

Lesson 3

Apologies to all for the delay in getting this lesson to you - Photoshop 5 arrived and I couldn't keep my hands off it. If you think actions are powerful in version 4, you're going to be amazed when you make the switch to 5!

So, on to Lesson 3. Seeing as how this is a PHOTOShop tutorial, I thought it might be nice to show you how to do some fancy frames for Photographs - using actions of course.

Again, we're going to open the ACTIONS PALETTE and clear out any actions by clicking on the black triangle at the top left of the actions palette, and selecting **Clear Actions**.



Next, start recording the new action by clicking on the same black triangle and DESELECTING **Button Mode**. Click the black triangle again and select **New Action**, and the action is now recording.

Change the default name for the action (Untitled-1) by double-clicking the first entry. This will call up the **Action Options** dialog box: simply fill in the name that you want to use - leave the rest of the settings on their defaults for this action.

Tip 1: Use the Color option in the Action Options dialog box to set the colors for each action you make. For instance, Grey for separators, Red for all the frame actions, and so on.

This action is a little different from the previous ones we've made, in that it will be working on an existing file instead of creating a new file.

The first thing we have to do is place a **STOP** command to that when the action runs it will prompt to open an image or photograph. Do this by clicking our friend the black triangle and selecting **INSERT STOP** from the pull-down menu.



In the Insert Stop dialog box, enter your message:

"Open any photograph or graphic, then press the red button to continue."

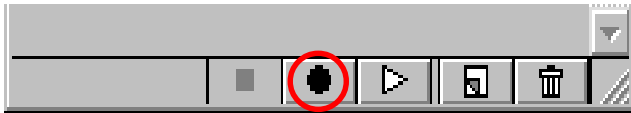
The wording doesn't have to be the same, and you don't need the quotation marks.

Stop the action here for a minute, by pressing the red button at the bottom of the Action Palette, and open the photograph or graphic you want to frame.

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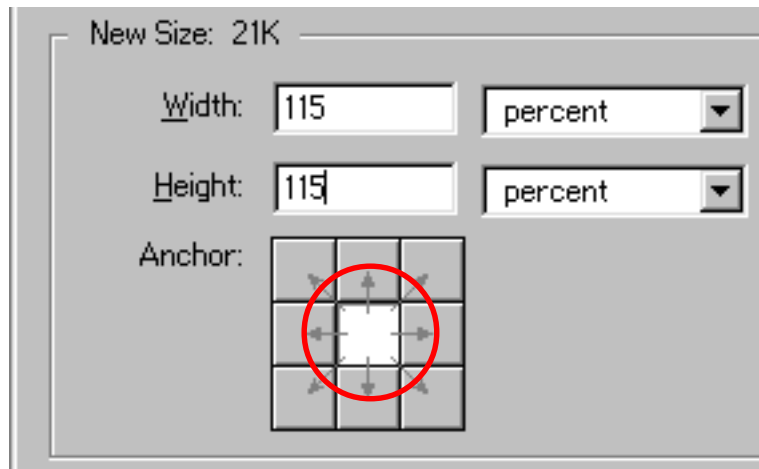
Tip 2: Always REPEAT always work from a COPY of your original. Once you run these actions on a photograph or graphic all its layer information is lost.

Now you're ready to start recording the commands to add a frame to your file. Click the black **RECORD** button at the bottom of the Actions Palette, and we're in business:



From the **Image** pull-down menu on the **Menu Bar** select **Mode/RGB** to change the mode to RGB, so that the original image is converted to a mode that is effected by Photoshop's filters.

Next, from the same Image pull-down menu select Canvas Size and enter an amount for your border. I've chosen to hight and width by 15%, but you can set it to anything you choose:



Make sure here that the image **Anchor** setting is centered as shown above.

Now since Photoshop 4 doesn't allow selection of absolute positions, we need to **STOP** the action again at this point and enter a prompt to select the white border with the **Magic Wand** tool.

To do this, repeat the step you used to enter the first **STOP** command, but this time enter text similar to the following:

"Click the Border with the 'Magic Wand' tool, then press the red button to continue."

Again, the wording doesn't have to be the same and the quotation marks are not required.

The next step will fill the border with a solid color so that the filters we're going to use have something to work on. Choose **Fill** from the **Edit** pull-down menu, and select **White** as the fill. There's no need to change any of the other settings.

Now it's experimentation time - run any of the Photoshop native filters or KPT Gradient Designer/Texture Explorer to fill the border with a pattern. I've used a KPT gradient followed by the EyeCandy Swirl and Glass filters, but you can use just about anything.

To give the frame a nice rounded look, run the EyeCandy Inner Bevel. The settings are entirely up to you - whatever looks good.

Finally, select **NONE** from the **SELECT** pull-down menu, click on the stop button to stop recording, and save your action.

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Curious about the new action features of Photoshop 5? Well the news is good - just think back to all the functions you couldn't do in Photoshop 4, and imagine that you can. That's Photoshop 5!

The control panels and graphics you see here were created in version 5 entirely from single actions. From importing pre-made black & white Illustrator templates, to adding the gradients, applying the 3D-like effects and even the text. It's all done from **SINGLE** actions, with a **SINGLE** mouse-click!

One problem with version 4 actions was that of selections - there was no effective way to capture them. Now version 5 lets you capture absolute measurements, so that any shape selection can be recorded as an action command.

The new type engine too is a great improvement. Any text entries recorded in an action are now fully editable after the action it run.

Look out for new WebActions products for Photoshop 5 - coming soon to a web near you!

WebActions for Photoshop 5

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