



Beckham Digital Tutorials

Photoshop Elements 8 - Presentation

Presentation is a vital part of our digital photography, whether we are preparing an image for high quality printing, or showing our images via a screen or a projector. We can present our images simply or we can use presentation as part of the creative process where the presentation assists with the impact and appeal of our images.

Photography is an art and as artists we are free to present our images in any way we choose, even when that does not meet with established rules. After all, what are rules for if we can't bend them and sometimes break them into tiny pieces and jump up and down on them.

On this disk we cover the basic presentation methods, but also those a little more creative. Working in layers we have enormous control of what we can do and sometimes we need to keep a tight hold of the reigns. If we don't, we can sometimes lose site of the fact that the presentation methods we use are there to present our images and not compete with them.

What is also worth keeping in mind with this subject is that the techniques we use will certainly widen your knowledge of Photoshop and/or Photoshop Elements. Many of the techniques we will demonstrate are not isolated to the subject of presentation. They will have a much broader appeal to the rest of your digital photography.

A good image is a good image, no matter how it is presented. However, if we recognise it is a good image, then lets take the trouble to present it at it's best.

Creating A simple Border Presentation. - Video Running time 09:23



We start by creating a simple yet very effective border taking into account the image content and the impact we want to achieve.

The two most common border colours are likely to be either black or white, depending on the image content we are working with.



As you can see from our small sample image we also demonstrate how to isolate our image using thin delicate lines around the image. Basic it may be, but effective it definitely is.

Creating a Digital Matt - Video Running time 10:51



Its not easy to show the subtle and delicate nature of these effects in PDF thumbnails, so here I have emphasised the effect to some degree so it can be seen easily. This technique is very effective and at our demos we have seen people trying to feel the indentation we have applied digitally to our large prints.

A traditional way of framing an image is to drop a matt over the top. This places the image below the frame and our technique does exactly the same. However, we have lots of ways to adjust our matt that would not be available with a physical cardboard matt.

Adjust the depth you want on your matt, the colour, shade, texture and much more. We can then output the entire image, with our border to the printer and then flush mount the image when printed, which is a far easier thing to do.

This technique is also great for electronic presentation via our computer screens or a digital projector.

Block Mounting an Image - Video Running time 10:52



A similar technique to our matt effect, but here we raise the image off the mount. Once again this is a very effective technique and it is another of those where viewers of our prints try to feel the raised print.

In all these techniques we demonstrate some great digital techniques that you will find just as powerful in your day to day manipulation as they are with presentation.

Once again we work in layers to give ourselves many different and creative options to present the image

Fit to Frame - Video Running time 20:18

In this video we deal with making sure we can make almost any format image fit a standard frame for putting an image on the wall of our home.

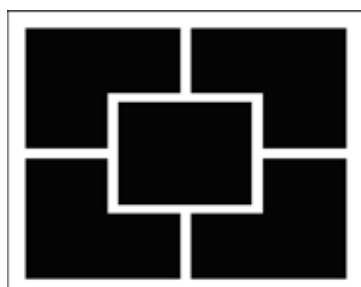
If you have an non standard size image framed, it can be a very expensive. The end result usually looks really good, but the cost of getting it to that stage is often too much to pay. Here we deal with making our images fit into standard frames that we can purchase in local shops and markets at a fraction of the cost of a purpose made frame.

However, we still want the image to look professionally done when framed and here we take you through the techniques you may want to use.



The Paste Into Technique - Video Running time 30:49

The paste into technique can be used in a number of different ways. We can use it as a simple template if we have the need to create a similar presentation again.



We can also use the paste into technique to enable us to present a number of images on one page and repeat that at any time in the future. If we save the shapes we create, they will always be available to us some time in the future.

We can use them again as they are or move on from what we have already created and add to them. The paste into technique has a number of creative possibilities.

Incidentally, we have included a number of these shapes on the disk that you can use or add to. They are copyright free and you can use these shapes in any way you choose. The technique is also a great layers exercise and we get to use our rulers and guides to help make the work we need to do easy and good fun too.



We have placed our samples in a small slide show on our slide show menu page. Here you will see the edge effects at their best.

Creating and Applying Edge Effects - Video Running time 32:42



Sometimes these edge effects are called distressed edges and they are remarkably easy to create.

The great thing about them is if we work in the right way, every edge effect we create can be saved and used again. We can either use it as it is, or adjust what we start with into something different.

In its basic use we can just apply the edges directly to our images, but that is a little too permanent and then they cannot be used again.

These edges are fun to create and we start to use some of the other brush types that perhaps we may not come into contact with for our general photographic work.



The Breakout Technique - Video Running time 27:24



The breakout technique is another of those that takes us well into layers and the techniques we use here can be used in many of our other manipulations. We have to think carefully about the layers work we need to do and that helps us to learn.

The technique can be used in conjunction with any of the presentation techniques we have covered on this disk. Here we take you through the entire process, which can add impact to our images and above all is fun to do.



Like all techniques we need to pick the right style of image, but most of us will have a number of those which would suit this technique. We have also included a few of our other examples of this technique so open up these images in your image editor for evaluation.

