

ANNA MAGHRADZE

3 QUICK-START PROJECTS



BONUS CHAPTER 2. **3 QUICK-START PROJECTS**



INTRODUCTION

I created three projects for you to start sharpening your skills in Photoshop right away. With the help of [DepositPhotos](#), all the image files you need are provided with this bonus. If you have a premium account, you can also click on the links to download images directly from their site.

I'm including the three Photoshop (PSD) files for each project so you can follow along step-by-step. You can turn off the eye-icons for all layers and then turn them on for one by one for each step. Then you can give it a go on your own. Practice makes perfect!

Follow my suggested edits or play around with tools on your own to create your own unique image. There are a few extra subject images for you to experiment with.

IMPORTANT NOTE: The photos provided by DepositPhotos are meant for practice and are not to be used for commercial or promotional purposes. However, freely use the two PNG images of the moon and cloud I have provided in the second project.

1. NIGHT SKY OVER THE CITY

BRIEF

It can be difficult to capture starry skies with your camera. Dream up a perfect nighttime scene over a city skyline. We are trying to achieve a bold, but realistic scene by adding some celestial elements.

PRACTICE GOALS

- Compose a realistic nighttime scene placing stars, clouds, and moon
- Apply layer masks and blend modes for a cohesive look
- Use a Levels adjustment layer
- Add a glow effect

INSPIRATION



PHOTOS TO USE

- Background: [Buildings](#)
- Subject: [Stars](#)
- Subject: [White Clouds](#)
- Subject: [Half Moon](#)



SUGGESTED EDITS

1. Open the background image.
2. Insert a transparent PNG of clouds and the moon wherever it looks good for you.
3. With a Levels adjustment, brighten the clouds if needed.
4. Place a starry sky image so it covers the top of the background.
5. With another Levels adjustment, make the stars pop by playing with the arrows below the histogram, making dark areas disappear.
6. Set the blending mode of the stars image to “Screen.”
7. Apply a mask to the star layer and with a Brush tool remove unwanted parts. Apply “Outer Glow” to the moon.
8. Make the opacity of the cloud layer around 45–55%.
9. You can duplicate the background layer and place it above all the others. Make the fill around 25–35%, apply a mask, and with the Brush tool, delete areas around the moon to make stars look brighter due to the moonlight.

MY IMAGE SEARCHES ON DEPOSITPHOTOS

- [Buildings](#)
- [Stars](#)
- [Clouds](#)
- [Moon](#)

2. INDOOR MOON AND CLOUD

BRIEF

We can create fantastical scenes in collage—limited only by our imagination. We are placing a cloud and moon in a room with windows and changing the view. You can use a PNG of any subject you like in place of a cloud and moon.

PRACTICE GOALS

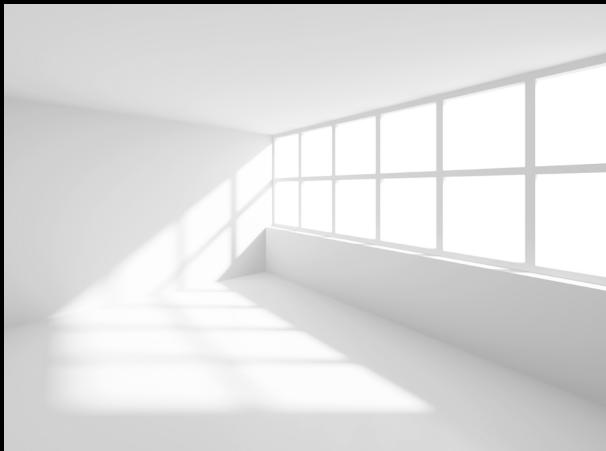
- Use a blend mode to combine two images
- Use the Pen tool to trace selections
- Mask out parts of the image

PHOTOS TO USE

- Background: [White room](#)
- Subject: [Pink sky](#)
- Subject variation: [Summer landscape](#)
- Subject: A cloud and a moon (transparent PNG files I have provided)

INSPIRATION





SUGGESTED EDITS

1. Open the background image.
2. With the Pen tool (P) select all window areas.
3. Mask the windows out so that they are transparent.
4. Place the pink sky image under the windows layer.
5. Duplicate the pink sky and place above the background.
6. Apply the Multiply blend mode.
7. Change the fill to around 65-75%.
8. Place a transparent cloud PNG in the center of the image.
9. Place a moon above the cloud. Apply an Outer Glow effect to it.

