



# INTRODUCTION TO GRAPHIC COMMUNICATIONS Type Montage

Information  
Sheet No.

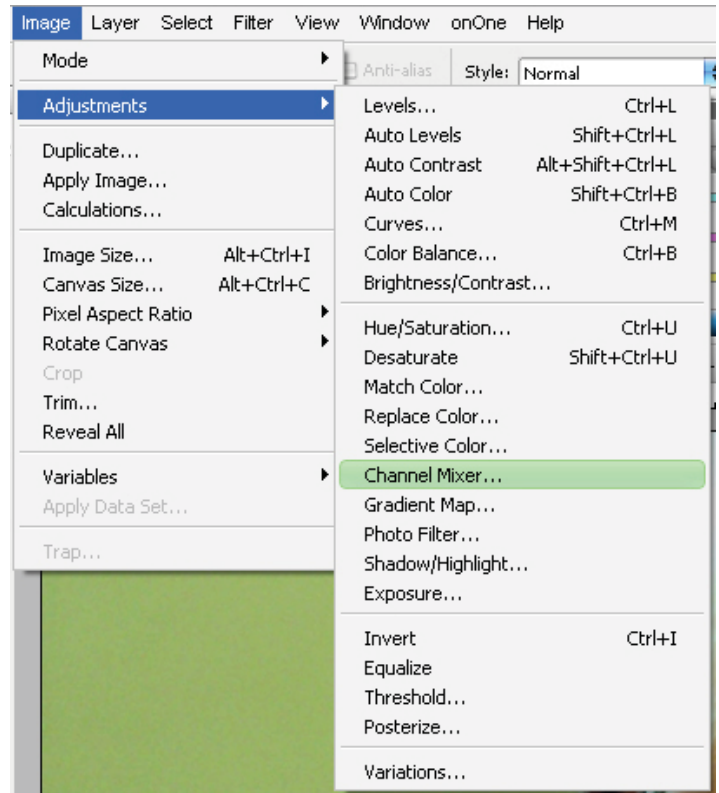
PS977

This is a technique that you have probably seen before. A face, or picture, is made up of a huge body of text, but the text is different colors or shades to make it look like the picture? Yea, it's a really cool technique, and now you can easily re-create it. This effect looks like it would take a lot of time and effort, but in all reality it is pretty easy (just took me forever to figure out :P) and simple to do. Even the newest user should be able to re-create this effect for themselves. Let's begin...

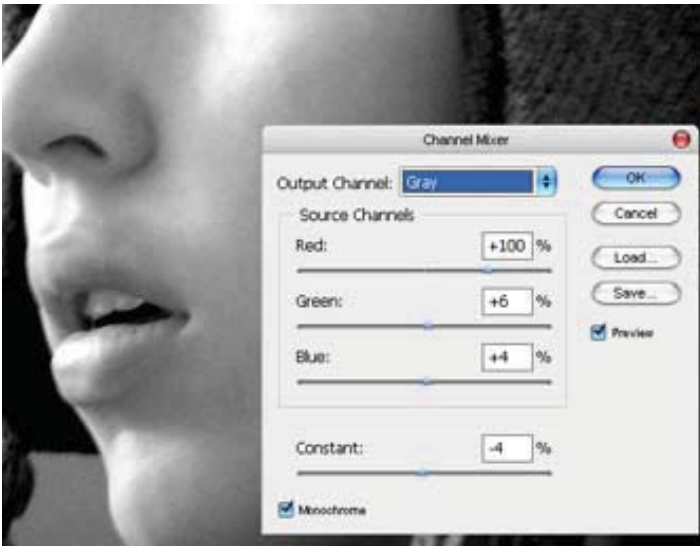
First, find a picture you want to convert to a text montage. Here is one:



Alright, now, you're going to convert it to black and white. Don't click the Image>Desaturate tool! While it will convert the photo to black and white, you'll lose countless amounts of quality and exposure when you do that. The real way to convert it is to go to Image, then Adjustments, and then Channel Mixer. This lets us have precise control over the conversion.



A box similar to the one above will pop up once you click Channel Mixer. Make sure the Monochrome box is checked. These are the settings that were used here, but you can mess around until you get it how you like. Ideally, we want clearly defined highlights (the lightest parts) and shadows (the darkest parts).



