

ADOBE PHOTOSHOP ELEMENTS CREATING A 2-TONE SILHOUETTE

Converted from a *Photoshop* lesson
by Tommy Maloney, www.photoshoplab.com
to a *Adobe Photoshop Elements* by
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This is a quick way to use Adobe Photoshop Elements to create that semi-trendy, two-tone silhouette effect. Although 28 figures are shown in this tutorial, it requires far fewer steps. The additional steps are added for new user understanding.

1. Obviously start with the photo to which you want to apply the effect (**Figure 1**).



Figure 1

2. Start by duplicating your layer Ctrl + J — or:

① RIGHT-click on Layer 1 (**Figure 2**).

② Left-click on “Duplicate Layer.”

NOTE: You don’t HAVE to duplicate the layer, but it helps if you make a mistake.

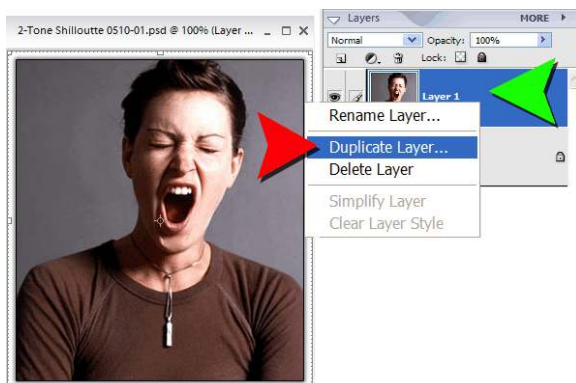



Figure 2

3. Name the layer if you want or leave it as “Layer 1 copy” (**Figure 3**).



Figure 3

4. Select the background of the photo using the *magic wand tool* () (**Figure 4**).

IF you do not have the entire desired area selected, hold down the **Shift** key and continue to click in areas until all is selected.



Figure 4

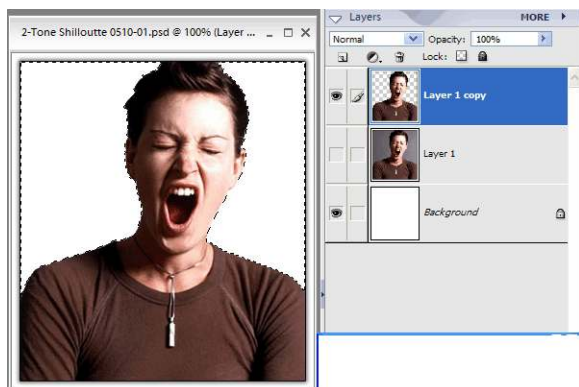


Figure 5

5. Delete the background (**Figure 5**). To delete the layer, touch the Delete key, on the keyboard.

Use **Ctrl+D** keys to *deselect* the background.

6. Go to Filter > Artistic > Cutout (**Figure 6**).



Figure 6

7. Use Cutout settings similar to these in Figure 7:

- Number of Levels: 2
- Edge Simplicity: 3 or 4
- Edge Fidelity: 3

Then click on the “OK” button.

