, naming the file 'Monochromatic sky'.

Now select Image>Adjustments>Channel Mixer and activate the Monochrome option which you'll see at the foot of the dialog box. Set your Red channel to 200%, Green channel to -50% and Blue channel likewise. Clicking OK, set a Multiply blending mode to this layer.

The effect is apparent straight away, and you can always edit the Opacity levels if you wish to create a different effect.



SUN AND SHADOWS: Applying a layer mask, Curves or Levels and Photo filters coupled with blending modes can create further cool effects



DECEPTIVELY SIMPLE: You can easily replicate the Man Ray effect using blending modes in Photoshop

BACK TO THE FUTURE

Hey **Advanced Photoshop** gang. I get your magazine every month and it really helps me with my Photoshop skills, especially now I've started a college course in photography. I'm a bit of a late starter at 28, but it's become a passion of mine. I am putting together a project of figurative art and would love to replicate the effects of the creative prodigy Man Ray. Is there a way to replicate this? I've not a clue where to start and have been experimenting with filters for ages.

Matt, Hamilton

This is an interesting question and one that is actually very simple to achieve regarding the basic effect. All you'll need to do is treat your model photo as you see fit, then duplicate. Next, select Image > Adjustments > Invert or use Cmd/Ctrl+I and apply a Difference blending mode. It's that easy. You can do as you wish afterwards.

And for those of you unfamiliar with the works of Man Ray and interested in finding out more, visit www.manray-photo.com. Here you can discover the talent of a man regarded as a major contributor to modernism, Dada and surrealist movements, and avant-garde photography.

A PLACE TO STAY

Hi **Advanced Photoshop**. I've wanted to submit numerous images to the **Advanced Photoshop** forum for some time, but I'm not a 100 per cent sure how it's done. I'm sure you guys can inform me how to do this. If it helps, I don't have a website either.

Tabitha, Launceston

To submit to our forum, your image needs a URL, and the best way to get one if you don't have your own site is to use an image-hosting service. You simply upload your image to the service and the image host will then store the image onto its server, and show the individual different types of code to allow others to view that image. Great if you don't have a website. Why not try out www.photobucket.com or www.imageshack.us, favourites of others on the forum? Just post the URL between [img] tags to upload the image when making a post on the forum. You can also upload images to our gallery site, www.advancedphotoshop.co.uk, which does not require you to have a URL.



GET YOUR IMAGE ON THE FORUM: Use an image-hosting service to get a URL for your image, which can be used to post that image on blogs or forums, including our own at www.advancedphotoshop.co.uk/forum

HELPDESK

CALL FOR QUESTIONS

Want help with Photoshop?

Send your emails to us at:

advancedpshop@imagine-publishing.co.uk

or post a message on our forum board at www.advancedphotoshop.co.uk/forum.

Remember to specify whether you're using a PC or Mac and the version number of your edition of Photoshop.