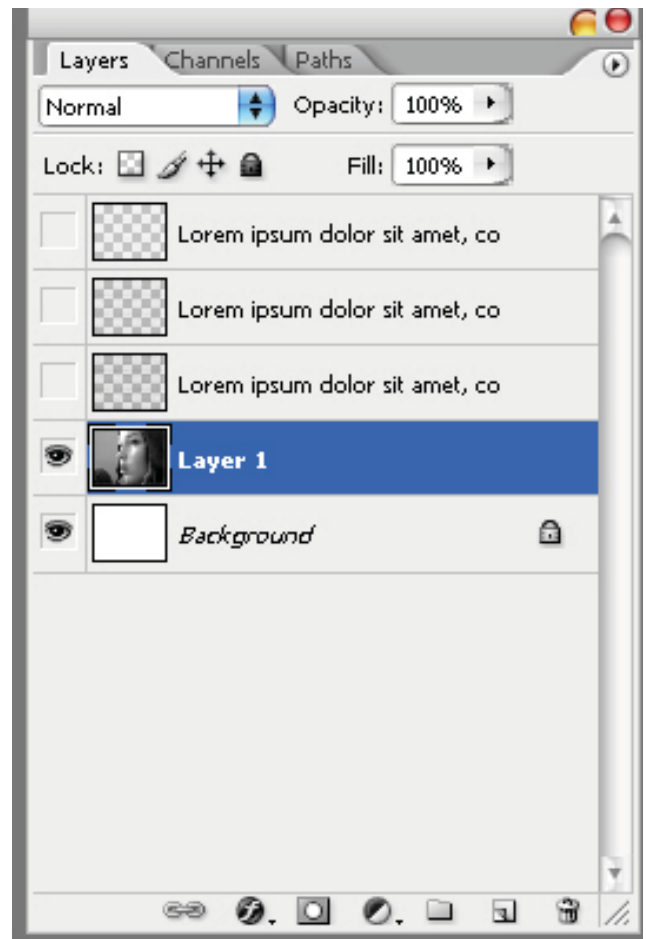
This is just making the text closer together, and evenly spaced. Fine tuning...

Now duplicate your text layer twice. This might take some time, so just let Photoshop do its work. On the bottom of the three text layers, the text should be black. The middle text layer should be middle grey, like #7F7F7F. You can change the color in the Character's box we opened earlier. The top text layer should be a light grey, like #C5C4C4.

Rasterize all three text layers by right clicking, and then selecting Rasterize Type in the pop up menu.

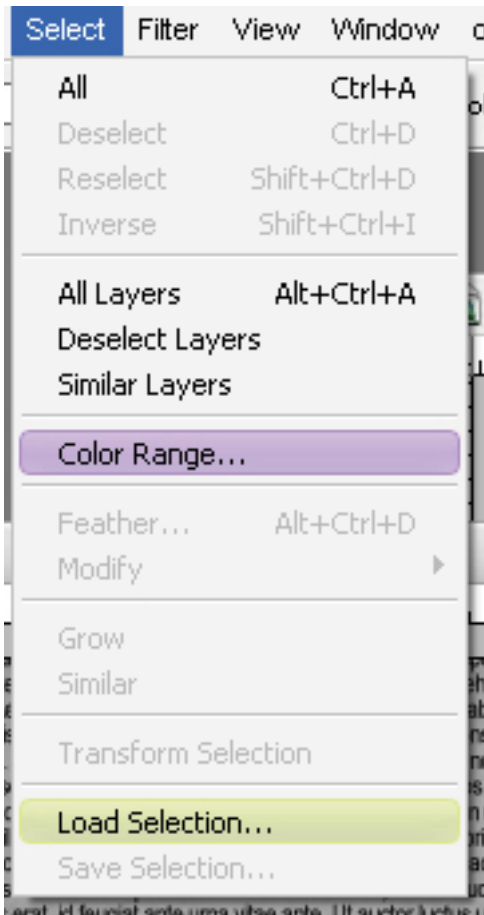
In the Layers palette, make the text layers invisible, by clicking the eye. Select Layer 1, your person or item.

Now you need the text that will make up the image. Your design might call for a specific text, but for now, go to <http://www.lipsum.org> and generate some random but normal looking text. I used 20 paragraphs. This should do it.



Now, grab your text tool (T), and drag a rectangle over the entire image. Now, once you let go, a box at the top below the menu options should appear. You're going to use the font Arial, size 8. Now, paste the text you copied into this field. Because we copied paragraphs, you're going to see some space. Just click at the end of a paragraph, and hit delete twice to get rid of it. If you need more, just copy some more text and paste until the whole screen is covered. Once you have done this, we have our text over the entire image, like we need. One final thing: go to Window, and then click Character. Now you have two tabs in the box that appears: Character, and Paragraph. Make them look like this:





Now, go to Select>Color Range.

From the Select drop down box, choose Shadows. Click ok. Now, you have the Shadows in your image selected. We want to keep these. With the Lasso (L) tool selected, Right Click on your image, and choose Select Inverse. Now click on your first text layer. Make it visible again. Hit delete. Deselect the selection Right Click, Deselect, or Ctrl-D. Remember, when you are selecting the color range, only Layer 1 should be visible. When you go to delete from the text layer, make sure it's visible.

Now, select your middle text layer, and repeat this process, but choose Midtones in the Color Range. Then do this again for the top most layer, but choose Highlights in the Color Range

Now you have all your text layers. Make Layer 1 invisible; Presto, a photo montage made of text.



There are so many variations that you can do with this technique, you just need to explore and mess around with it. Here is the one made previously. You can play around for hours to get it how you like it. Take the time to change simple things, like converting it from color to black and white. That step is critical, so play around with it.