Using Photoshop

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Note – these activities were presented at a workshop at the CSTA meeting of 25 May 98. Demo versions of Photoshop 4.01 for the Macintosh were used. These came from cover CDs accompanying Macformat and Mac Addict magazines. The demo version is fully functional but is save and print disabled. The windows version is very similar and these notes would also be applicable with minor modification (eg control key instead of command). These notes (in Mac Word 98 format (= Word 97 for Windows format)) and the image files mentioned are available for download from the CSTA website at http://www.comp.mq.edu.au/~csta/

Activity 1

Using the Rubber Stamp (clone) Tool to correct an image.

(a) Open the image fruit in the “Samples for CSTA folder”. Notice that the pear has an imperfection. Select the magnifying glass tool and click on the pear to see it better. Select the rubber stamp tool. Option click to define the area you want to clone from (an area close to the imperfection – just above or below the mark is best in this example) and then drag over the imperfection. You may want to choose a different brush (eg a softer brush) or change the opacity using the slider in the rubber stamp options palette.

(b) This technique is very useful. You can use it to remove dust marks and scratches in scanned photographs.

(c) Next we will apply a filter to the image. Select one of the artistic filters (pastel or watercolour) from the filters menu. Experiment with the sliders. Use the undo command to fix up any changes you do not like.

(d) For the remainder of this activity we will crop and re-size the image. You can use the cropping tool (see the marquee tool) or you can simply use the marquee to select an area and then choose “crop” from the image menu. To resize the image (say for a web page) – go to “Image size…” from the image menu. Change its width to about 8cm.
Activity 2

Learning a neat pasting technique

(a) Open the “frames” picture. Magnify it to 100%. Use the marquee tool to select a large part of the area of the fruit bowl in the middle. Then copy this to the clipboard.

(b) Next use the lasso tool to select the ground glass viewfinder of the old camera. You may want to magnify the image more to make this easier. The second lasso tool may be easier to use as it selects straight lines between clicked points. To make the border more gradual, choose “feather…” from the select menu. Choose say 5 pixels.

(c) Now we will paste the fruit into this selection. Don’t use a normal paste. Use “paste into” from the edit menu.

(d) To improve the image you may want to scale and rotate the fruit. This can be done using the transform part of the layers menu. To make the changes permanent hit the enter or return key.

(e) Lastly, reduce the opacity of the fruit to about 30% so the ground glass screen is visible as well.
Activity 3

Using layers to add a title to an image.

(a) Open the image of the truck. This will be our base image and will stay on a background layer. Change the magnification to 100%. Next choose the type tool. Click within the window of the picture. A box will come up. Choose a suitable font and size etc (eg – Chicago, 120 pt, bold, anti-aliased) and type the text “FORD” or something that appeals to you. Click OK and the text will appear as a new layer over the rest of the image. You can use the move tool to re-position the text (or hold down the command key and drag it).

(b) Notice that the text appears on a different layer in the layer palette. Select and drag this layer to the middle of the 3 small icons at the bottom (the one that looks like a page being turned) to duplicate this text layer. Click on the eye of the top layer to hide it. Next, select the bottom of the two text layers and make sure that the preserve transparency box is turned off. Use the gaussian blur filter (say about 5 pixels) to create a drop shadow effect. Use the pull down menu (the one saying normal) on the layers palette to select “multiply” (This combines the shadow with the pixels of the bottom layer) and reduce the opacity of the shadow layer slightly.

(c) Now select the top layer again and click where the eye used to be to make it visible once more. This layer can now be moved slightly offset from the shadow layer below. (You can do this by holding down the command key and using the arrow keys to nudge it – eg below and to the left) Duplicate this layer once more. Choose the very top version. We will soon fill it with a gradient fill. Click on the foreground colour box and select a colour for the start of the gradient fill. Do the same for the background colour. Before you complete the gradient fill – make sure that the preserve transparency box is selected for the top layer. Choose the gradient tool, drag a diagonal line (or some other direction) over the text and watch it fill. Beautiful!

(d) Next, we will give the text more of a 3D effect. Click the eye on the top layer to temporarily hide it. Select the next layer down. Use the stylize – emboss filter (say about 5 pixels, 160%). Then select the top layer, click where he eye used to be to make it appear and move the slider to reduce the opacity so that the embossed layer shows through – fantastic!! If you click on the boxes to the right of the eyes for each of the text layers – you can link them and move them all in one go to a suitable position. Another way of doing this is to merge the layers into one – see the small pull down menu on the right of the layers palette.
(e) Open a second picture – the portrait. Use the magic wand tool (with a tolerance set to about 45) to select all the background. Hold down the shift key to add to the selection. Select the area in the bottom right and the blue diagonal line (ie select all of the picture except the girl). Next, choose the inverse to this (select menu) – to only select the girl. Copy this to the clipboard.

(f) Make the truck window active again. Use the technique used in activity 2 to paste the girl into the truck. Use the marquee to select the front truck window. Then use “paste into”. To look OK you will also need to transform her. Reduce her scale, rotate her and reduce the opacity of this layer.

(g) Lastly – use the hue/saturation adjustment (image – adjust submenu) to lower the saturation of the truck (or try some other variations)