MY IMAGE SEARCHES ON DEPOSITPHOTOS

- Background: [White room](#)
- Subject: [Pink sky](#)
- Subject: [Green nature](#)

3. EXPANSES OF LIGHT

BRIEF

We can bring together disparate worlds with our digital collages. Here, we are melding and mirroring the vast expanses of water and space.

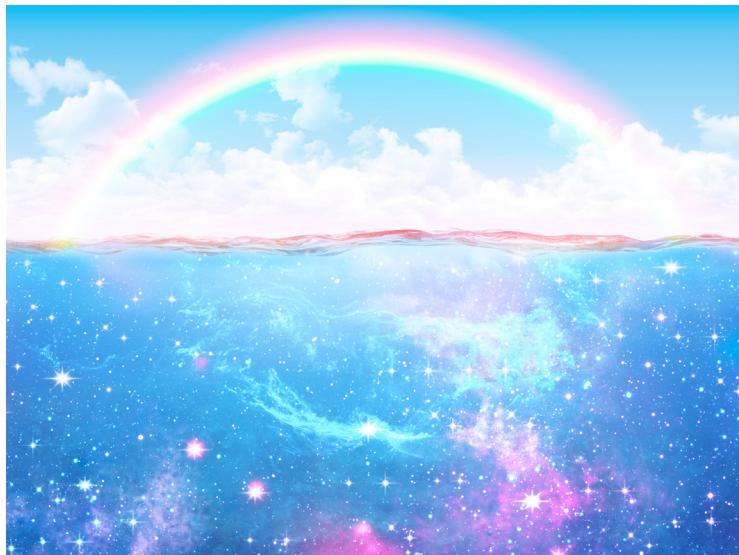
PRACTICE GOALS

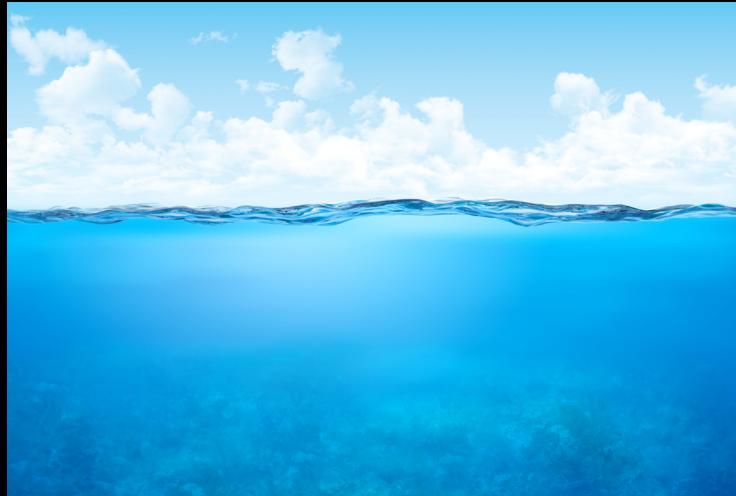
- Use blend modes to make the image look seamless
- Practice using the Gradient tool by adding a rainbow with the “Russell’s Rainbow” preset
- Use a mask and brush tool to remove unnecessary parts

PHOTOS TO USE

- Background: [Water and sky](#)
- Subject: [Deep space](#)
- Subject variation: [The universe](#)

INSPIRATION





SUGGESTED EDITS

1. Open the background water image.
2. Make a new layer above the background layer.
3. Use the Gradient tool on the new layer.
4. Apply the “Russell’s Rainbow” preset to make a radial gradient in the sky.
5. Flip it vertically and apply a Screen blend mode. You can mask out parts of the rainbow if needed.
6. Repeat Step 2, but instead of radial gradient, choose a linear gradient. Place it horizontally on the water’s edge.
7. Apply a Screen blending mode.
8. Open the galaxy image and place it on the water.
9. Apply a Screen blend mode.

MY IMAGE SEARCHES ON DEPOSITPHOTOS

- Background: [Underwater coral reef](#)
- Subject: [Galaxy](#)
- Subject variation: [Universe](#)

Digital Dreamworlds

Copyright

©2022 ExpertPhotography

All rights reserved - ExpertPhotography