



Corporate Flow



Illustration



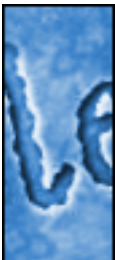
Image Editing



Automation



Web



Text Effects

Canvas Tips and Techniques



Creative Department

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Aging Photos



In a previous lesson, we learned how to [repair old photographs](#) using Canvas 8's Rubber Stamp tool and other image editing filters. In this how-to, we will take you back in time and show you some tricks you could use to create a vintage appearance for your nice new photos. This effect would be great for projects such as family photo albums or to transform a regular picture into a classic looking portrait.

Step 1

We start this exercise by opening Canvas and selecting illustration as the document type.

Next, place the photo you want to age into the document by choosing File > Place.

On the right is the image we will be using for our exercise.



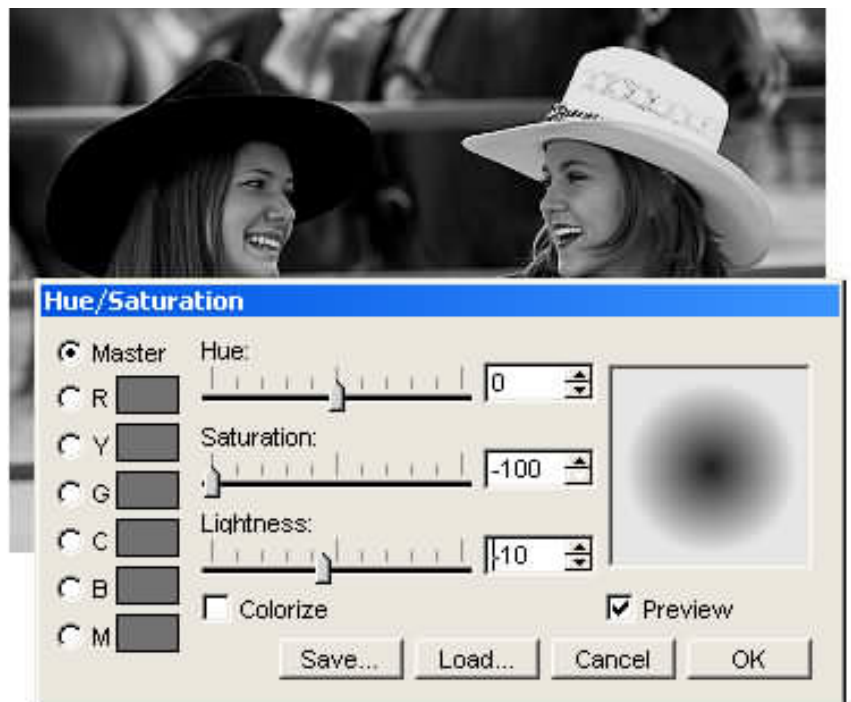
Step 2

Adjusting the Saturation

The first thing we need to do to our photo to give it an old classic look is to set the image's saturation to -100. This is easily accomplished by opening the Hue/Saturation Palette (Image>Adjust>Hue/Saturation) and moving the saturation slider all the way to the left. This will make your image appear to be Duotone (black & white).

Now, decrease the Lightness of the image by moving the slider or entering -10.

Press OK when you are done.



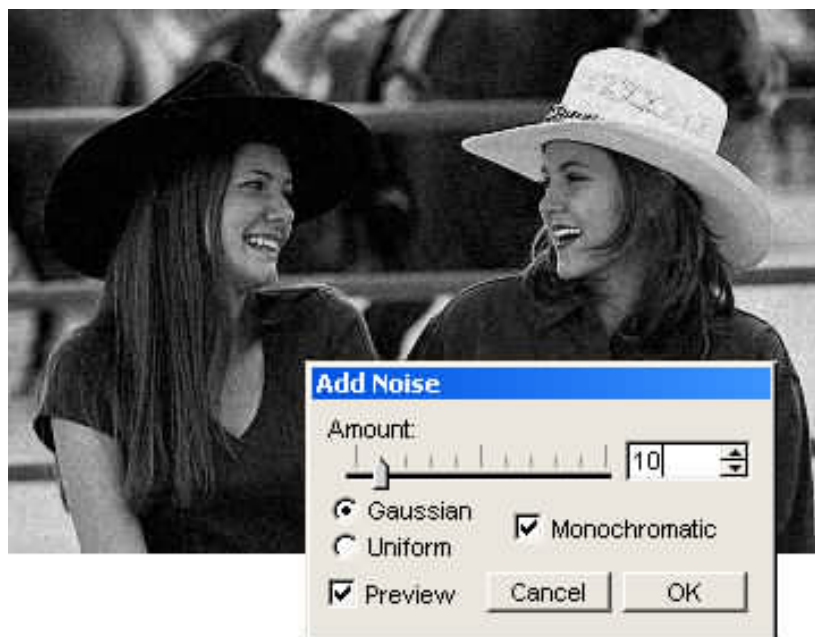
Aging Photos (Continued)

Step 3

Add Noise

Next, we decided to add some noise to our image to simulate the grainy look that some of these old photos have. This is easily done by opening the Add Noise palette (Image>Filter>Noise>Add Noise) and adjusting the amount of noise by moving the slider until your image becomes slightly grainy. Also make sure you check Monochromatic.

