



INTRODUCTION TO GRAPHICS

Coloring a Mood II: An Interesting Deviation

Information
Sheet No. PS702

This is a technique that can be used to create a painting-style effect employing spot color selections and a couple of layers. To begin, choose the portrait file in the folder or use one of your own.



Now go to Select > Color Range. When the Color Range dialog box appears, set the fuzziness to 40-45 and change the Selection Preview to White Matte. With the Eyedropper, click on some of the shadow between the woman's hand and her neck. The amount of selection I'm looking for is seen in the next example. Keep an eye on the image itself (the White Matte will appear) so you can keep track of the pixels being selected.



First, duplicate the Background layer in the layers palette. This is something you should be well versed at already, especially if you have spent any time with my tutorials.

Do not click out of the dialog box just yet.

After your first selection, the image on the matte looks like this:

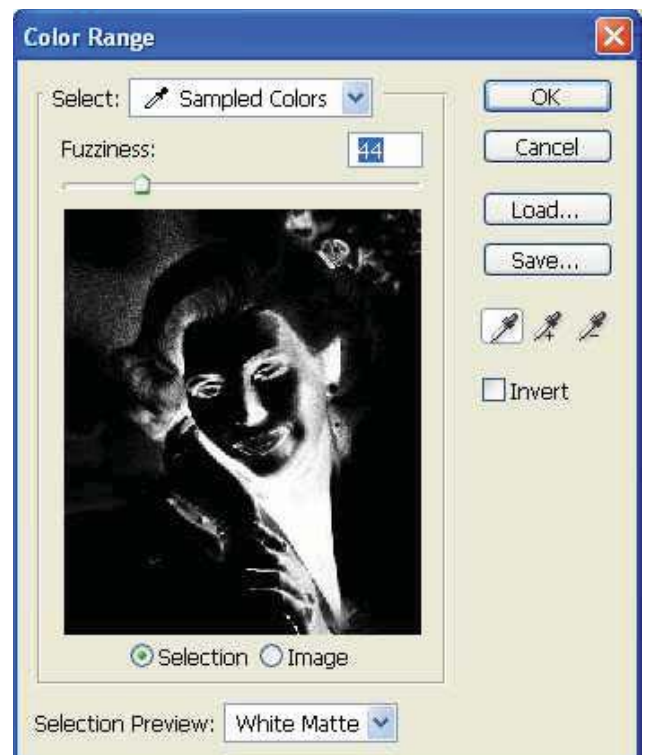


Still more revealed:



The lady in the painting is starting to appear, but a few more pixels will help realize the effect. To add to the selection, hold down the Shift key and click to an area close to the shadow in the Color Range viewer: **very** close. We don't want to add too much. If you think you have too much selected, simply release the Shift key and select again. To select more simply repeat the process.

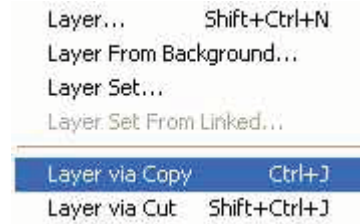
Repeat the process above one more time, adding to the selection by holding the Shift key and making a selection close to the shadow. The Color Range viewer shows that my selection will contain the pixels seen as white in the viewer.



When looking at the image with the white matte in place and before closing the Color Range dialog box, the selected areas look like this:



You are going to separate the selection from the photo. Go to Layer > New > Layer via Copy (Command/Control+J). This will place the selected pixels on their own layer.



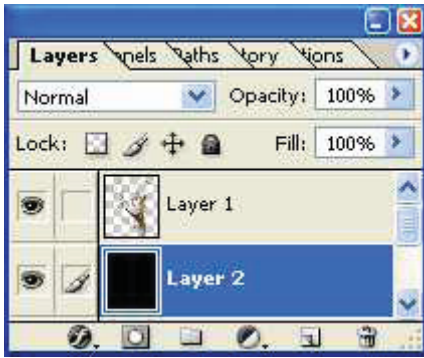
What we are looking for is to regain the effect of the white matte. This can be done by



