

Photoshop Tutorial - 'Walking in the Sunlight'

We start with 3 photos:

[track.jpg](#)

[mountains.jpg](#)

[walkers.jpg](#)

and 1 brush set

<https://www.brusheezy.com/brushes/27581-bird-brushes>

Start

Open a new document.

Open the photo 'track.jpg'.

Use the 'Rectangular Marquee Tool' from the left side toolbar, to select the bottom 'grass' part of the image.

Place the selection on it's own layer by pressing 'Ctrl+j'.

Import the selection into the main document and resize and position in the bottom of the document.

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

Move the top copy to the left so that the 'track' part is in the left of the image.

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

With a soft black brush blend the right side of the grass to the lower grass image.

Select the lower grass image and click the 'Add adjustment layer' icon at the bottom of the 'layers window', select Hue/Saturation, attach it to the layer by 'Alt+clicking' between them.

Adjust slider to : 'Lightness' to -15 (or until both grasses match).

Layers>Merge Down.

Select the top grass layer and :

Layers>Merge Down.

You should now have one layer with both 'grasses' merged and colour corrected.

Click the 'Add adjustment layer' icon at the bottom of the 'layers window' and select Hue/Saturation, attach it to the layer by 'Alt+clicking' between them.

Adjust the sliders to be 'Hue -17', 'Saturation -17' and 'Lightness -16'.

Mountains

Open the photo 'mountains.jpg'.

Use the 'Rectangular Marquee Tool' from the left side toolbar, to select almost all the image except for the trees at the bottom.

Place the selection on it's own layer by pressing 'Ctrl+j'.

Import the selection into the main document and resize and position in the top half of the document.

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

Select the 'gradient' tool from the left side toolbar, make sure it's on 'black to white'

Click at the bottom of the 'mountain' image and drag the cursor up about 1/4 of an inch (or for you younger readers, 6mm) (you can keep the cursor straight by holding down the 'shift' key).

This should give you a big feather on the bottom of the 'mountains' image.

Move the 'mountains' layer to be below the 'grass' layer and reposition so they blend together.

Lighting

Select the 'grass' layer.

Click the 'Add new layer' icon from the bottom of the 'layers window' and attach it to the layer by 'Alt+clicking' between them.

Select the brush from the left side toolbar.

Select the 'foreground' colour, use the 'eye dropper' to select a dark blue from the mountains.

Paint across the top of the grass layer to about quarter of the way down then down the left side.

Change the 'blending mode' to 'multiply' reduce opacity to suit, about 75%.

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Click the 'Add new layer' icon from the bottom of the 'layers window' and move it to the top of the 'layers stack'.

Select the 'foreground' colour and make it darker.

Paint across the 'join' between the two layers.

Change the 'blending mode' to 'multiply' reduce opacity to suit, about 50%.

Click the 'Add new layer' icon from the bottom of the 'layers window' and move it to the top of the 'layers stack'.

With the dark blue brush paint across the lighter parts of the mountains.

Change the 'blending mode' to 'soft light'.

Sunlight

Click the 'Add new layer' icon from the bottom of the 'layers window' and move it to the top of the 'layers stack'.

Select the 'polygonal' tool from the left side toolbar and click to start your selection about quarter of the way in from the top right of the document then click off the bottom left corner, now click around the outside of the document, moving anti clockwise until you join up with the original point. Click the 'reset foreground/background colours' icon (little black and white box on the left side toolbar). Set white as the foreground colour.

Select the 'gradient' tool, make sure it's on 'white to transparent' click and drag through the selection from top to bottom.

Select>Deselect

Filter>Blur>Gaussian Blur - about 130 should do it - then reduce 'opacity' to suit (around 30%).

To add to the illusion that the sun is just out of picture - with a soft white brush paint in the top right corner - reduce 'opacity' to suit.

Model

Open the photo 'walkers.jpg'.

Use the 'quick selection' tool to select the left model (you may need to nudge the dotted lines in or out with the brush - remember by pressing 'alt' it will remove the selection).

You may also need to use the 'polygonal' tool to remove the hard to get to bits - again keep 'alt' pressed to remove

Click 'Select and Mask' button on the top toolbar.

Use the 'Refine Edge' brush (second down of the left toolbar) and run it around her hair.

Adjust the sliders to : Feather 1.0 pixels : Shift Edge -15 and tick : Decontaminate Colours.

Import the selection into the main document.

Resize and position on the track.

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

Shadow and Highlights

Select the bottom model layer.

Edit>Transform>Flip Vertical.

Adjust the shape to be thinner and longer then rotate to about 2 o'clock, position so the feet meet.

Click the 'Add new adjustment layer' icon at the bottom of the layers window and select 'Hue/Saturation', attach this to the layer by 'Alt+clicking' between them, move the 'lightness' slider all the way to the left.

Select the bottom model layer.

Filter>Blur>Gaussian Blur about 20 should do it, then reduce 'opacity' to suit (about 50%).

Select the top model layer.

Click the 'Add new 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, move the 'brightness' slider all the way to the left.

Select the 'layer mask' of the 'brightness and contrast' layer.

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With a soft black brush paint back the brightness on the model's right side.

Birds

Navigate to where you downloaded the bird brush and double click it, it will install itself in Photoshop.

Click the 'Add New layer' icon at the bottom of the 'Layers window' and move it to the top of the 'Layers Stack'.

Change the 'foreground colour' to white.

Select a 'bird' brush and stamp some birds into the right hand sky - reduce 'opacity' to suit.

Use the 'move' tool to reposition and resize.

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%).

Click the 'Create new fill or adjustment layer' icon at the bottom of the 'Layers window' and select 'levels' - move the black and white pointers in a touch.

Select the top layer.

With the 'Alt' key pressed, click 'Layers' keep holding the mouse button down, move down the menu to 'merge visible', release the mouse button. The top layer is now a combination of all the layers.

Filter>Blur Gallery>Iris Blur

Stretch out the circle until it stretches from the bottom left to the top right corners.

Adjust blur to suit.

