

Forum:[Hack Forums](#)

Thread: [Waxy's Guide to smudging.](#)

Waxy - January 26, 2014, 11:12 am

Recently, I Have seen a rise on people wanting to learn smudging. Although I am not a master, and I am still learning, I Hope this guide will help others that are wanting to try and smudge.

It is recommended that you use a tablet for smudging, but it is not necessary.

Firstly, you are going to want to create a canvas, I prefare to use the size 475x175 px. Set the background colour to #060606.

Next, grab a hard round brush at the sizes 10-25, and create a random assortment of lines/shapes.

Now, go to your smudge tool and select an 8-11px hard, round brush with default settings, and begin to smudge. (90% Strength, Pen pressure).

Here is what i created:

Obviously, the canvas is looking very empty. Once you have your main base smudge, feel free to add other smaller or similar smudges around the base smudge to fill up the canvas.

Eventually, you will fill up your canvas when you keep smudging, but for the tutorial's sake i'm going to make the process a bit quicker. Here; i have duplicated the original smudge and positioned it differently, to get this: (Alternatively, you can add a render at this point).

Now, you can add some colour correction and lighting effects. Here, I Used a white soft brush to brighten up some parts of the smudge, and darkened some areas with a softbrush, and added some overlays and adjustment effects:

Now you have your finished piece.

Thank you for reading, post your attempts in the thread and also feel free to ask any questions.

BlueFreakLP - January 26, 2014, 11:13 am

Looks awesome, i will try it out and post it here :)

Peril - January 26, 2014, 11:13 am

WOW this is really great for begginers looks awesome nice work W@XY

Waxy - January 26, 2014, 11:16 am

Thanks, guys, and good luck with your smudging :)

Kioshi - January 26, 2014, 11:22 am

Nice tutorial Waxy, very simple and easy to follow ? well done.

Bovril Coin - January 26, 2014, 12:03 pm

would love some help with this waxy just let me know where im going wrong please :)

Waxy - January 26, 2014, 12:06 pm

(Jan 26, 2014 01:03 PM)L3n0 Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#)

would love some help with this waxy just let me know where im going wrong please :)
Try to add some curves and definition, and try not to mix the colours together as much.]=

You see the way on my smudge i still have some solid blue/purple parts to define the definition.

Bovril Coin - January 26, 2014, 12:08 pm

yeah thanks i tried to do that but some times it was mixing i tried to just pull in little bits of black to wards the last stages to try and keep definition thanks for your help

added some curves would you say this is a improvement?

Waxy - January 26, 2014, 12:44 pm

(Jan 26, 2014 01:08 PM)L3n0 Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) yeah thanks i tried to do that but some times it was mixing i tried to just pull in little bits of black to wards the last stages to try and keep definition thanks for your help

added some curves would you say this is a improvement?
I can't really see how you've added curves, just looks like you've increased the brightness.

AnnuitCoeptis - January 26, 2014, 4:29 pm

thanks you for this but could snapshot the exact settings for your smug tool I'm not getting the same result.

Understalker - January 26, 2014, 4:30 pm

Lol that looks sick as fuck.

Great job.

Waxy - January 26, 2014, 6:16 pm

(Jan 26, 2014 05:29 PM)AnnuitCoeptis Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) thanks you for this but could snapshot the exact settings for your smug tool I'm not getting the same result.

My settings are on default with 90% strength and pen pressure on.

Thanks for all of the positive feedback guys

LightShadow - January 26, 2014, 6:20 pm

This looks awesome thank you so much.

Nemuri - January 26, 2014, 7:39 pm

Really useful tutorial, final product looks really HQ. I think you should go a bit more in-depth on how you used colour correction and lighting effects to get that final product. Same with the brushing. Keep it up.

Waxy - January 27, 2014, 1:38 am

(Jan 26, 2014 08:39 PM)Jak™ Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Really useful tutorial, final product looks really HQ. I think you should go a bit more in-depth on how you used colour correction and lighting effects to get that final product. Same with the brushing. Keep it up.

