

# Duotones

Welcome to the *Dutones tutorial*. This tutorial was designed to teach you how to use Duotones in Photoshop. If you need help with it, or find it confusing, don't hesitate to e-mail me, the information is at the bottom of the page.



The idea behind dutones is to replace a grayscale image with definable inks in order to add a certain tone to the image beging used. The image to the left is of good quality, but say we wanted to print this image within an article, and we only wanted to use 2 inks to print it. The solution is duotones. Of course, the limit isn't 2 inks, you can select 3 inks (tritone) or 4. (quadtone)

Some people might argue that Hue/Saturation is a good enough approach, but it's not. Hue/Saturation limits you to 1 color, which means you won't get the full tonal range that duotones give you. "Duotones are ideal for two-color print jobs with a spot color (such as a PANTONE ink) used for accent."

**Note:** Although more than two inks can be used (Monotone, Duotone, Tritone, Quadtone), collectively we call them "duotones".

In order to use duotones, you need to first convert your image to grayscale. You can do this, via **Image>Mode>Grayscale**. Now choose **Image>Adjust>Duotones**. The drop-down menu allows you specify the range of inks to be used. The image to the left was created using a *PANTONE Reflex Blue CVC* in ink spot 1, and a *PANTONE 1525 CVC* in ink spot 2. Overall, these two inks combined reveal a light magenta color. When it comes time to print, only these two inks will be used to print.

If you activate the Channels palette, you'll notice that you only have one channel entitled "duotone". This is becuase duotone images are simply 8-bit grayscale images with different tonal vaules used to compensate for the greys that are normally present.



If you add other colors, you can experiment and get used to duotones a bit easier. If you haven't noticed the linear graphs beside the inks in the *Duotones dialog box*, let me introduce them to you. Click on the graph to access and modify the channel for the specified ink. Drag the curve specific to defined points much like the Curves dialog box. Take a look at the images to the left to see what's possible with different curve settings, and colors.

The images to the left were created with the following setting:

(*Top*)

**Ink 1:** PANTONE 533 CVC

**Ink 2:** PANTONE 375 CVC

**Ink 3:** PANTONE Process Black CVC

(*Bottom*)

**Ink 1:** PANTONE 130 CVC

**Ink 2:** PANTONE Orange 021 CVC

**Ink 3:** PANTONE Process Yellow CVC

**Ink 4:** PANTONE Red 032 CVC



From these two examples, I'm sure you can see the power of duotones. Although they are very popular and mostly used for print, you can still use them (of course) for the web, etc.

## Discussion

If you have any questions, or there are any steps that I can further elaborate on, don't hesitate to e-mail me using the information below. Due to the amount of e-mail I get, you'll get a quicker response if you use the discussion forum. Post your question in the tutorials forum. Click [here](#) to go to the discussion forum.

Dan Caylor

<http://www.thinkdan.com>

E-mail: [dan@thinkdan.com](mailto:dan@thinkdan.com)

Copyright 2000, 2001 © Dan Caylor