



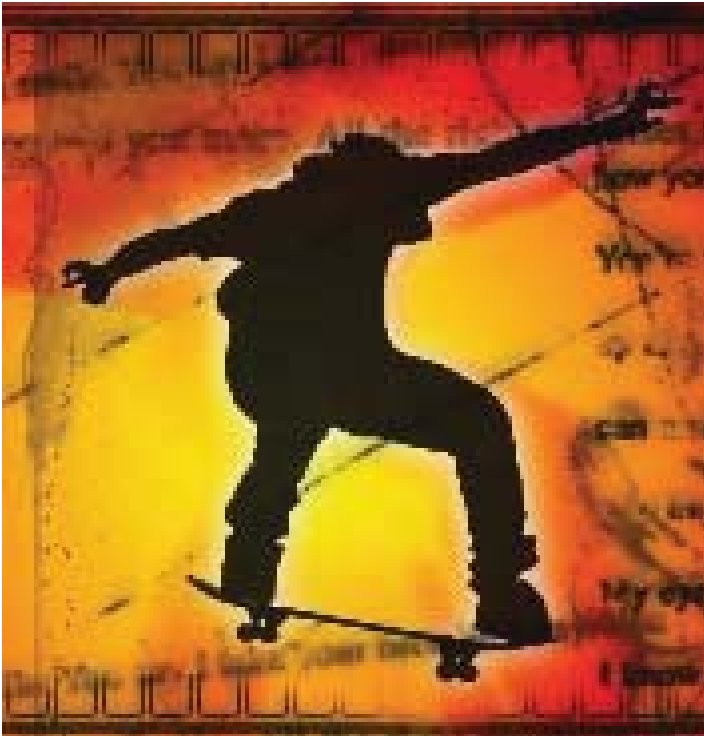
INTRODUCTION TO GRAPHIC COMMUNICATIONS

SKATE OR DIE

Information
Sheet No.

PS967

This is a short tutorial explaining how the "Skate-or-Die" image used as an avatar on a couple of community forums. This tutorial will basically show you how to take any photo (preferably a dramatic action pose) and turn it into a great looking "grunge" type poster.



If you don't have one, Yahoo or Google's images are good sources.

Start off by opening a new document it can be literally any size, but for this tutorial (to make an avatar) you'll be working with: 185 x 185

Step 1.

So the first thing to do is to get yourself a photo, and turn it into a silhouette.

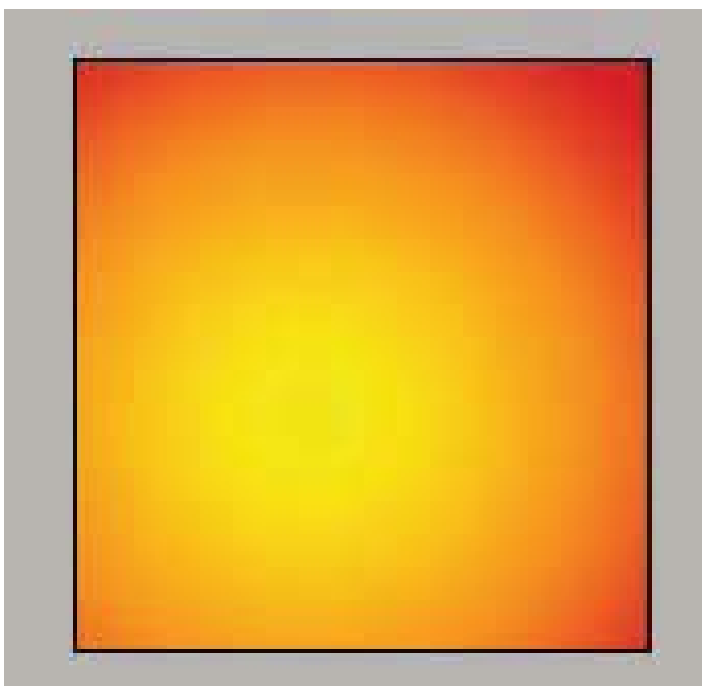
Not sure how to do that? Well you'd better read the Easy Silhouette tutorial and come back to this one when you're ready.

You need to have a silhouette photo ready to use with this tutorial. The silhouette used here is a skater in a dramatic action pose. (It could be anything):

Step 2.

