



How to Build a Montage

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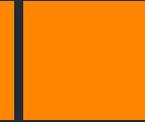
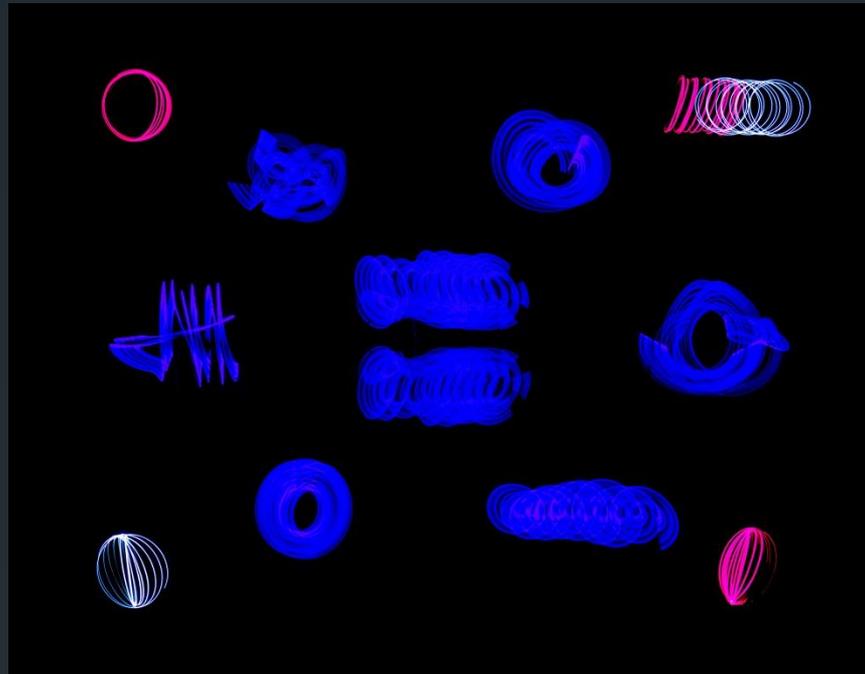
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What is a Montage?

- In its simplest form, a montage is any combination of two or more images
- Examples
 - Collection of related photos on a common background
 - Progression (eclipse)
 - Green screen
 - Adding text or a frame to a photo
 - Replacing a background
 - Replacing an “unfortunate” expression with a better one
 - Adding someone into a group shot
 - A ‘stack of pictures’ arrangement
 - Panorama
 - Even HDR is a montage of sorts

Related images





Total Solar Eclipse
August 21, 2017 Columbia, SC

Green screen



Replacing a background



Adding a person





Steps in building a montage

1. Learn basic proficiency with layers, or use Photomerge
2. Planning is very important
3. Decide on the canvas size, and set it accordingly
4. Clean up all of your base images including the background
 - Similar brightness, contrast, color balance
 - Similar size, if blending people
 - Same resolution and sharpness if possible
5. Start with the background image
6. Select additional images, copy, and paste them onto it
7. Add text and finishing touches

Sounds easy, right?

Where it gets tricky

- Matching backgrounds (similar base image backgrounds)
 - Make your selection with rectangular or elliptical marquee
 - Use Refine Edge to heavily feather the selection
 - If that's not enough, try using Replace Color to adjust the hue and saturation to match the background
- If the base image background is very different (green screen)
 - Use the Quick Selection tool to select just your subject
 - Use Refine Edge to shrink the selection just a little, and add a narrow feathering around the edge
- Running out of room
 - Adjust the canvas size
- Overlapping or mismatched subjects
 - Use layer masking to remove the overlaps

The easy way

- Photomerge tool set
 - PSE 15: look in Guided mode for Photoshop tab
 - PSE before 15: select Enhance > Photomerge
 - CC: select File > Automate > Photomerge
 - Lightroom*: select Photo > Photo Merge > HDR, or press Ctrl+H
- Available tools
 - Compose – add a person or object from another photo
 - Exposure – HDR (we used this for last month's topic)
 - Group Shot – blend the best faces from multiple shots
 - Panorama
- In PSE, also check out the Guided edits for fun montages

* Not available in Lightroom CC, but is in Lightroom Classic CC



Demonstration