

Cartoon Yourself – Photoshop Project

Project Overview

Convert any picture to a cartoon effect in Photoshop. Download and unzip the project files from:
<http://www.asciutto.com/hhs/>

Project Summary

1) Top Layer

- Create an Outline
- Adjust and Touch-up
- Stylize/Oil Paint

2) Bottom Layer

- Colorize
- Adjust and Touch-up
- Stylize/Oil Paint

3) Blend Layers

1) Document Set-up

- Open Frank_Cartoon_Start.jpg
- Save it as a Photoshop .psd file

2) Create the Outline

Copy the Background layer and rename it *Outline*.

Apply the Filter > Poster Edge with these settings:

- Edge Thickness 10
- Edge Intensity 5
- Posterization 2

3) Adjust the Outline

Image > Adjustments > Threshold

- Push the adjustment slider to the left to create an ink outline drawing.
- A setting of less than 30 is normally good for most picture
- For this picture, I set it to 1

4) Touch-up the Outline

This is optional. Don't do it if you are recording an Action because it's customized for each picture.

Set the Foreground color to White. With a small Brush, touch-up the Outline by painting over any black spots you think are too intrusive on the picture. For this picture, I removed a few black spots on my face.

5) Stylize the Outline

This will smooth the Outline. These setting are down to personal taste. I used:

Filter > Oil Paint

- Stylisation 5
- Cleanliness 2
- Shine 0

Start



Final



6) Create the Color Layer

- Select the Background layer and duplicate it again
- Rename it *Color* (this will sit below the Outline layer)
- Turn off visibility of the Outline layer

7) Filter the Color Layer

Filter > Poster Edge

- Edge Thickness 0
- Edge Intensity 0
- Posterization 2

8) Adjust the Color Layer

This will lighten the picture, reduce contrast and enhance the color.

Image > Adjustments > Levels

- Move the Output slider slightly to the right
 - I set it to 30
- Move the Highlight slider slightly to the left
 - I set it to 220

Image > Adjustments > Hue/Saturation

- Move the Saturation slider to the right to increase color and add vibrancy to the picture
 - I set it to 40

9) Stylize the Color Layer

This will create a brush feel.

Filter > Oil Paint

- Stylisation 5
- Cleanliness 2
- Shine 0

10) Apply the Outline

Turn on visibility of the Outline layer

- Set the Blend Mode to *Multiply*

11) Adjust the Final

Add a top adjustment layer for Shadows/Highlights

Image > Adjustments > Levels

- I set it the Highlights (right slider) to 225 and Midtones (middle slider) to 1.20

Extra

1. Repeat the process for a picture of yourself
 - Try tweaking some of the steps with different settings
2. Create an Action the will contain all of these steps and apply the Action to other pictures