

Photoshop Tutorial - 'Reaper'

We start with 7 photos: [cemetery.jpg](#)
[sky.jpg](#)
[smoke.jpg](#)
[grim.jpg](#)
[fire.jpg](#) [fire02](#) [fire03](#)

Cemetery

Open a new document.
Open the photo 'cemetery.jpg'.
Import this photo into the main document.
Re-size and position to suit.
Click the 'Create new fill or adjustment layer' icon at the bottom of the Layers Window and select 'Hue & Saturation' - attach this to the layer by 'Alt+clicking' between them - adjust 'lightness' to suit (about -30 should do).

Sky

Open the photo 'sky.jpg'.
Import this photo into the main document.
Re-size and position to cover the whole document.
Click the 'Add Layer Mask' icon at the bottom of the layers window.
With a soft black brush remove the parts not in the sky.
Click the 'Create new fill or adjustment layer' icon at the bottom of the Layers Window and select 'Hue & Saturation' - attach this to the layer by 'Alt+clicking' between them - adjust 'lightness' to suit (about -30 should do).

Mist

Open the photo 'smoke.jpg'.
Import this photo into the main document and move it to the top of the 'Layers Stack'.
Re-size the layer to cover the whole document.
Click the 'Add Layer Mask' icon at the bottom of the layers window.
With a soft black brush set at 10% start revealing the parts of the photo you want to see through the mist.
Click the 'Create new fill or adjustment layer' icon at the bottom of the Layers Window and select 'Hue & Saturation' - attach this to the layer by 'Alt+clicking' between them - adjust 'lightness' to suit (about -50 should do).

Grim

Open the photo 'grim.jpg'.
Using the 'Quick Selection Tool' select the model.
Click 'Select and Mask' icon at the top.
Set 'Feather' to 1 and 'Shift Edge' to -15.
Import this layer into the main document - re-size and position to suit.
Click the 'Create new fill or adjustment layer' icon at the bottom of the Layers Window and select 'Hue & Saturation' - attach this to the layer by 'Alt+clicking' between them - adjust 'lightness' to suit (about -60 should do).

Fire

Open the photo 'fire 1.jpg'.
Import this photo into the main document.

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Change 'blending mode' to screen.

Re-size and position on the scythe.

Click the 'Add Layer Mask' icon at the bottom of the layers window.

With a soft black brush remove the parts of the fire you don't want to see.

Do the same with 'fire 2.jpg'.

Combine the two scythe fires into one layer by selecting the top one and Layers>Merge down.

Click the 'Create new fill or adjustment layer' icon at the bottom of the Layers Window and select 'Hue & Saturation' - attach this to the layer by 'Alt+clicking' between them - adjust 'hue' to suit (about -10 should do).

Open the photo 'fire 3.jpg'.

Import this photo into the main document.

Change 'blending mode' to screen.

Re-size and position into the bottom right corner, so only the embers are showing.

Click the 'Create new fill or adjustment layer' icon at the bottom of the Layers Window and select 'Hue & Saturation' - attach this to the layer by 'Alt+clicking' between them - adjust 'hue' to suit (about -10 should do)..

Lighting Grim

Select the 'grim' layer.

Click the 'Create new layer' icon at the bottom of the Layers Window and attach this to the layer by 'Alt+clicking' between them.

With a soft yellow brush paint in a highlight on the scythe side of the reaper.

Adjust 'opacity' to suit.

Click the 'Create new layer' icon at the bottom of the Layers Window and attach this to the layer by 'Alt+clicking' between them.

With a soft yellow brush paint in a larger highlight on the fire side of the reaper.

Adjust 'opacity' to suit.

Finishing

Click the 'Create new fill or adjustment layer' icon at the bottom of the Layers Window and select 'colour lookup' - select 'horrorblue' - reduce 'opacity' to suit (about 25% should do).

Click the 'Create new fill or adjustment layer' icon at the bottom of the Layers Window and select 'Gradient Map' - select a black to white gradient - change the 'blending mode' to 'soft light' - reduce 'opacity' to suit.

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](#)