Tip: Some of your images may already be grainy and not require this step.

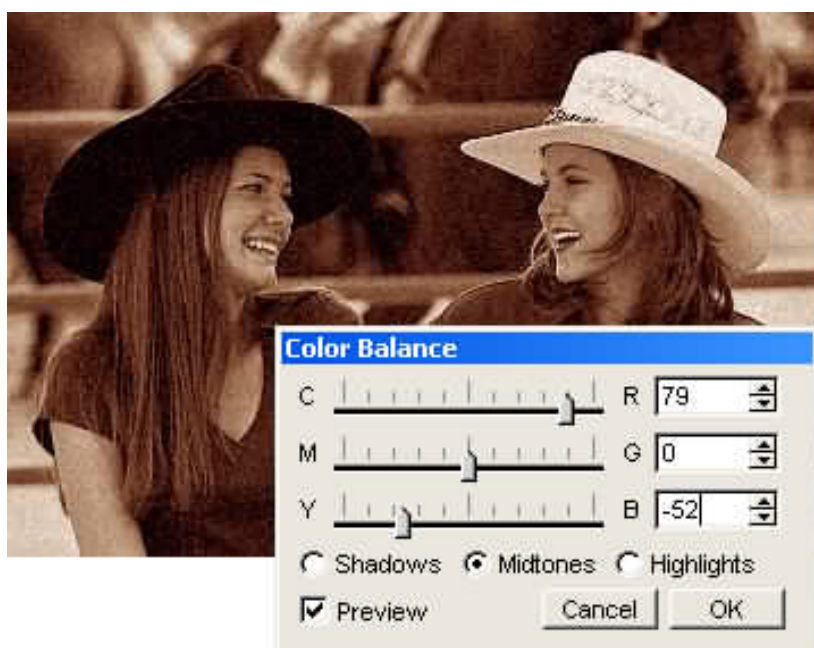


Step 4

Adjusting the Color Balance

Now, to give your image that old looking white and brown color or sepia tone, open the Color Balance palette (Image>Adjust>Color Balance) with your image selected and move the sliders until you are pleased with the tone.

Tip: Usually you will just need to increase the Red and Yellow levels on the Midtones, see example.

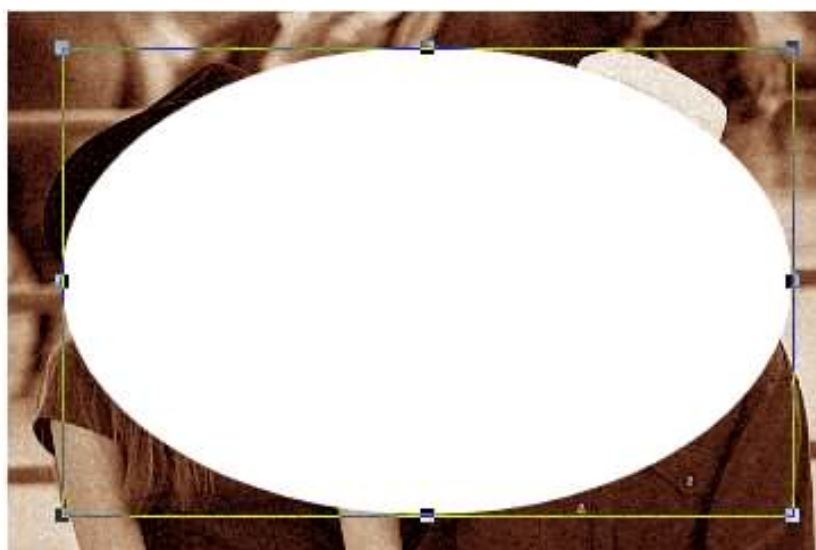


Step 5

Darkening the Edges



Another characteristic of these old pictures was the darkened edges, which were due to either old flash technology or weathering or both. To simulate these darkened edges, we must first create an oval using the Oval tool in the Toolbox. Using the Oval tool, create a white strokeless oval that is slightly smaller than the image we are aging.