Thanks guys, I wouldve went more in-depth but i didnt really have much time.

SIM-1179501 - January 27, 2014, 8:32 am

I followed this tut and got this:

without texture:

Kontraband - January 27, 2014, 12:44 pm

my attempt: didn't have time to finish it, might do it over later, this was just quick to see if I can replicate what you did.

[img]http://fc03.deviantart.net/fs71/f/2014/027/5/e/attempting_to_smudge____by_creationsxm-d73zhub.png[img]

Waxy - January 27, 2014, 12:47 pm

(Jan 27, 2014 01:44 PM)zMiNiMaL Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) my attempt: didn't have time to finish it, might do it over later, this was just quick to see if I can replicate what you did.

[img]http://fc03.deviantart.net/fs71/f/2014/027/5/e/attempting_to_smudge____by_creationsxm-d73zhub.png[img]

Nice attempt, although theres too much unused space where you have smudged, there should be more "smudges" if you get what i mean (on the left and near the top)

Kontraband - January 27, 2014, 12:48 pm

(Jan 27, 2014 01:47 PM)Waxy Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Nice attempt, although theres too much unused space where you have smudged, there should be more "smudges" if you get what i mean (on the left and near the top)

I get what you mean, when I have the time I'll sit down, take my time and make a V2. Will post it up later.

Bad Meets Evil - January 27, 2014, 7:49 pm

Solid tutorial Waxy. Shows people how it isn't magic to get a nice looking smudge.

Tephlonic - January 27, 2014, 11:12 pm

I got lost after start smudging, can you inform me what I'm doing wrong here.

Waxy - January 28, 2014, 5:18 am

(Jan 28, 2014 12:12 AM)Daniel Tosh Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I got lost after start smudging, can you inform me what I'm doing wrong here.

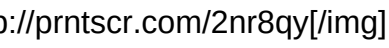
Smudge the black into the colour then when you do that you will get a dark version of the colour which you can smudge away

VirtualFrost - January 29, 2014, 1:08 pm

This is a great tutorial, bookmarking this to work on after school.

Off topic but for some reason at quick glance your current sig background looked like bacon

Malynator - January 29, 2014, 1:54 pm

Let's just say that I need a little more practise...
<http://prntscr.com/2nr8qy>

PREsENCE. - January 29, 2014, 10:31 pm

My shit doesn't smudge like that man, I'm assuming it's because I'm not on a tablet, but I really like this idea man. Wanna try it for a new sig idea.

Antalya - January 30, 2014, 5:50 pm

thanks you for this. I think very nice (:

Bad Meets Evil - January 30, 2014, 6:16 pm

(Jan 29, 2014 11:31 PM)PREsENCE. Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) My shit doesn't smudge like that man, I'm assuming it's because I'm not on a tablet, but I really like this idea man. Wanna try it for a new sig idea.

It's not going to instantly smudge into that just by brushing the cursor around.

You need to practice with the tool and understand what you are doing and have a goal of what you want it to look like.

VirtualFrost - January 30, 2014, 9:22 pm

Just to confirm, do we keep both black and our colours on one layer, or are they separate layers?

Waxy - January 31, 2014, 7:04 am

(Jan 30, 2014 10:22 PM)BR3TT Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Just to confirm, do we keep both black and our colours on one layer, or are they separate layers?

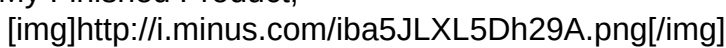
Add different colours on different layers and use "Sample all layers" near the top when you have selected the smudge tool. (I Should of said this in the tut).

SIMAAS - January 31, 2014, 1:15 pm

A really nice outcome! But the guide could be more informative! Upload curve stat images and etc! :)

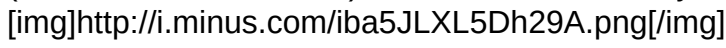
VirtualFrost - January 31, 2014, 5:14 pm

My Finished Product;



Just for people to know, this was just with a mouse and no tablet. It's obviously not as great, but with enough time and effort and practise you could do it without a tablet.

