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Creating Reflections on Water



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“I started using Photoshop version 2. The methods that were used to create reflections on water has since evolved and changed. Good news is that it is getting easier with every new software release.

It is sad to see many users are still using the “traditional and tiring” way. Spend a few moments with me and learn the latest, shortest possible method.”



Shirley Tan
*The #1 Adobe Certified
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Laying the groundwork

- 1) Open the image that you want to work with. Make sure you get one that has water in it.



- 2) Using the **Type tool**, add the text. I am suggesting you go for a bigger font size for good results.

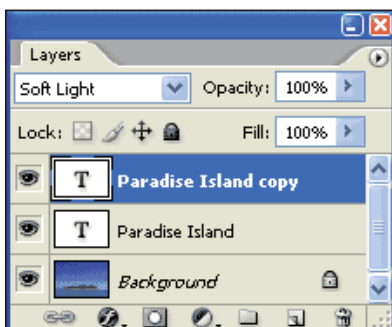


Adding reflection

- 3) Press **Command + J (Mac)** or **Ctrl + J (Win)** to duplicate the text.
- 4) Press **Edit > Transform > Flip Vertical** to flip the text upside down. Hold the **Shift** and move the reflected text so that it aligns to the original.

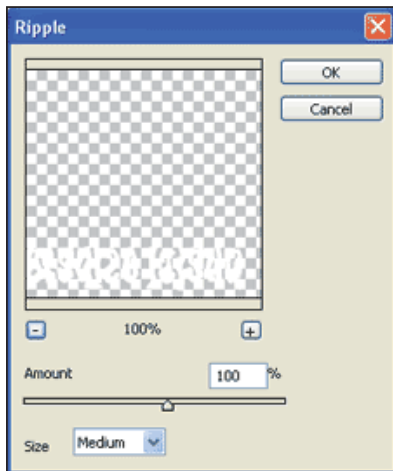


- 5) Change the Layer's blending mode to **Soft Light**.



Adding realism

- 6) To create the illusion of water breaking, choose Filter > Distort > Ripple. Set the size and adjust the amount accordingly, using the preview as a reference.



- 7) Click the **Add Vector Mask** button to add a mask. Using the **gradient tool** and select a black & white gradient from the option bar.
- 8) Drag the gradient from the bottom to about one quarter way up the text. If you are not too satisfied with the result, simply drag again until you achieve the right amount of fading.



Awesome, right? As promised, you could have done this effect in record time and yes, forget about alpha channels, texture maps or other methods that you may have used previously. Cheers :)