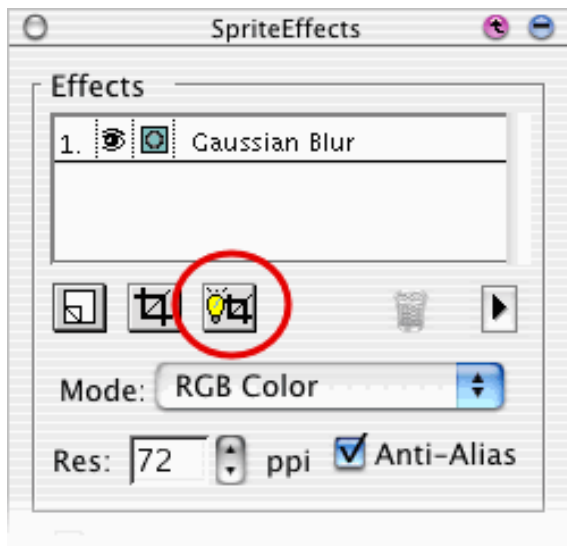


Aging Photos (Continued)

Next, with the oval selected, add a Gaussian Blur (Object>SpriteEffects>Add Effect>Blur>Gaussian Blur) to the oval.



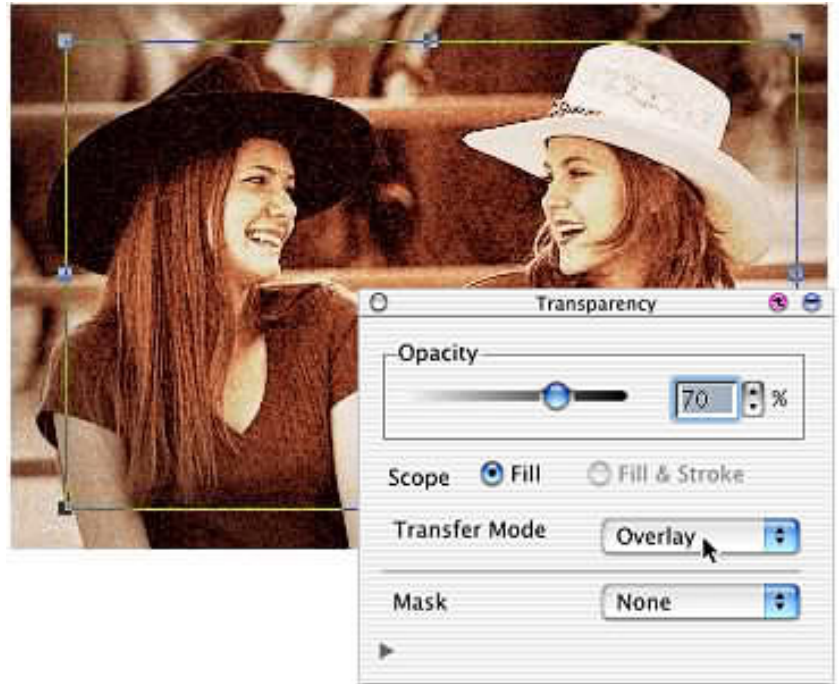
You might notice that your blurred oval ends abruptly on some of the sides. This is easily fixed by opening the SpriteEffects palette (Object>SpriteEffects>Show Palette) and clicking on the Smart Crop button (see below).



Aging Photos (Continued)

Next, with the blurred oval still selected, open the Transparency palette (Object>Sprite Layers>Show Palette). Change the Transfer Mode to Overlay and lower the Opacity to about 70%.

Using the blurred oval as an overlay we are able to brighten the center of the image with full control of the size and intensity.



Your resulting image should look like the example on the right.

In our last step we will [add a border](#) to our picture to really give it an old style look.

