

PHOTOSHOP HAIR COLORING

BY

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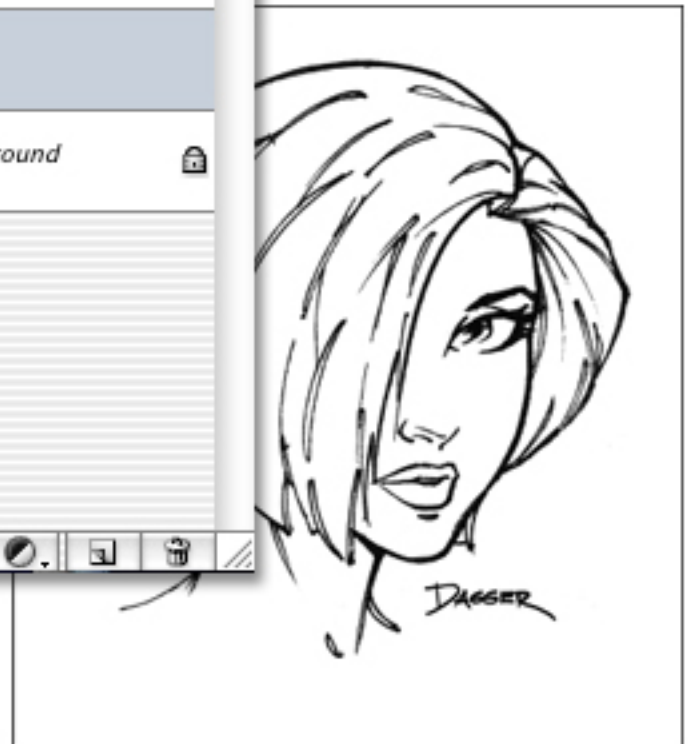
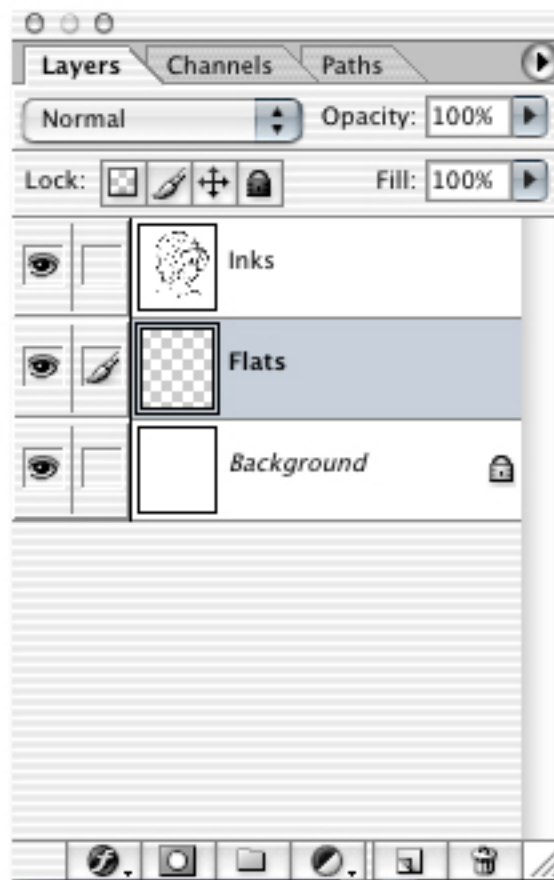
REQUIREMENTS:

ADOBE PHOTOSHOP ver 5.5 up
DRAWING TABLET (a mouse could work if
you're used to it)
BASIC KNOWLEDGE IN COLORING IN
PHOTOSHOP

PREPARING THE LINEART

So basically, as you can see in the *Layers* panel, I've arranged my lineart on top of where the colors will be placed later, called FLATS.

