

Photoshop Tutorial - 'Santa Going Home'

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Start

Open a new document.

Click the 'Create new fill or adjustment layer' icon at the bottom of the 'Layers window' and select 'solid colour' - choose a darkish blue colour.

Ground

Open the photo 'background.jpg' and import it into the main document.

Re-size and position to cover the whole image.

Pull the top middle handle down about a third of the document to compress the ground.

Click the 'create layer mask' icon at the bottom of the 'layers window'.

Select the 'gradient tool' from the left side toolbar - select 'black to transparent' - click at the top of the 'ground' layer and drag down to just above the middle of the document - adjust as necessary.

Select the 'ground' layer.

Edit>Transform>Warp - pull up a touch, the left and right upper corners.

Click the 'Create new fill or adjustment layer' icon at the bottom of the 'Layers window' and select 'brightness and contrast' - attach this to the layer by 'Alt+clicking' between them then adjust 'brightness to -150.

Select the 'ground' layer.

Filters>Blur>Radial Blur - make sure you have 'zoom' and 'good' selected and make the 'amount' 5.

Trees

Open the photo 'tree.jpg' and import it into the main document.

Re-size and position to the right side

Click the 'create layer mask' icon at the bottom of the 'layers window'.

Select the 'gradient tool' from the left side toolbar - select 'black to transparent' - click at the bottom of the tree and drag up to the middle of the tree.

Select the 'tree' layer.

Click the 'Create new fill or adjustment layer' icon at the bottom of the 'Layers window' and select 'hue/saturation' - attach this to the layer by 'Alt+clicking' between them then adjust 'saturation' to -100 and 'lightness' to about -60.

Layer>Merge Down - then copy the tree layer by pressing 'Ctrl+j'.

Edit>Transform>Flip Horizontal.

Move the tree copy over to the left side and re-size it.

Select the top 'tree' layer.

Layer>Merge Down.

Filters>Blur>Radial Blur - make sure you have 'zoom' and 'good' selected and make the 'amount' 10.

Stars

Open the photo 'stars.jpg' and import it into the main document.

Re-size and position to cover the whole image.

Move this layer to be just below the 'ground' layer - adjust 'opacity' to suit.

Filters>Blur>Radial Blur - make sure you have 'zoom' and 'good' selected and make the 'amount' 5.

Select all the layers by 'Ctrl+clicking' all of them, then drag all of them down to the 'make group' icon at the bottom of the 'layers window' (third from the right) - this will create a 'group 1' layer which contains all the layers you dragged down.

Rename this layer 'background'.

Train

Open the photo 'train.jpg'.

Select the 'quick selection' tool from the left side toolbar and select the train.

Select>Modify>Feather 1 pixel.

Import this layer into the main document - re-size and position in the centre of the image.

Click the 'Create new fill or adjustment layer' icon at the bottom of the 'Layers window' and select 'brightness and contrast' - attach this to the layer by 'Alt+clicking' between them then adjust 'brightness' to -150 and 'contrast' to about -40.

Click the 'Create new fill or adjustment layer' icon at the bottom of the 'Layers window' and select 'hue/saturation' - attach this to the layer by 'Alt+clicking' between them then adjust 'saturation' to -60 and 'lightness' to about -30.

Click the 'Create new layer' icon at the bottom of the 'Layers window' - attach this to the layer by 'Alt+clicking' between them.

Use the 'polygonal lasso tool' to select the 'door' on the train.

With a black brush paint the door black - reduce 'opacity' until the inside is just showing.

With a yellow soft brush paint in a light shine inside the door.

Select all the 'train' layers by 'Ctrl+clicking' all of them, then drag all of them down to the 'make group' icon at the bottom of the 'layers window' (third from the right) - this will create a 'group 1' layer which contains all the layers you dragged down.

Rename this layer 'train'.

Tracks

Open the photo 'train.jpg' and import it into the main document.

Move this layer to be just below the 'train' group layer.

Re-size and re-position the 'new' train to be behind the 'original' train.

Click the 'Create layer mask' icon at the bottom of the 'Layers window' and with a soft black brush remove everything except the tracks.

Click the 'Create new fill or adjustment layer' icon at the bottom of the 'Layers window' and select 'hue/saturation' - attach this to the layer by 'Alt+clicking' between them then adjust 'saturation' to about -50 and 'lightness' to about -60.

Santa

Open the photo 'Santa.jpg'.

Select the 'quick selection' tool from the left side toolbar and select Santa.

Click the 'Select and Mask' icon at the top.

Select the 'Refine Edge' brush (second from the top on the left toolbar) and brush around Santa's fur. 'Feather' by 1 pixel.

'Shift edge' to -15%.

Tick the 'Decontaminate colour' box.

Click 'OK'.

Import this layer into the main document - re-size and position in the train.

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Click the 'Create new fill or adjustment layer' icon at the bottom of the 'Layers window' and select 'brightness and contrast' - attach this to the layer by 'Alt+clicking' between them then adjust 'brightness' to -150.

Click the 'Create new fill or adjustment layer' icon at the bottom of the 'Layers window' and select 'hue/saturation' - attach this to the layer by 'Alt+clicking' between them then adjust 'saturation' to about -25.

Open the photo 'box. jpg'.

Use the 'polygonal' tool to select the box.

Select>Modify>Feather 1 pixel.

Import this layer into the main document - move the layer to be just under the 'santa' layer - re-size and position as Santa's seat.

Click the 'Create new fill or adjustment layer' icon at the bottom of the 'Layers window' and select 'brightness and contrast' - attach this to the layer by 'Alt+clicking' between them then adjust 'brightness' to -150.

Select all the 'santa' layers by 'Ctrl+clicking' all of them, then drag all of them down to the 'make group' icon at the bottom of the 'layers window' (third from the right) - this will create a 'group 1' layer which contains all the layers you dragged down.

Rename this layer 'santa'.

Sparks

Select the 'santa' and 'train' groups by 'Ctrl+clicking' them - select the 'move' tool and rotate anti-clockwise to derail the train.

Open the photo 'sparks. jpg'.

Import this layer into the main document - move the layer to be at the top of the 'layers stack'.

Change the 'blending mode' to 'colour dodge'

Re-size and re-position to suit.

Click the 'Create new fill or adjustment layer' icon at the bottom of the 'Layers window' and select 'hue/saturation' - attach this to the layer by 'Alt+clicking' between them then adjust 'hue' to +40, 'saturation' to +100 and 'lightness' to -10.

Select the 'erase' tool from the left side toolbar and clean up the edges.

Dirt

Open the photo 'dirt. png'.

Import this layer into the main document

Make another copy of this layer by pressing 'Ctrl+j'.

Resize and re-position to be dirt thrown out the back from the left wheel.

Resize and re-position to be dirt thrown up and to the side from the right wheel.

Select the 'erase' tool from the left side toolbar and clean up the edges.

Adjust 'opacity' to suit.

Snow

Open the photo 'snow. png'.

Import this layer into the main document

re-size to cover the whole image

Filters>Blur>Radial Blur - make sure you have 'zoom' and 'good' selected and make the 'amount' 10.

Filters>Blur>Gaussian Blur 5 pixels.

Finishing

Click the 'Create new fill or adjustment layer' icon at the bottom of the Layers Window and select 'Gradient Map' - select a black to white gradient - change the 'blending mode' to 'soft light' - reduce 'opacity' to suit (round about 50%).

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Click the 'Create new fill or adjustment layer' icon at the bottom of the Layers Window and select 'Levels' - move the 'black' and 'white' pointer in a touch to increase the contrast.

[Finished](#)