The Cut Up Technique - Video Running time 39:21

Whether we are using a descriptive term for this technique is debatable, but here we take either one image or maybe a couple and we cut up the image and reassemble it in a creative way. Well, that is the theory and our Flying Fortress image is one of the results we achieved.

Once again layers are the key to this creative presentation technique, but the end result lies firmly in our hands. We have to decided how to present the various parts of the image and that has infinite possibilities.

In this tutorial we present our image within pieces of film, both 35 mm and 6cm by 6 cm, but we have creative possibilities to vary that to some degree.



We include on the disk the film artwork we used and you are free to use those examples completely copyright free.

The technique has lots of creative possibilities and although our examples are presented within film strips for affect, there is obviously other ways we can come at this.



Creating a Vignette - Video Running time 22:16

There are a number of different ways to present our images in a vignette, but if we work in layers we not only create a great presentation, but leave ourselves with plenty of creative avenues to explore.

Adjusting the shape of a ready made vignette to suit a particular image or creating them from scratch is dealt with in this tutorial. It's important that we select the right image to match the technique, but then that is the case for every presentation technique we contemplate.

Combine it with toning and textures to really create a great presentation of your images, especially those with a historic content.



Adding Lines and Effects - Video Running time 19:00



In this section we look at the techniques to apply delicate and balanced lines on our mounts. Not easy to see in our small thumbnail, they really can give the presentation a real professional look.

As you can see here we also include the making of an oval mount that has style, texture and depth to create the effect we are looking for.

The key to great presentation is often colour. The wrong choice of colour can completely destroy exactly what we are trying to achieve, but we help with that too.



Creating harmony and balance are two skills we must master if we want to be able to present our image at their very best.

Creating Slide Shows - Video Running time 27:06

There is no way we could create a disk dedicated to presentation without covering the subject of Audio Visual. Audio Visual or AV for short is probably one of the best presentation methods you will find. Either played directly on our computer screen, a TV via a DVD or on the big screen via a projector, our slide shows have impact and appeal that is difficult to beat.

Here, we introduce you to what we believe is the best slide show software around and you will find it on our web site along with many tutorials dedicated to that subject. AV makes a great partnership with our digital photography and is worth investigation.



Using our ready made Frames - Video Running time 9:39



Included on our disk are a number of high resolution frames that you are free to use or change in any way in your own projects. These are provided copyright free and in this short video we just give some pointers on how you may make best use of them.

One of the reasons why working in layers is so useful is that whenever you create a frame, why not save that isolated part of your work and gradually build yourself a library of great artwork.



Preparing Images for Competition - Video Running time 18:08

We are aware that many people who purchase our tutorials, also belong to photographic clubs and societies and a major part of camera club life are the competitions. As competition secretary of my own club I see many mistakes being made by members presenting images to the competitions.

One of these mistakes is not appreciating the difference between seeing our image on our PC screen and how that same image will be seen in a darkened room, via a digital projector on the large screen.



On our PC screen the image looks great, but remember how it is going to be seen. Generally with a large area of black around the edge and then our image that already has dark edges is lost into the background.

Then there is sharpness, not over sharpened images, but not sharpened enough or at all. If we are going to prepare smaller images to meet club rules, lets make sure we still present the very best image we can.

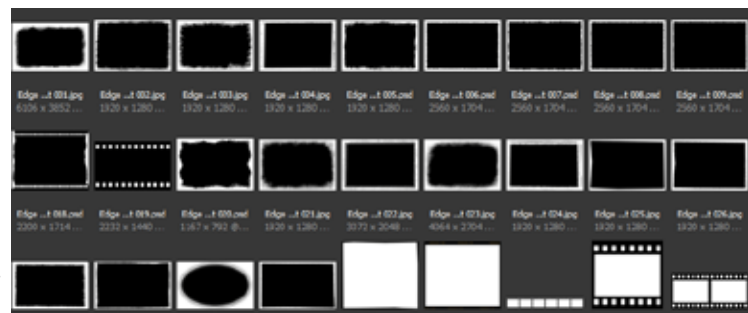
After all we would have spent a lot of time to capture and create the image, lets spend a few minutes on the presentation too.

Free Stuff and Extras

On this disk we have included a number of frames, edge effects, and paste into shapes for your use. Unlike the images we have included these pieces of artwork are completely copyright free. You can use them in any way you wish or change and adapt them to suit your own needs.

We have also include most of the starting and finished images that we created while recording the videos, plus a few of our older examples for ideas and inspiration. Also, check out our short slide show that shows some of the work produced for this disk.

We have also included a couple of our full audio visual slide shows, but ones that are relevant to the techniques we cover on this disk. Remember all the techniques we have demonstrated can be used in audio visual too.



For those who need copyright free music for their digital projects we have met your needs too. Included on this disk are all the albums and track samples from our web site. Just click the button from our music page to copy all the samples to your desktop. This is a convenient way for you to search for the style of music your looking for.

Remember, these samples where made originally for web use so their quality is very low and does not reflect the quality of music we offer via download or disk.

Talk to us.

If you have a need for tutorials that we do not presently cover, then tell us. We cannot promise to always meet your needs, but we will take a look at your suggestion and if it is within our expertise to create it, we might just do that.

Enjoy the Disk