Waxy - January 31, 2014, 5:23 pm

(Jan 31, 2014 06:14 PM)BR3TT Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) My Finished Product;


Just for people to know, this was just with a mouse and no tablet. It's obviously not as great, but with enough time and effort and practise you could do it without a tablet.

Nice man, it's good for a begginer just keep at it you're unerstanding the concept :p

Removed - January 31, 2014, 11:28 pm

You should do a join.me waxy ?

I would be very interested in watching it. I tried this for 35 minutes and I can't get it to look decent even :p

neightworks - February 1, 2014, 7:12 pm

Much better than you used to be.

But I still think you need to work on your edges ;)

QcOwn - February 2, 2014, 6:29 am

Cool tutorial and stuff, Nice result ! i like it

.:Venom:. - February 2, 2014, 9:48 am

Man great tutorial, blew my mind! I think mine looks pretty good, but how do you lighten up the middle part?

Waxy - February 2, 2014, 9:57 am

(Feb 2, 2014 10:48 AM):Venom:.. Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Man great tutorial, blew my mind! I think mine looks pretty good, but how do you lighten up the middle part?

get a white softbrush where you want to light it up then set it to overlay and adjust the opacity to your liking

.:Venom:. - February 2, 2014, 10:42 am

(Feb 2, 2014 10:57 AM)Waxy Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) get a white softbrush where you want to light it up then set it to overlay and adjust the opacity to your liking

Thanks mate, last question, how do you flip the duplicated layer of the first couple of swipes you had?

Waxy - February 2, 2014, 10:43 am

(Feb 2, 2014 11:42 AM):Venom:.. Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Thanks mate, last question, how do you flip the duplicated layer of the first couple of swipes you had?

To flip a layer go to edit>transform>flip horizontal

.:Venom:. - February 2, 2014, 10:54 am

(Feb 2, 2014 11:43 AM)Waxy Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) To flip a layer go to edit>transform>flip horizontal

Thanks a bunch man, my result still looks like sh*t compared to some guys here but I'll keep trying!

Slinger - February 2, 2014, 2:23 pm

Looks stupidly sick man I love it ty

Tonight - February 2, 2014, 2:24 pm

This is really unique, Waxy.

Bookmarked for future reference.

J4mie - February 2, 2014, 2:57 pm

can you send me the little stars or w,e render you used please bud? thanks.
also nice tut.

Fox™ - February 2, 2014, 2:58 pm

Thanks for doing this tutorial/guide Waxy. I tried it out, and failed miserably at it, but this is great.

Peytronz - February 4, 2014, 10:15 am

Ive tried this over and over and over and cant get those results but nice tut anyways? haha xD
?

Waxy - February 4, 2014, 10:18 am

(Feb 4, 2014 11:15 AM)Peytronz Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Ive tried this over and over and over and cant get those results but nice tut anyways? haha xD
?

Ill get a guide out on technique today, ill work on it now.

J4mie - February 4, 2014, 1:24 pm

(Feb 2, 2014 03:57 PM)J4mie Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) can you send me the little stars or w,e render you used please bud? thanks.
also nice tut.
can I or not please waxy? thanks in advance.

Wreck It Ralph - February 4, 2014, 4:30 pm

Great tutorial!!! here is my try at it without a tablet.

Vespula - February 4, 2014, 8:45 pm

Great quality tutorial my friend. The final result looking epic. Definitely going to try and follows this and create my own soon.

Waxy - February 5, 2014, 9:06 am

(Feb 4, 2014 02:24 PM)J4mie Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) can I or not please waxy? thanks in advance.
I cant find them, idk what i used sorry about that

J4mie - February 5, 2014, 10:31 am

(Feb 5, 2014 10:06 AM)Waxy Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I cant find them, idk what i used sorry about that
Oh ok, no worries then dude... nice guide anyway.

ber5erk - February 5, 2014, 12:39 pm

I call it the "Infection."

[img]http://img802.imageshack.us/img802/5335/gbkh.png[/img]

I did this with a laptop by the way.

