Night Sky & Firework Overlay Tutorial

Program Requirements: Photoshop CC

Instructor: Ms. Yurkovich   Course: Photography

This is an overlay method that allows you to add in a starry sky and fireworks into one of your nighttime photographs.
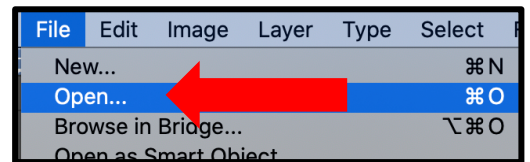

Before

After

1. Open Photoshop by double clicking on the Photoshop icon. Open the file by going to *File > Open* and navigating to your photo, *Sky Switch 2.jpg*. Click *Open* and your file will appear in Photoshop. Repeat the process and open the other 3 files need for this tutorial: *Fireworks 17.jpg, Fireworks 21.jpg,* and *Star Sky 41.jpg*.


2. *Don't forget to crop & edit! -* The first thing you need to do before you ever add overlays to a photo, is put your main photo through workflow, in other words, crop and edit you photo before you begin. Add any adjustment layers or filters that you see fit, *before* adding the overlay. In this example photo the image has already been cropped and edited for you so it is ready to go and there is no need to put it through workflow, but don't forget this important step for you own photographs!

3. The first thing we need to do after cropping and editing our image is to our images (our main photo and the sky) into the same file. To do this we will need to copy and paste the sky file on top of the main photo. Click on *Star Sky 41.jpg* and go to *Select > Select All.*
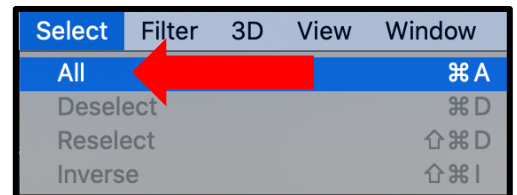

4. You'll know that the entire image has been selected when a dashed line that looks like marching ant appears around your entire image. Once the dashed line has appeared go to *Edit > Copy.*
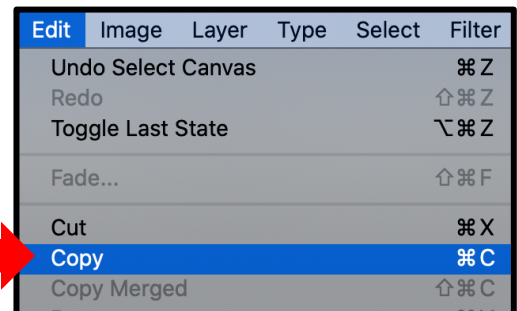
5. Switch over to the *Sky Switch 2.jpg* file by clicking on the tab with that name on it. Now go to *Edit > Paste* and now the new sky appears on top of the portrait.
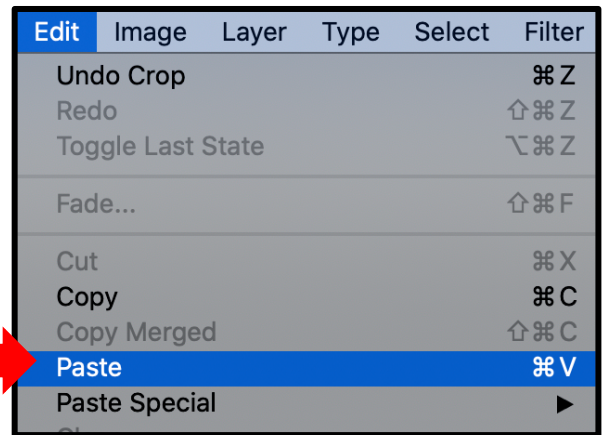

6. We will need to resize the sky so that it fits neatly on top of the main photo and covers all of the sky, so go to *Edit > Free Transform.* Click on the handles that appear and resize the sky to fit. (Tip: If you hold down *shift* and grab the white handles around the image, it will only change one dimension of the photo at a time.) When you are happy press *Enter or Return* on your keyboard to lock in the smoke's position.
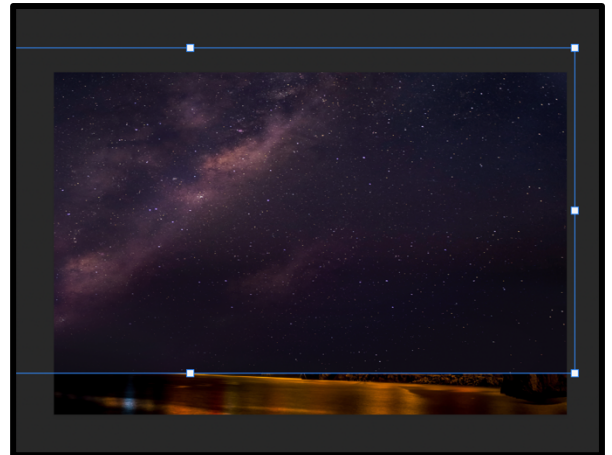

