

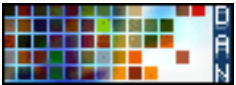
# Pattern Effects

Welcome to the *Pattern Effects tutorial* . This tutorial was designed to teach you how to add a kick to your images using patterns. 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.



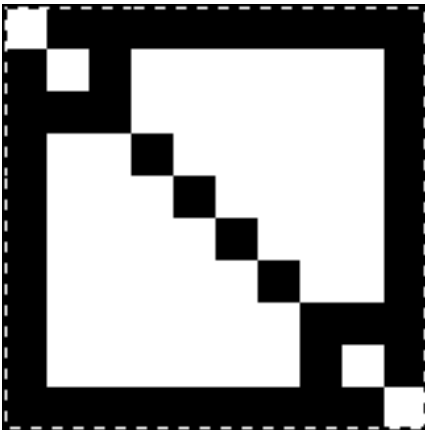
Using patterns to create the effects you need is not only going to give you a great result, it's also fast and easy. Patterns in Photoshop aren't any different from patterns in the real world. The first thing you'll need to do is find out what kind of look you want, consider what you are applying the pattern to. If you are applying a pattern to the pipes on your interfaces to make them look a bit more detailed or "dirty", you'll probably want to use a much more complex pattern than that of which you would use to add a TV or grid look to photographs. So before you start making all these patterns and applying them to everything in site, know what you want and what type of pattern will achieve that.

The pattern to the left was made using the **Crystallize** filter in Photoshop, this gave the girl a subtle "reptillic" appearance.

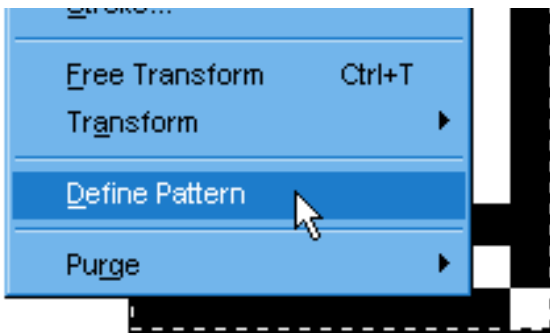


A lot of people have asked me how I created the "animated" grid look on my button. Well they were right about one thing, it is a grid, but it isn't moving anywhere, in fact it doesn't budge one pixel throughout the whole animation. All I did was change the blending modes and the effect was achieved for me. It all depends on your image, the results will always vary.

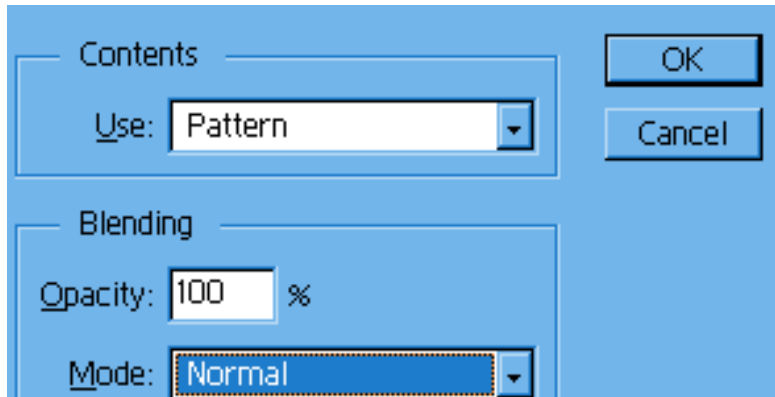
I've added a quick tutorial on how to create and apply patterns to your images so you'll comprehend more of what I'm talking about.



- 1 Make your pattern, use either a channel or a new document, this will keep your project from getting messy. Select the area that will be tiled with the **Rectangular Marquee Selection Tool** . If you need more help with selecting, try [this tutorial](#) .



**2** Choose **Edit>Define Pattern** from the main menu. You've just saved the selection you made earlier as a pattern. Now you can fill or paint patterns using the currently saved pattern. You could also create a very unique pattern in a new channel. Keep in mind this isn't the part that makes the nice effects easily...



**3** Choose **Edit>Fill** and choose **Pattern** from the menu. Click **OK** . Now here's the cool part; to add the effect, simply change the blending mode of the pattern. Depending on the complexity of the image the results will vary. You can also fill your pattern as a layer mask. You can produce some really cool effects by adjusting the **Levels** and **Curves** of the masked layer. Some example are below.



To create the pattern effect used here, I created a new channel by pressing the **Create New Channel** button in the Channels palette. I then applied a clouds filter. ( **Filter>Render>Clouds** ) I then used **Filter>Pixelate>Color Halftone** , set the **Max Radius** to **4** pixels, and pressed **OK** to reveal a circle pattern throughout the channel.

I pressed the **Load Channel as Selection** button in the Channels palette, selected the photo's layer in the Layers palette, and clicked the **Create Layer Mask** button in the Layers palette.

By adjusting the **Hue/Saturation** of the layer I was able to achieve the effect you see to the left, and it was very easy. Think how much more possibilities there are with just a few more steps!



For this image, I created a new document (5x5 pixels) by pressing **Ctrl + N** . I then filled the defined pattern into a new Alpha Channel of the photo.

Once again I pressed the **Load Channel as Selection** button in the Channels palette, selected the photo's layer in the Layers palette, and clicked the **Create Layer Mask** button in the Layers palette.

Next I set the layer's blending mode to **Color Dodge** .

Finally I used the the **Eraser Tool** with a large brush to focus the pattern on Nikki only by erasing areas of the mask around her.

## 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. If you would like to get some more practice with using patterns try these great tutorials;

- [Grid Tutorial](#)
- [Scanline Tutorial](#)

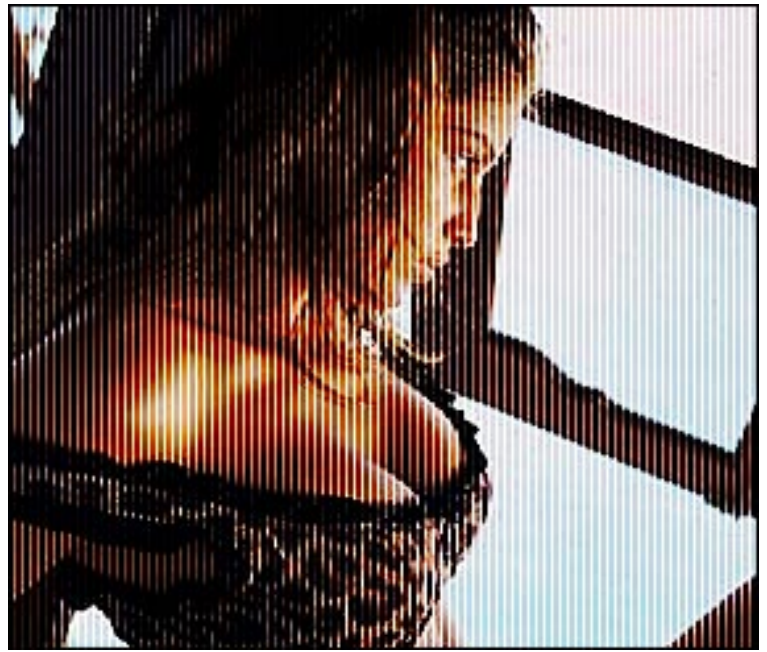
Due to the amount of e-mail I get, you'll get a quicker response if you use the discussion forum. Post your question in the tutorials forum. Click [here](#) to go to the discussion forum.

## Examples

**Before**

**After**





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