

## LINES, OVERLAYS AND COLOR

I have found three ways to convert images to lines. There may be more as there are many ways to do things in Photoshop, as you all know. As I understand it, the filters that create lines simply focus on the difference between colors and create a line at that location. Changing an image to lines is of questionable use by itself. Odd-looking images are often the result and are probably useless in competition. One thing is for sure though, you can spend a lot of time working with them and will become much more familiar with the use of layers and layer masks, as, they go hand in hand.

Any one of the following ways will give you line drawings. In my demonstration image I have used one at a time and then two or three at once which is a powerful way to use layers and overlays. Open an original and copy it as a background copy. On the copy do all the normal stuff, levels, saturation, or whatever. Sharpen it more than you would normally as this will help define the lines.

For the first line effort from the background copy open a new layer via copy. Let's call it Glowing Edges. Do Filter > Stylize > Glowing Edges, try the settings of 2,10,6. This filter is mostly weird at this point so do Image > Adjust > Invert. Reduce the fill and see what you get. Change the layer to Overlay blending mode, and again lower the fill. Try the other blending modes. Add a layer mask to this layer and remove part of the overlay using a soft brush. A hue and saturation layer can be added and, with that, you can color the lines. To do so open hue and saturation, check the colorize box, and move the saturation slider and the lightness slider to the right. Now change the hue to whatever color you want.

For the second effort try any of the above on another new layer via copy, call it Find Edges to start. Do Filter > Find Edges, and open. There is no need to invert this one but you can. The black background with white lines will respond to all the above treatments and give some interesting effects as well.

The third effort is again a filter. Call it Lines. On another new layer via perform Filter > Blur > Smart Blur and open it. Try a radius of 10 and a threshold of 60. Put the quality on High and click on Edge Only. Open it. This takes awhile as it is using a lot of RAM. Now do Image > Adjust > Invert (or use it black). Invert it and do Filter > Blur > Gaussian Blur. Try 1 pixel (the more pixels the wider the lines will be). Click OK and execute Image > Adjust > Threshold. Move slider to the right until you like what you see. Click OK and again you can do all of the above to this layer, and more.

All of the line drawings can be separated from their backgrounds. Use the magic wand tool with the contiguous box unchecked, select the lines themselves. Use Image > Adjustments > Inverse, select cut from edit on the menu bar, and drag the result where ever you want. Use hue and saturation with the color box checked if you want colored lines. Have fun!

[The original presentation of this paper was accompanied by several prints demonstrating the results of applying these techniques.]

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