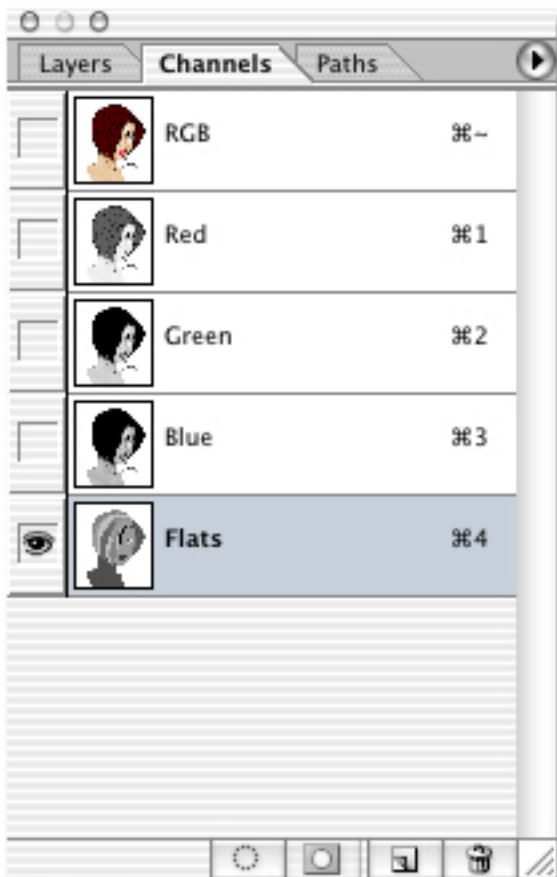
On the layer properties, make sure you put it in Multiply mode, so the colors can be seen underneath the Inks.



I will assume that the reader of this already knows the basics of laying the flats for coloring an inked image.

On to the *Channels* panel.

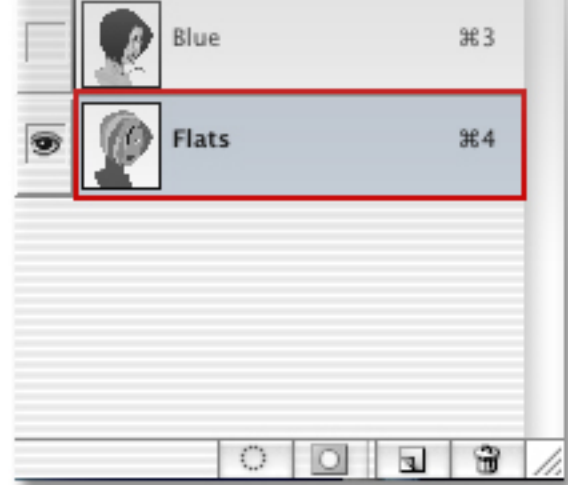
I like to put my flats on a separate channel so as not to use too much layers when creating different sections of the image.



THE FLATS



As you can see, whenever I create flats for hair coloring, I divide them into different sections, or clumps of hair as I call them. Again, this is just my technique which I am used to, if you have one of your own and it works for you, by all means use it.



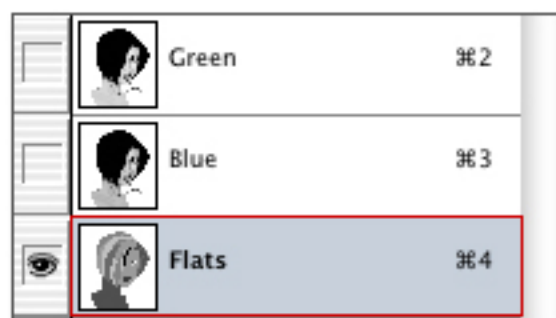
Seeing as this is a hair coloring tutorial, I went ahead and added the base colors for the different sections; the skin, eyes, lips and, of course, the hair.

I usually finish adding the highlights and shadows to the face first before I touch the hair, this is to give me a guide where the light is pointing.

I chose to use a very deep red shade to the hair.



ADDING DARK SHADES




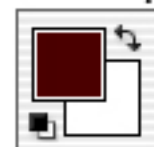
Go to the **Flats** channel and use the Marquee Wand Tool  to select an entire area of hair.

Tolerance: Anti-aliased Contiguous Use All Layers

Note: I lower the *Tolerance* of the selection by about 10, to minimize overlapping the colors.



Back to the **Color** layer, use the Gradient Tool , make sure to pick the color the same as the base hair color.



Use Foreground to Transparent, Straight Gradient.



Change the Mode to Multiply, Opacity about 50%.