Get out your gradient fill tool and set up your colors like so:

Go ahead and make a 2-color radial gradient for your background like this (this illustration is red and yellow). (You could use other bright colors):



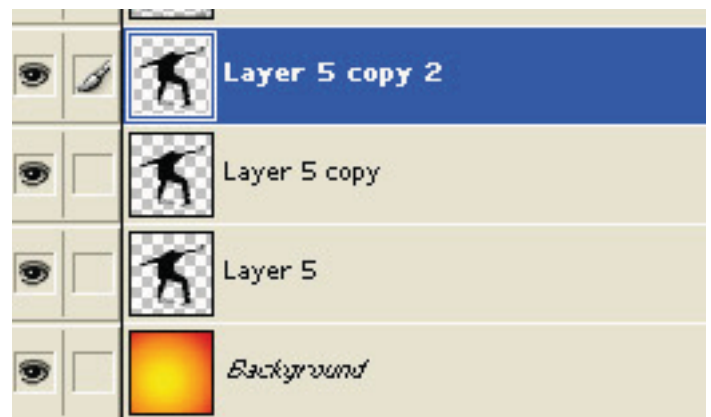
Step 3.

Next paste your silhouette onto a new layer all by itself.

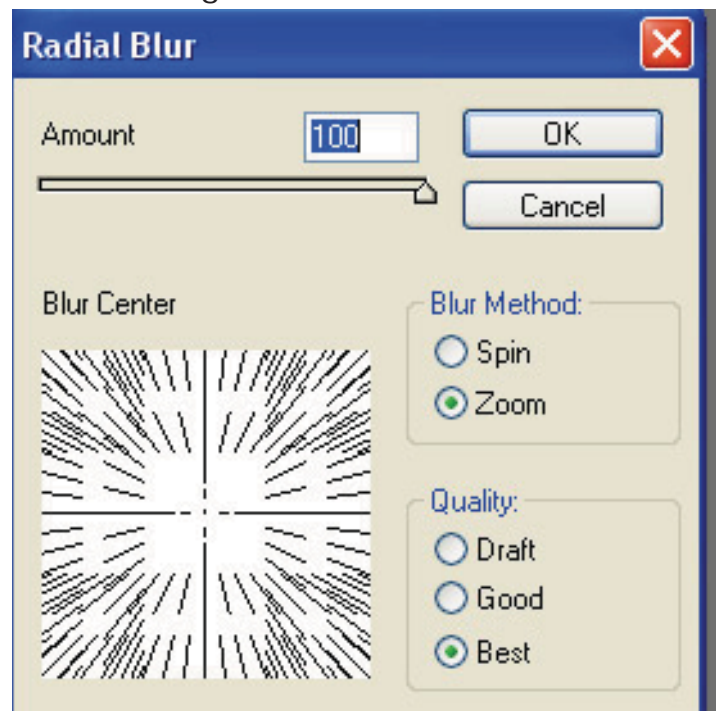
With the silhouette layer active, press CTRL + J on your keyboard 2 times, this will duplicate the layer 2 times.



Step 4.

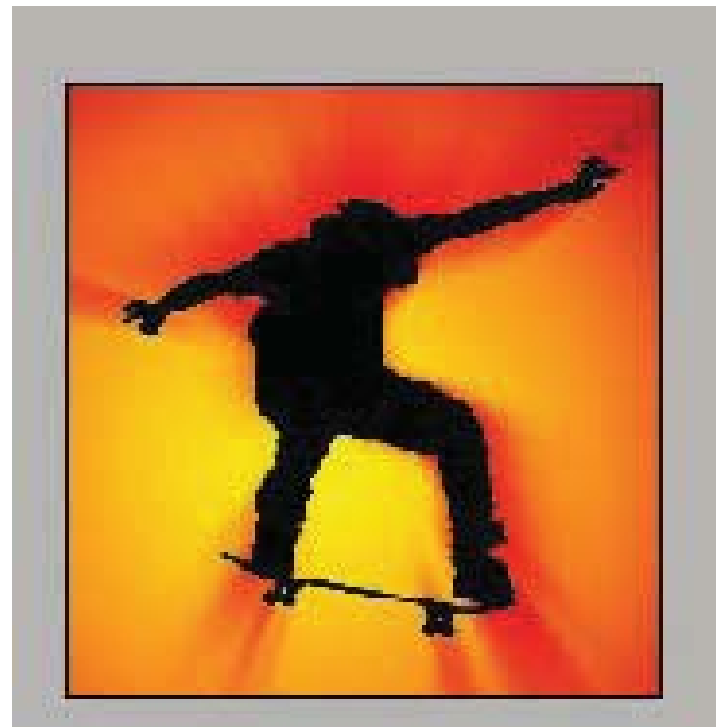
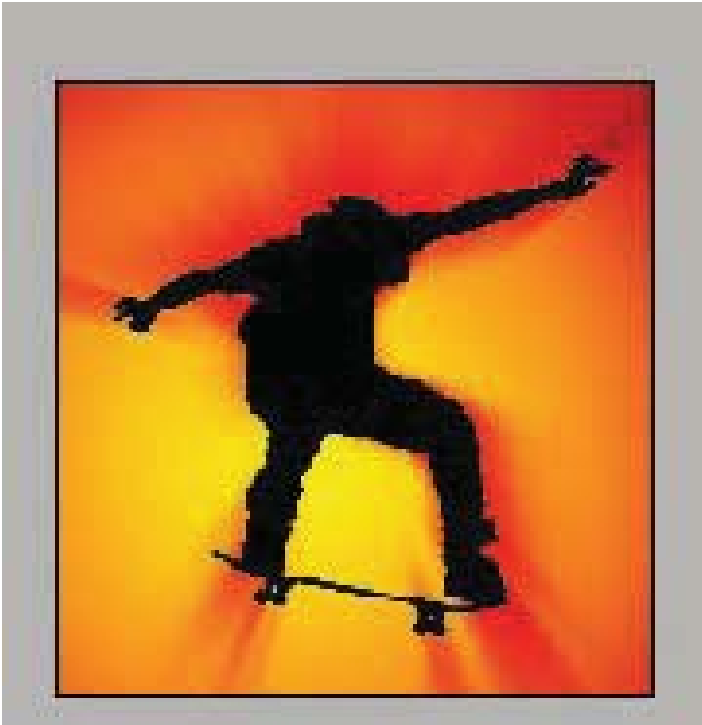