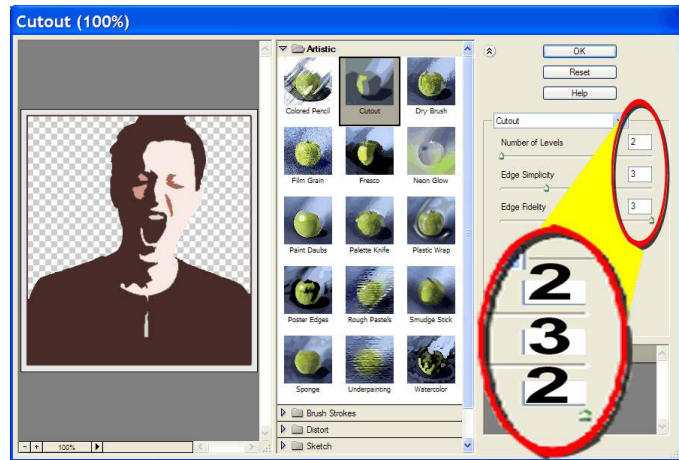


Figure 7

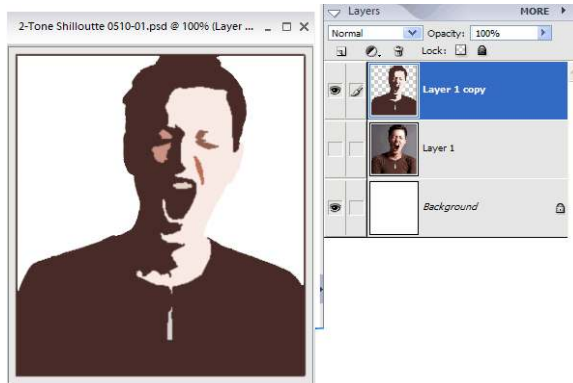


Figure 8

8. You should get an effect similar to **Figure 8**.

9. Press **Ctrl+L** key, on the keyboard, to bring up the Levels Dialog (Figure 9).

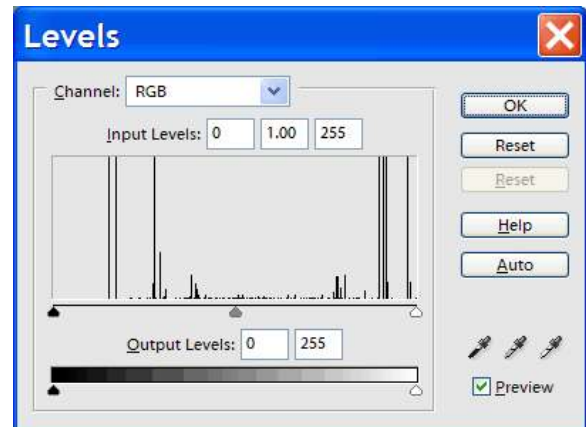


Figure 9

10. Drag your sliders very close to each other, until your image is nearly black and white. (Note that the right cheek and other areas have color.)

NOTE: The Input levels are 141, 1.00, and 149.

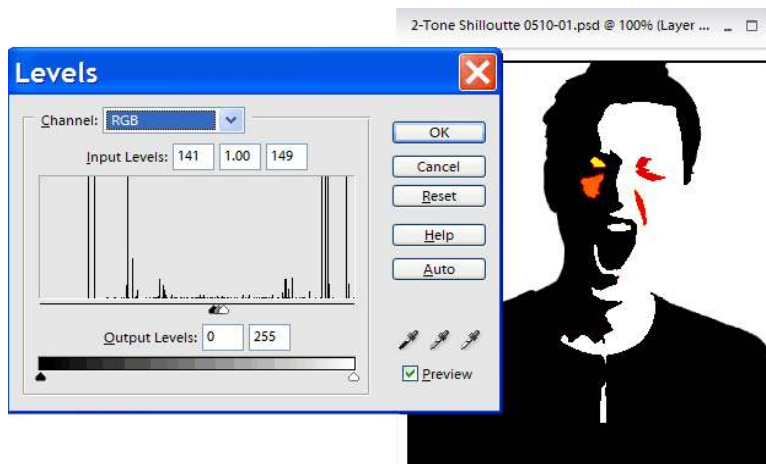


Figure 10

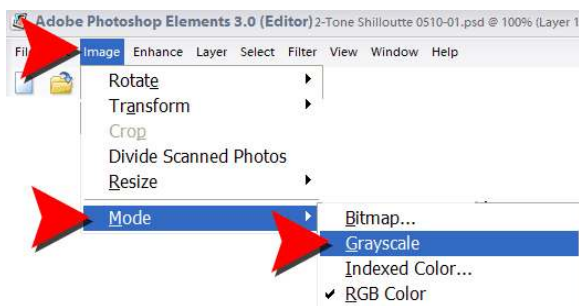


Figure 11

11. Convert your photo to grayscale by selecting *Image > Mode > Grayscale* from the MenuBar (Figure 11).



Figure 12

12. Do NOT flatten the photo (Figure 12).

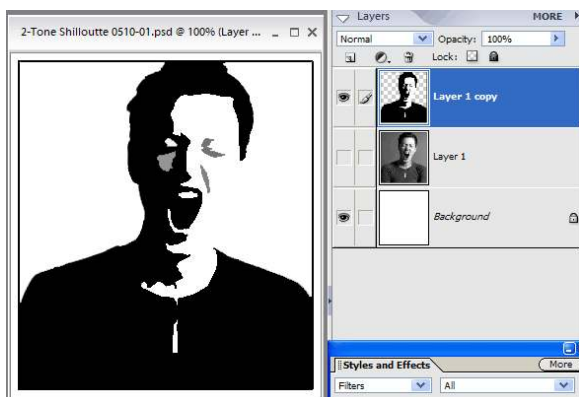


Figure 13

13. The photo is now totally black-and-white which is called "grayscale" (Figure 13).

14. Your image will probably have some pretty jagged edges. To fix this, go under *Filter > Blur > Gaussian Blur* from the MenuBar.

