

FINAL PROJECT WRITE-UP

My write-up will do two things: 1) discuss my idea for the final project and how I got it, and 2) show how I went from beginning to completion.

Idea

When I first began thinking about a final project, I immediately envisioned something with my little brother in it. Why? The reasoning is simple: I took this class to learn how to integrate pictures of my little brother with my artistic skills. So I made it my goal to create a picture of Kevin (my little bro) skating into the Charles with leaves around.

Steps

Unfortunately, I found it much easier to envision the project than to actually put it into effect. My initial steps were simple. I would...

- 1) Take lots of pictures of Kevin doing Spirals (no other skating move would suffice)
- 2) Take lots of pictures of leaves blowing in the wind.
- 3) Take lots of pictures of the Charles.
- 4) Choose best of all pictures and mesh them together to form the final project.

There were two problems with steps 1 and 2. The first is that Kevin would only allow me to take one shot of his Spiral. The second is that I could never catch a shot of the leaves blowing in the wind. Thus, I ended up using a blurry shot of Kevin's spiral, with his legs cut off, and pictures of leaves not yet fallen from trees (it was autumn). To realize my project, I took these steps:

- 1) Cut off Kevin's legs from other pictures and supplemented his Spiral shot with the legs so that there is a complete image of Kevin's Spiral.
- 2) Pasted Kevin's Spiral onto the shot of the Charles and cut out the parts where his legs overlapped the bushes on the bank (to make it look like he's behind the bushes).
- 3) Changed the gradient so that Kevin doesn't look so dark in the picture.
- 4) Took a random picture of a duck that I had lying around and pasted it onto the scenery (for fun).
- 5) Cut out the leaves from the "dead-tree pictures" and copied them 2-3 times each, distorting and rotating each copy to create illusion of many different leaves.
- 6) Burned and dodged Kevin so that it looks like there's a sun shining down on him.
- 7) Burned the tree behind Kevin so that it isn't so distractingly white.
- 8) Stamped the lower-right bank to get rid of the date my camera put on the scenery shot.
- 9) Stamped the tree roots so that the tree doesn't look like it's growing out of Kevin's head.
- 10) Copied the duck, flipped the copy upside down and lowered the opacity and fill so that the copy looks like a reflection.
- 11) Stamped the words out of Kevin's shirt (I flipped Kevin, and they were backwards).

- 12) Created reflections for the leaves the same way I created a reflection for the duck.
- 13) Inserted noise into the background with a noise filter (Kevin had a lot of noise on him).
- 14) Put a lighting effects filter on the overall picture to make it look like the sun was on the left side of the picture (where I remembered it to be).
- 15) Adjusted the color balance until I could get it to print nicely.

End result? A lot of headache and careful manipulation with Photoshop. And I'm happy that I can look at my project and not cringe at it.