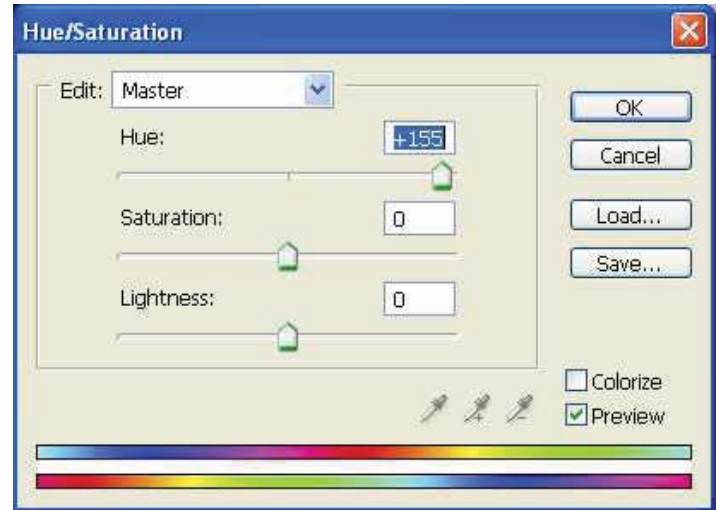
Hit OK and close the Color Range dialog box. The active selection will encompass all the pixels revealed as white in the dialog box, but the white matte will disappear.

simply creating a layer beneath the new layer and filling it with 100% white, mode to normal.





Let's play with the color a bit and see what happens. I'm simply going to adjust the Hue of the top layer.

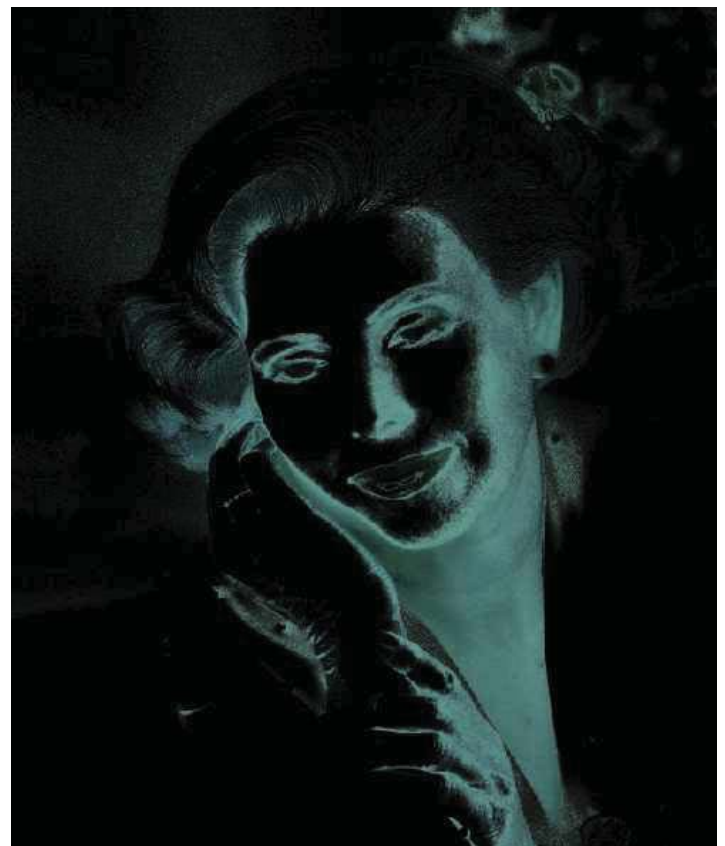


Want to see what the photo/painting would look like with a black matte? Simply fill the white layer with black.

To me this almost looks like one of those posters they used to make on black velvet.



