Souping up a Photo

Gimper – Fri, 04/04/2008 - 18:00

• Photo Manipulation

Before and After:

This is one of a number of PSDtuts.com tutorials I will be redoing in GIMP. This tutorial will teach you how to add that extra touch to your already great photo.

Before we start, I advise that you read the original tutorial because it contains some nice details I don't cover. I mainly focus on the technical side on how to do it using GIMP.
Step 1

This great image of a surfer is from iStockPhoto. You must open it in GIMP to follow this tutorial.

Step 2

First step is to add some contrast. Go to Colors→Brightness-Contrast. Unlike the PS tutorial, we’re going to enter 3 for Brightness and 10 for Contrast.
Step 3

Now will duplicate the layer by going to the layer dialog and clicking the Duplicate icon (or Layer → Duplicate Layer).

Step 4

Next go to Colors → Desaturate and select "Average". This will convert the image to B/W.
Step 5

Click on the duplicated Black and White and change the layer mode to Overlay and change Opacity to 70%.

Step 6

Now grab the brush tool and in the "Tools option" dialog select "Circle Fuzzy (19)" and set the scale to 10 for a nice soft brush.
Now brush around the edges of the image to give the centre a higher contrast.

Now that you have the edges brushed, set the layer to "Overlay" mode and opacity to 50%.

**Step 7**

Now we’ll get rid of unwanted noise in the bottom left. Grab the *same brush* we used in the previous step 6 and create a new layer (Layer → New Layer). Then brush away the noise and bubbles in the bottom left corner.
Step 8

Now to adjust the brightness, we’ll create a new Layer (Layer → New Layer). Fill it with the bucket tool with the color black. Then set the Mode to "Color" and opacity to 20%.

Step 9

Now to add a touch of green (File → Open as Layers) to the water by using one of Arsenal's Freebie downloads under Watercolours Pack Sample.
**Step 10**

Once you load or download the greenish ocean photo insert it on top of the other layers then set **Mode** to "Burn" and **Opacity to 20%**. That's it your completed image should look like this.

![Completed Image](image)

The XCF file is attached below for download.