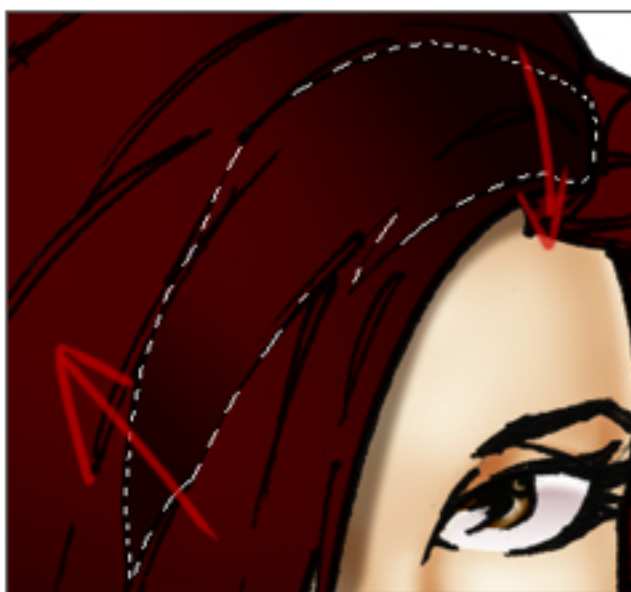
Start dragging the tool to the direction you see on the left, making sure you leave enough of the base color behind to simulate hilights.

THOSE CLUMPS OF HAIR

Ok, this is where those 'clumps' of masked hair will come in handy.

Once you've finished with the Gradient Tool and you're satisfied with the result so far, go back to the **Flats Channel** and select a piece of clumped hair.

Using the same color selection, take the **Brush Tool** , pick a *soft round brush* at about the appropriate diameter.



Change the Brush Mode to Multiply, Opacity to about 50%, be sure also to uncheck the "Shape Dynamics" option in the Brushes Tab.

Brush the edges of your clumped hair in the direction desired.

Keep repeating this process until you have all of your clumps shaded to your desired effect, like the one I've done to the image at the right.




ADDING THE HIGHLIGHTS

Go back to the **Flats Channel**, and again, select a whole section of hair.

This time we're going to add the Highlights.

Using your Brush Tool , this time changing its mode to **Screen**, same Opacity level.

Pick a fairly light color from the base, like this  and start brushing the area

with a rounded stroke, following the angle and shape of the head.




Note:

For more detailed highlights, you can choose to select just a clump at a time, and add highlights that way. For the purpose of this tutorial, I will just use this general technique.

ADDING MORE HIGHLIGHTS

This is what I have so far, but we're not done yet. Just one more step to complete the effect. I hope you're still with me. :)

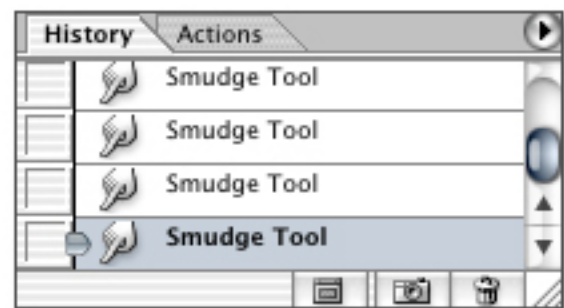
When you look at hair, the highlights doesn't look this smooth. The last thing we're gonna do is simulate the texture of hair by using the Smudge Tool .

Set your Smudge Tool to a fairly sized Soft Round brush, Mode to Normal, with Strength set to about 60 - 70%.



Start by just smudging the highlighted area using a zigzag stroke.



Now this part is mainly *experimenting and trial and error on your part*, adjusting the strength of the brush to your desired effect.



Don't be afraid to use the **History Palette** in Photoshop if you're not satisfied with the results.

THE FINISHED PRODUCT

After all that hoopla, this is the end result for me *(results ay vary from artist to artist)*.

You can still add more sheen and depth to your hair by using the Dodge Tool  and/ or the Burn Tool , similar to the resulting image below.



Just remember: **Experimentation is the KEY.**



I hope that this tutorial has helped you in any way to further your coloring techniques using Photoshop.