

Photoshop Technique - How to Create a Linocut Effect

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A linocut effect uses the details in an image to create a black and white engraving of the image.



Image example



Linocut Effect



Linocut Effect with Color layer



Linocut Effect with Hue Saturation

The linocut effect can be used on various subjects, but especially comes in handy when the original source is of low quality. If you want color from the original subject image to appear in the linocut effect image, make a layer copy of the subject image and apply the linocut effects to the layer copy. Steps 7 through 9 will explain how to apply the color layer and the hue saturation as shown above.

To learn how to achieve the desired effects, I would suggest repeating this process on the same image several times, experimenting with the amounts for the radius (see below) and the threshold. Menu steps are enclosed in <> and highlighted in red.

- **Steps to Creating the Linocut Effect:**

1. Change the mode of the image to grayscale. **<Image, Mode, Grayscale>**



2. Apply the unsharp mask filter. Set the amount to 500% and the threshold to 0.

Experiment with the radius to find the amount of detail you want to include in the picture. The lower the radius, the more detail left in the image. The higher the radius, the less detail left in the image. **<Filter, Sharpen, Unsharp Mask>**



Example of Radius of 4



Example of Radius of 14

3. Apply a gaussian blur to smooth out the image. Move the radius to about one-fourth of the number you used for the radius in step 2. **<Filter, Blur, Gaussian Blur>**

4. Apply the unsharp mask filter once again to increase the dramatic difference between the black and white amounts. Use the same amounts as you selected in step 2.
<Filter, Sharpen, Unsharp Mask>
5. Adjust the image threshold for the final effect that you want. <Image, Adjust, Threshold>
6. After you are done, click OK.
 - To add color from the subject image in the linocut effect image
7. Change the opacity in layer 2 (the linocut layer) to allow the color from layer 1 to show through. This will give a watercolor effect to the final image.
 - To add hue saturation color to the image
8. First change the mode of the image to RGB. <Image, Mode, RGB color>
9. Then adjust the hue saturation and select colorize. Adjust the hue, saturation and lightness to the desired color. <Image, Adjust, Hue/Saturation, check Colorize>
10. Save your image to a new name. Place it in the directory of your choice. If you select Save As instead of Save, it may replace the original subject image. <File, Save As>