7. On the *Layers Palette,* located in the bottom right hand corner, make sure to click on the word *Normal,* this is the blending mode for the sky layer. When you click on *Normal* the blending mode menu will appear. Select *Screen* from the list.
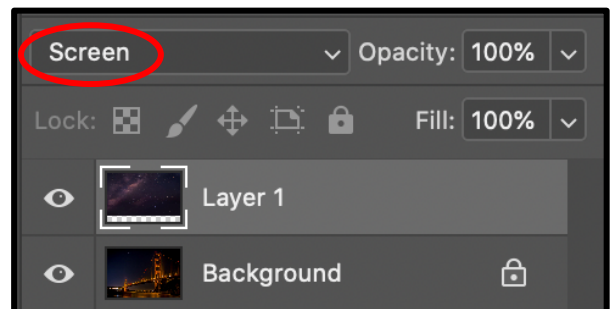
8. Add a mask to your star sky layer by clicking on the icon at the bottom of the *Layers Palette* with the white rectangle with the dark circle inside of it. You will see a white rectangle pop up next to the rainbow thumbnail of *Layer 2*. Click on this white rectangle.
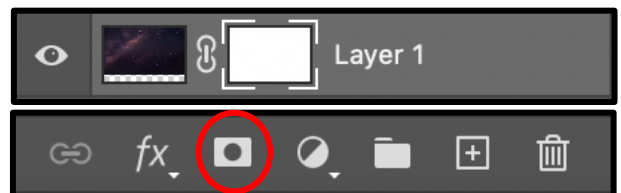
9. Click on the *Brush Tool*. Click on the *Brush Menu* at the left-hand top of the screen. Change the *Brush Size* to *250* and *Brush Hardness* to *0%*. Look for where it says *Opacity* at the center of the *Brush Menu Bar* and change it to *100%*.

2
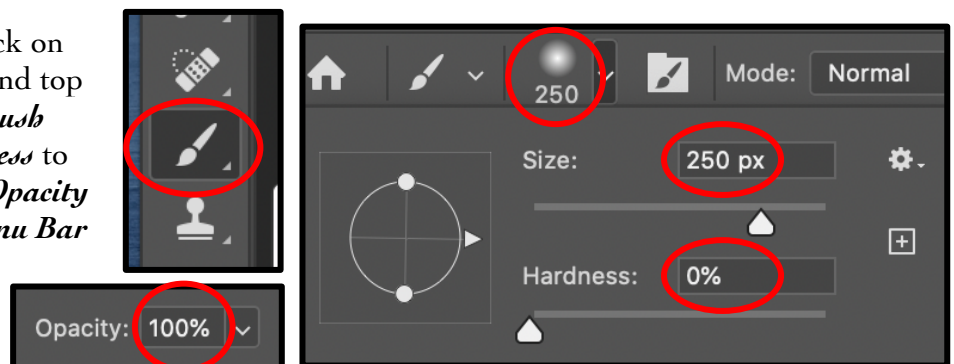
10. The default color of the brush is set to white, but we need it on black. Click **D** on your keyboard and it will reset to the default white, if it is not on the default settings already. Then click **X** on your keyboard to have black set as the color you paint with.
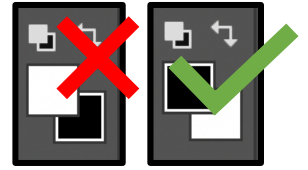
11. Now draw on the areas of the star sky that you want to disappear. For example: paint over stars appearing on the top of the bridge or on top of the land. Remember that painting with black will hide stars and painting with white will reveal them. Press **X** on the keyboard to toggle between black and white while you are painting. Feel free to change the size of the brush as needed by going back to the window we opened in **Step 9.** A shortcut for this on your keyboard is **[** to make your brush smaller and **]** is to make your brush bigger.

12. Now that the stars have been added to the photo, it is time for the fireworks! **Repeat steps 3 through 7** to bring **Fireworks 17.jpg** to the main image of the bridge and place it in the desired position. (In essence you are selecting all of the firework, copying the firework, pasting the firework, and then free-transforming the firework into the position you want it in. Once it's in the correct position change the blending mode to **Screen.**)

13. **Repeat steps 3 through 7** to bring **Fireworks 21.jpg** to the main image of the bridge and place it in the desired position. (In essence you are selecting all of the firework, copying the firework, pasting the firework, and then free-transforming the firework into the position you want it in. Once it's in the correct position change the blending mode to **Screen.**)

14. Time to save it and turn it in! Go to **File > Save As**. When the window pops up asking you where you want to save your file click on **Save on Computer**. Rename your file, so you can easily find it later and make sure you take note of the location you are saving it on. Change the **Format** to **TIFF** and then click **Save.** A new window will pop up asking you about keeping layers. Don't change anything, just click **Okay.** Now turn in your file on **the in class network**!

Next Steps for Your Sky Photos

Now that you've finished the example photo, time to apply your new skills to your own photos. Look through the folder of *Sky Overlays*. Use any of the overlays that you want on your own photos.

    a. *Magical Sky Expectations*:
- i. Take at least 2 night time photos.
- ii. Edit your photos in Photoshop. Crop your photos and add adjustment layers to improve your image.
- iii. Add *a sky overlays* to both photos that you have taken. Add any additional overlays that you want!
- iv. Turn in copies of your photos *on the network.*