Painting

Adobe Photoshop provides a wide range of tools and brushes that enable you to create painterly effects in your image. In this lesson, you’ll learn how to select and create colors, and paint with a variety of tools.

1 Open the Paint1.psd file located in the Tutorial/Artfiles folder.

The first thing you’ll do is sample a color from part of the image and then paint with that color.

2 Double-click the paintbrush tool (F) in the toolbox to select the tool and display its Options palette.

3 Hold down Option (Macintosh) or Alt (Windows) and click the car’s green fender in the image to sample the color. Holding down Option/Alt changes the paintbrush tool to an eyedropper.

4 Drag the paintbrush tool across the pant legs (except for the cuffs) in the image to paint over them. Don’t worry about painting over the black lines for now, you’ll restore them later.

5 Press a number 1 through 99 on the keyboard to set the opacity between 1% and 99%, or drag the Opacity slider in the Paintbrush Options palette; then paint the pant cuffs.

6 Press 0 to reset the opacity to 100%.

Now you’ll create a different foreground color. Photoshop provides several ways of creating colors, based on different color models: RGB is the model typically used to display colors on-screen; CMYK is the model most often used to print colors.

7 Choose Window > Show Color. Choose RGB Sliders from the pop-up menu. Drag the R, G, and B sliders to create a new color.

The sample becomes the foreground color, displayed in the toolbox. This is the color that appears when you use the painting tools. The background color appears when you erase.
8 Paint the shirt with the color you've created. Now that you've created a color, you can save it as a swatch for later use.

9 Click the Swatches tab in the palette and then click an empty swatch at the bottom of the palette. Notice that the paintbrush changes to a paint bucket as you fill the swatch.

Next, you'll create a new brush by modifying an existing one.

10 Click the Brushes tab on the Paintbrush Options palette. Choose New Brush from the pop-up menu at the top right of the palette.

11 Enter 20 in the diameter text box. Drag one of the dots in the preview box in the lower left to flatten the brush. Then drag the arrow to adjust the angle of the brush. Click OK.

Next, you'll adjust the paint so that the strokes fade out when you drag the brush over the image.

12 Click the Options tab, and select the Fade option in the Paintbrush Options palette. Enter 90 in the Steps text box.

13 To make the paintbrush pointer the size and shape of the brush you've chosen, choose File > Preferences > Display & Cursors. Select the Brush Size option in the Painting Cursors section and click OK.

14 Paint across the sign with a series of wavy strokes.

15 Deselect the Fade option in the Paintbrush Options palette.

In addition to brushes you can make yourself, Photoshop comes with a group of preset custom brushes. You'll now load these onto the set of brushes you already have. (You can also create brushes from scratch, by selecting an image and defining it as a brush shape. For more information, see the user guide.)

16 Click the Brushes tab in the Paintbrush Options palette. Choose Load Brushes from the pop-up menu at the top right of the palette.

17 Choose Adobe Photoshop/Goodies/Brushes & Patterns/Assorted Brushes (Macintosh) or Photoshop/Brushes/Assorted.abr (Windows). Click OK.

18 Scroll down and double-click a star-shaped brush in the Brushes palette. Select the Spacing option and enter 200 in the Percent text box. This spacing will make non overlapping copies of the brush shape appear as you paint. Click OK.
Select a yellow paint swatch from the Swatches palette. Then click the paintbrush tool on the sky to paint individual stars, and drag the tool to create a series of stars.

The images in this file are painted on separate layers. Now you'll paint on one layer to see how it affects the image on the other layer.

Choose Window > Show Layers.

First you'll erase part of the image on the Paint layer, allowing the line drawing on the Background layer to show through.

Select the eraser tool and select a medium-sized, round brush from the Brushes palette. Then drag the tool in the image.

Click the eye icon next to the Background layer in the Layers palette to hide that layer. The checkerboard pattern on the Paint layer indicates transparent areas on that layer.

Select the Preserve Transparency option on the Layers palette. The Preserve Transparency option lets you change only the areas that already have paint.

Select the paintbrush tool.

Select a paint swatch from the Swatches palette and a brush from the Brushes palette. Then paint over a painted and a checkerboard area. Notice that the paint is only applied to the previously painted areas.

Click in the eye column next to the Background layer to redisplay that layer. Then paint again on the image. The new paint is still only applied to previously painted areas on the Paint layer.

Turn the Preserve Transparency option off.

Next you'll paint the clouds using a blending mode. Blending modes let you specify how the paint you apply interacts with the paint on the active layer.
28. Select a blue paint swatch in the Swatches palette. Click the Options tab in the Bushes palette; then choose Color from the mode menu on the left side of the Paintbrush Options palette. Color mode preserves the gray levels in the image you are painting over, making it look as if you are tinting an image with the new paint.

29. Paint over the clouds.

Next, you’ll use the smudge tool to blend the edges of the clouds into the sky.

30. Select the smudge tool (S); then drag along the border between the clouds and the sky to smudge it, creating a smoother transition between the colors.

The black and white sketch underlying this file was a scanned image. When opened in Photoshop, this scanned image was placed on an immovable background layer. As your final steps, you’ll turn this background layer into a movable layer, move it on top of the Paint layer, and apply a blending mode to the entire layer.

31. Double-click the Background layer in the Layers palette. Enter Background in the Name text box and click OK. Drag the Background layer above the Paint layer in the Layers palette to set the Background layer in its new position.

32. Choose Multiply from the mode menu on the left side of the Layers palette. This mode adds the black and white color on the Background layer to the color on the Paint layer.