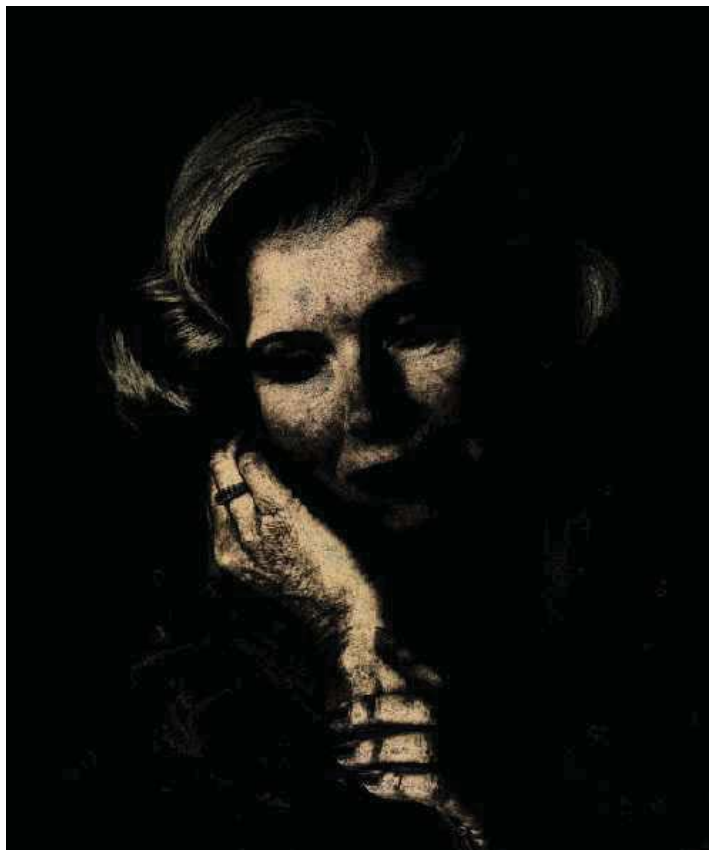
Here is the result: same woman in turquoise.



Let's try one other thing. Starting with the original image, I'll repeat the technique above, but this time select the skin tone from a spot on the woman's hand instead of the shadow.



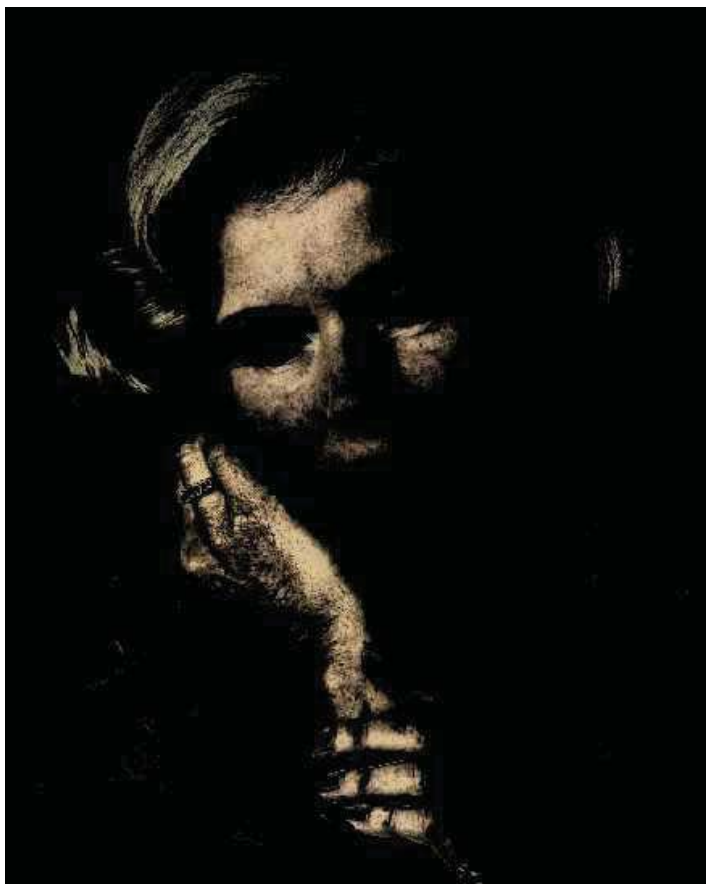
Let's add a bit more of the skin tone: I'm not looking for creepy, but more forlorn or sad.



This certainly reveals a drastically different mood than the previous piece; it has an almost creepy feel to it.

That's better. Not that she's sad, but effect of the selected tones on the black background is totally cool.

Now here is another take on this technique: using a photo that already has a black matte: an xray.



Using the same technique as above (the black matte version) and experimenting with sampling different portions of the xray, you could increase the contrast on the image and came up with something like the following result:



Remember that this process can be applied to more than just portraits. It can lend particularly effective results with nearly any image under the right conditions.