Now select the bottom most silhouette layer to make it active, and go to: filter->blur->radial blur and apply these settings:

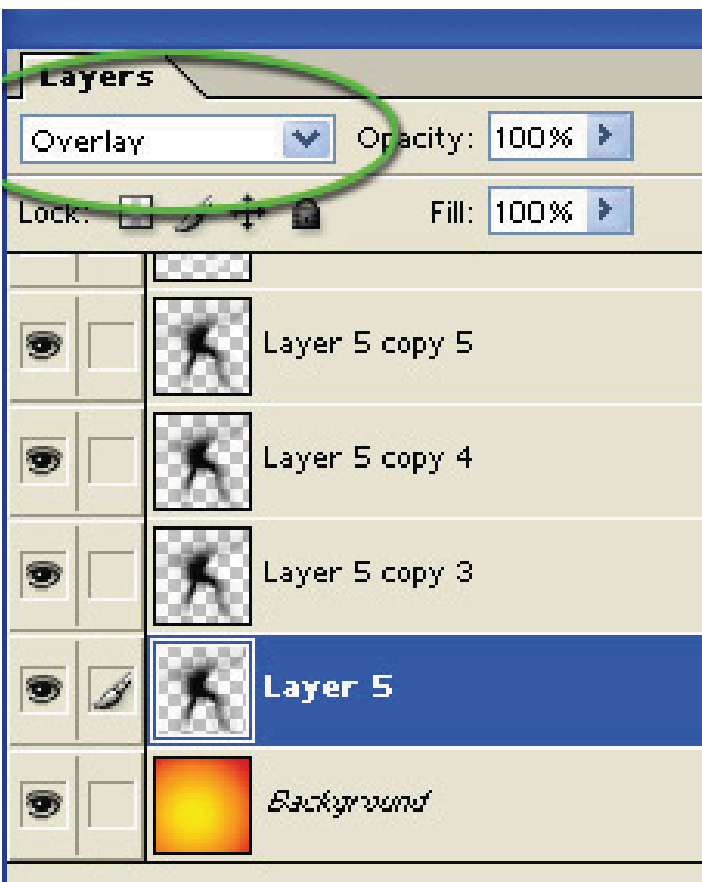


Press CTRL + F two times to duplicate the effect twice more.

Here's what you should end up with:



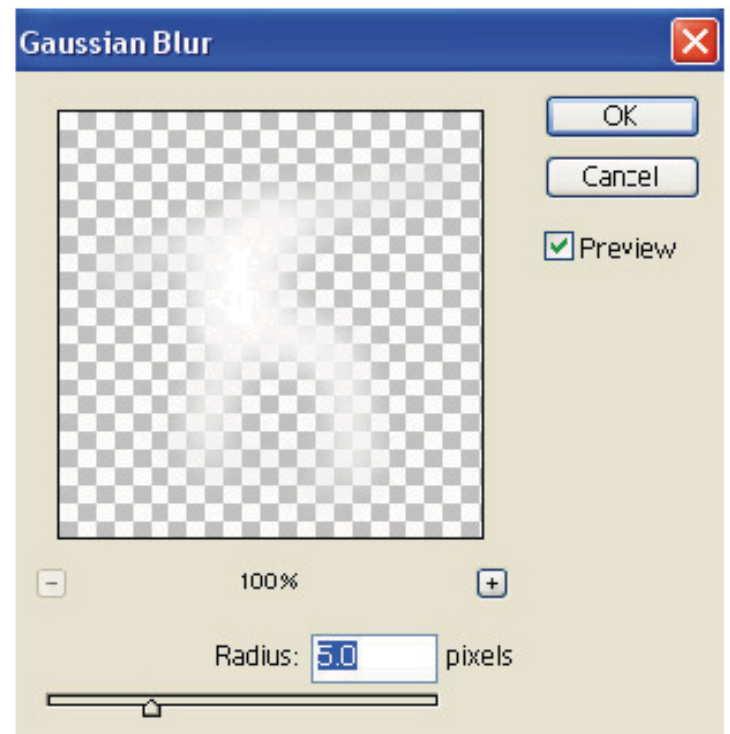
Change the blending option of this layer to "overlay"



and press CTRL + J three times to duplicate this layer three times, result:

Step 5.

Now select the silhouette that is 2nd from the top, and press CTRL + I on your keyboard to invert the color from black to white.



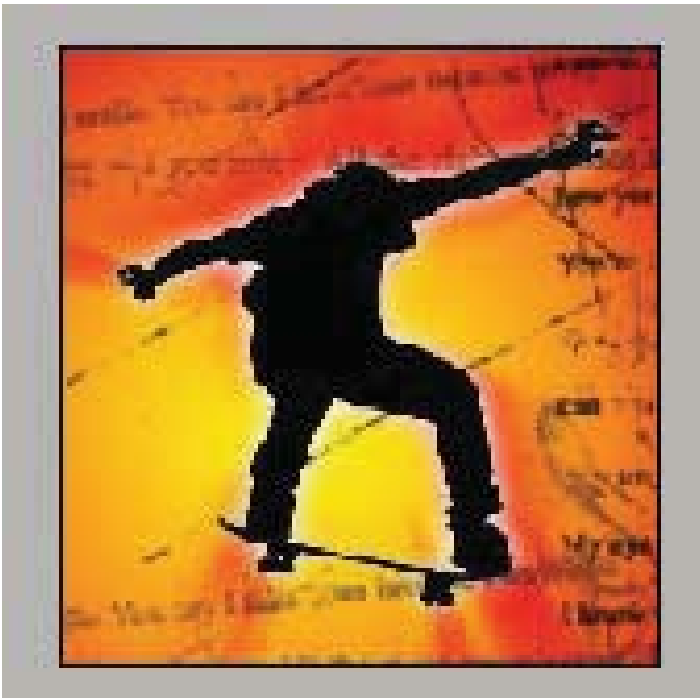
Next go to: filter->blur->Gaussian Blur with a setting of: 5 pixels Press CTRL + J on your keyboard one time to duplicate this layer once.

Here's the result:

Step 6.

Now we want to open up a grunge brush, and do a little brushing onto the piece. The brush you're going to use is called "innocence", you can download it by clicking here. This brush was designed by Mellisa W. whose web site is Rebel-Heart.net You might want to check out this site, it's got TONS of cool brush sets to use.

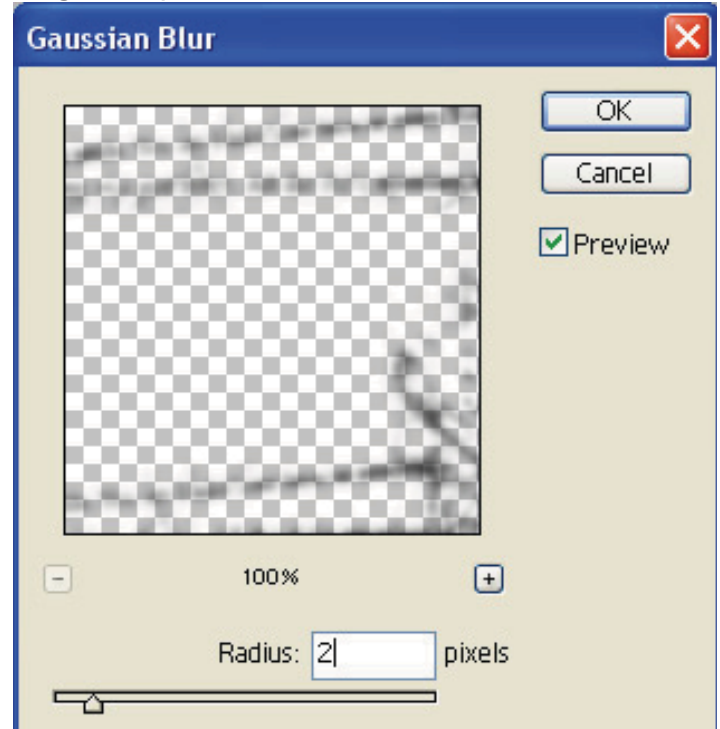
So after applying just a couple of these brushes (don't go overboard that's the trick with these things) here's what you should have:



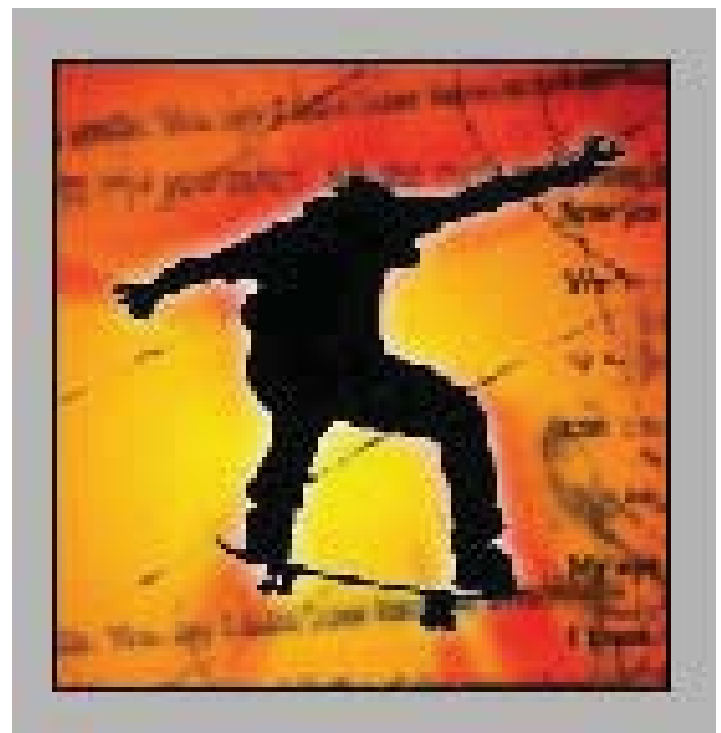
Step 7.

After you have a few effects on the canvas, press CTRL + J to duplicate the layer with your brushes. And apply a Gaussian Blur onto the bottom of the two by going to:

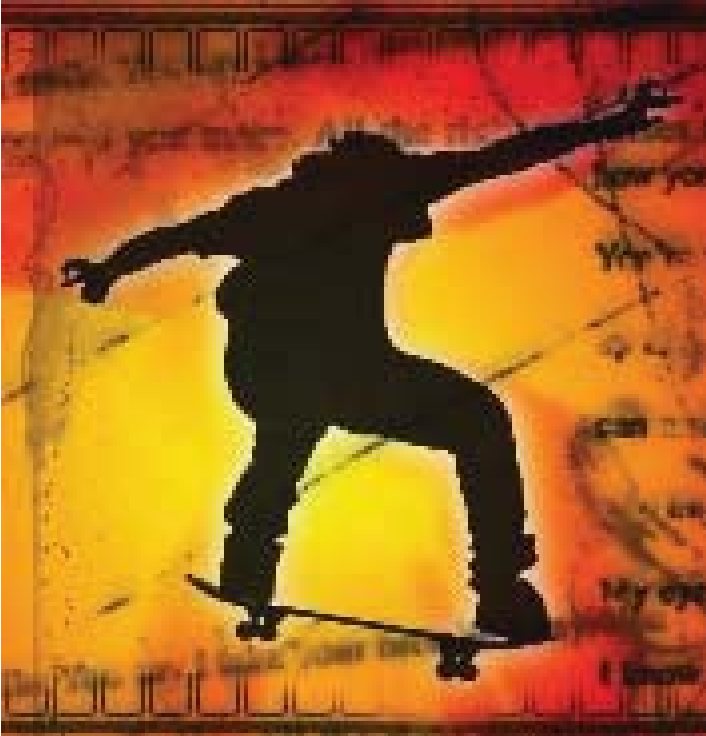
filter->blur->Gaussian blur with a setting of 2 pixels



Drop the opacity of this layer down to around 70 or 80 percent to give it a nice "glowing" look.



Just continue to use the tricks and techniques taught in this Information Sheet to refine the piece until you're happy with it. You don't have to use either the colors of picture here. Certainly the finishing touches can make your effort really stand out. For this simple demonstration, applying a simple border made with simple lines, and boxes it ends up like this:



Good luck and have fun!