

Photoshop Tutorial - 'Propping up the Moon'

We start with 4 photo : [field.jpg](#)
[stars.jpg](#)
[moon.png](#)
[model.jpg](#)

Start

Open a new document.
Open the photo 'field.jpg'.
Using the 'Quick Selection Tool' select the ground.
Select>Modify>Contract - 3 pixels.
Select>Modify>Feather - 1 pixel.
Place the selection on it's own layer by pressing 'Ctrl+j'.
Import this layer into the main document.
Resize and position to suit.
Click the 'Create new fill or adjustment layer' icon at the bottom of the Layers Window and select 'Brightness and Contrast' - attach this to the layer by 'Alt+clicking between them - adjust 'brightness' to -150.

Stars

Open the photo 'stars.jpg'.
Import this layer into the main document.
Resize to cover the whole document.
Move this layer to be below the 'field' layer.
Click the 'Create new fill or adjustment layer' icon at the bottom of the Layers Window and select 'Brightness and Contrast' - attach this to the layer by 'Alt+clicking between them - adjust 'brightness' to -150.

Moon

Open the photo 'moon.jpg'.
Using the 'Magic Wand Tool' select the black background.
Select>Invert.
Select>Modify>Contract - 7 pixels.
Select>Modify>Feather - 1 pixel.
Click the 'Create layer mask' icon at the bottom of the Layers Window
Select the brush tool and set it to black and 90% hardness now adjust the size of the brush to match the size of the moon - move the brush to the right until only a crescent is left outside the brush and 'Click'.
Select the 'mask' - right click and select 'Apply layer mask'.
Import this layer into the main document.
Resize and position to be sitting on the ground - tilt it anti clockwise to look like it's falling over.
Click the 'Create new fill or adjustment layer' icon at the bottom of the Layers Window and select 'Brightness and Contrast' - attach this to the layer by 'Alt+clicking between them - adjust 'brightness' to about + 80.
Double click the 'moon' layer this will bring up the 'layer Style' box - select 'outer glow' :
Blending mode - screen
Opacity - 24
Colour - lemon
Spread - 1
Size - 54

Model

Open the photo 'model.jpg'.

Using the 'Quick Selection Tool' select the model.

Select>Modify>Contract - 2 pixels.

Select>Modify>Feather - 1 pixel.

Place the selection on it's own layer by pressing 'Ctrl+j'.

Import this layer into the main document.

Resize and position to suit.

Click the 'Create new fill or adjustment layer' icon at the bottom of the Layers Window and select 'Brightness and Contrast' - attach this to the layer by 'Alt+clicking between them' - adjust 'brightness' to -150.

Click the 'Add New Layer' icon at the bottom of the layers window and attach this to the layer by 'Alt+clicking between them'.

With a soft white brush paint in a glow on the right side of the model - adjust 'opacity' to suit.

Moonlight

Select the 'field' layer - select the mask in the attached 'brightness and contrast' layer.

With a soft black brush click on the 'ground' - this will give you a 'lighter patch' of ground.

Select the 'move tool' and squash this down and elongate it to look like the glow from the moon.

Click the 'Add New Layer' icon at the bottom of the layers window and attach this to the layer by 'Alt+clicking between them'.

With a soft white brush click on the 'ground' - this will give you a 'bright white patch' of ground.

Select the 'move tool' and squash this down and elongate it to look like the smaller more pronounced glow from the moon.

Adjust 'opacity' to suit.

Click the 'Add New Layer' icon at the bottom of the layers window and attach this to the layer by 'Alt+clicking between them'.

Select the 'Gradient tool' from the left toolbar set it to 'black to transparent' and 'linear'.

Draw a gradient from the bottom to half way to the model.

Adjust 'opacity' to suit.

Finishing

Click the 'Create new fill or adjustment layer' icon at the bottom of the Layers Window and select 'Levels' - move the 'black' and 'white' pointer in a touch to increase the contrast.

[Finished Image](#)