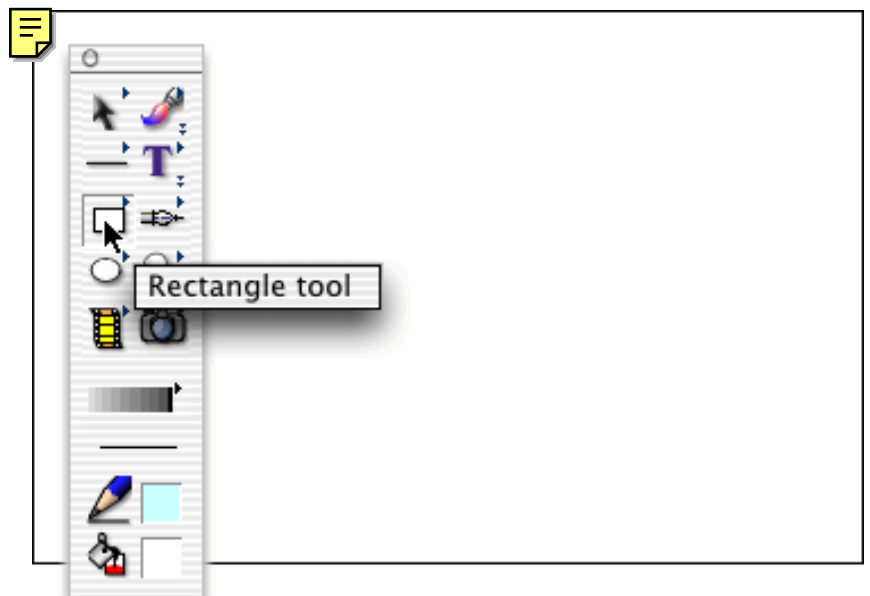


Step 6

Creating a Border

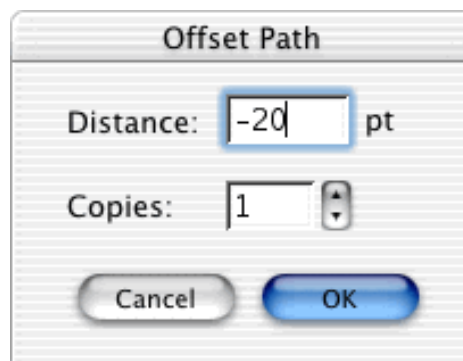
In this last step, we will create a picture border using the Rectangle and Combine tools.

First, select the Rectangle tool from the Toolbox and drag it over your image to create a rectangle that is slightly larger than the picture.



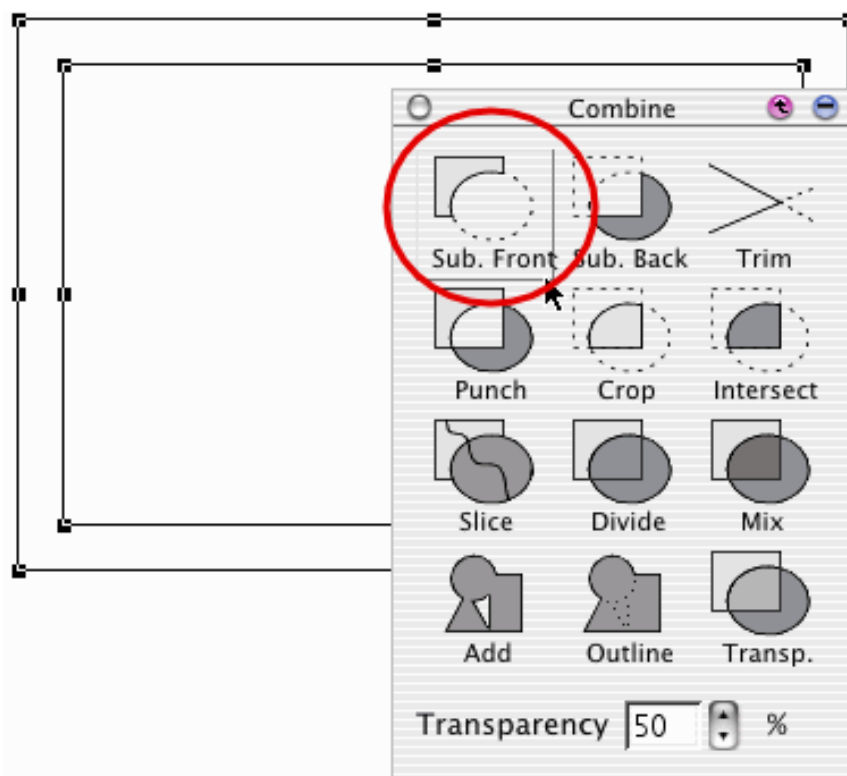
Aging Photos (Continued)

Now, create a rectangle that is 20 pixels smaller than the one you just made. This is easily done by selecting the rectangle and opening the Offset Path palette (Effects>Offset Path). Now enter -20 as the distance and 1 as the number of copies. Click OK when you are done.



Next, select both rectangles and open the Combine palette (Effects>Combine). Select Subtract Front from the palette to create that white border for our vintage photograph.

Note: Make sure the border you just created does not have a stroke



Your resulting image should look like the example on the right. We've added a shadow and text to our image to conclude this exercise. This example could be used in a photo album or a website.

Tip: It may be a good idea to select all of the components of this project and group them (Windows Ctrl+G, Mac Command+G) to prevent them from losing their placement.