Kids? - February 14, 2014, 8:25 am

Am i doing good lol?

Waxy - February 14, 2014, 9:05 am

(Feb 14, 2014 09:25 AM)Dignus Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Am i doing good lol?

no, its way too messy and there is no flow

Kids? - February 14, 2014, 9:06 am

(Feb 14, 2014 10:05 AM)Waxy Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) no, its way too messy and there is no flowOkay, i will

add some more flow.

Obli - February 14, 2014, 9:08 am

This tutorial did not help me at all! Worst shit on HF! Boo!

Just kidding. If you're new to smudging, follow this tutorial. Although I really don't like smudging off from simple colors, the outcome is magnificent. Great guide, Waxy.

Vexane - February 14, 2014, 8:39 pm

How did you make it look like it was freakin' wet!?

The best I could get was <https://i.imgur.com/f9N8SC8.png>

I know it's better than the one you did, but it's not what I'm looking for ;)

Joy - February 16, 2014, 8:56 am

I am bad in smudging.

Can you teach me with TV.

Dropbox - February 16, 2014, 8:57 am

damn bro that is such an awesome tutorial, i love your work

i need to try this out

hackersallin - February 17, 2014, 11:33 am

No shit! I was like wtf wtf wtf wtf

Epic bro! I never tried GFX and you guys making me very interested towards it! :D

Will try it in a couple of days!

Thanks for the share!

HIGH PAID FELLA - February 17, 2014, 11:39 am

Great tutorial, going to try this out.

Thanks a lot, was searching this type of tutorials. If you saw my smudge last time check what I just made.

hackersallin - February 18, 2014, 8:44 am

Wow i just cant do this! :(

Am a very beginner at PS. (Just started a couple minutes ago!)

Can anyone please show me how to do this?

Waxy - February 18, 2014, 9:01 am

(Feb 18, 2014 09:44 AM)hackersallin Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Wow i just cant do this! :(

Am a very beginner at PS. (Just started a couple minutes ago!)

Can anyone please show me how to do this?

Add me on Skype : hackersallinatskype

One does not simply good at Photoshop in a matter of minutes. I have used it for 4 years and I'm only of an intermediate standard, if not less.

Noctua - February 24, 2014, 3:37 pm

Wow that looks great, thanks for the tutorial.

Eeluminati - April 5, 2014, 5:17 am

Here's my attempt. How did you get that space effect and those really bright areas?

[img]http://i.minus.com/jNKsrgBU2CbcM.png[/img]

Theseus22 - April 7, 2014, 4:21 pm

I tried to make it look like Thresh from LoL but it didn't work at all :S

mystiikka - October 7, 2015, 7:21 am

couldnt make it nearly as nicely as you made it in the thread, but then i used oil paint on it and turned out pretty nic

<http://imgur.com/xyzYvH7>

DJSanderrr - October 9, 2015, 3:30 pm

I'm statisfied af.

Going to practice more for sure.

Thanks very much!

OfficialJsP - October 9, 2015, 6:49 pm

Going to try this out when I can. I will also post the results when finished.

sasquatch' - October 10, 2015, 7:10 pm

god fucking damnit

Lightness - October 16, 2015, 2:44 pm

I can't make the "smudges" HQ as yours. What is my mistake here?

AxeDesigner - October 17, 2015, 10:27 am

Not bad nice tutorial , thank for share.

qAzrael - September 29, 2017, 4:02 pm

that looks sick af great job.

Rsynced - October 20, 2017, 8:45 am

Bump, this is great. I never knew, going to try it in GIMP and use some imagemagick.

Komorebi - January 30, 2018, 5:31 am

Holy jesus! This makes something out of nothing, this is truly a HQ tutorial thank you so much for this! ? ?

FXstudio - January 30, 2018, 5:43 am

nice and simple, thanks for the tutorial)

hubidu - February 11, 2018, 7:29 pm

This is a really cool tutorial, Thanks

Scarko - February 16, 2018, 8:12 am

I've been trying to figure this out for soo long! thanks a lot. Could you maybe tell me how you get the

particles?