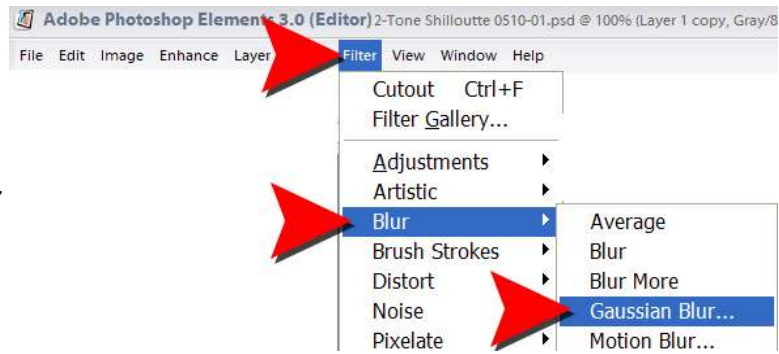


Figure 14



Figure 15

15. Enter a value of around 2.0 pixels, or whatever looks like your edges are smoothed.

Click "OK" button when you are satisfied.

16. **Figure 16** shows the results.

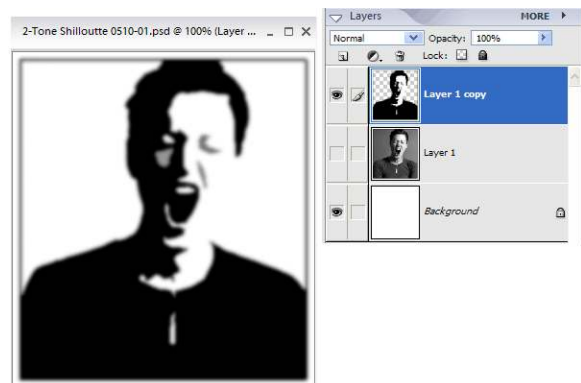


Figure 16

17. Now we need to return the photo to the RGB (Red, Green, Blue) Color mode before we can apply our special effect.

So, from the MenuBar, select Image > Mode > RGB Color (**Figure 17**).

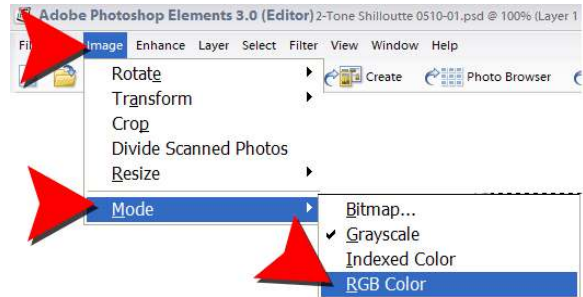



Figure 17



Figure 18

18. Do NOT flatten the photo (Figure 18).

19. Select the background again and fill with any color of your choice using the Shift key, on the keyboard and the Magic Wand () (Figure 19).

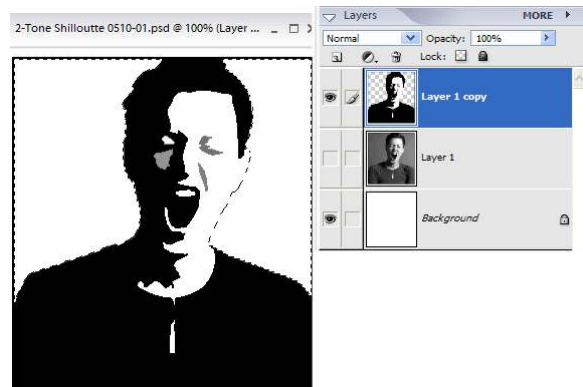


Figure 19

20. Select the Foreground Color — at the bottom of the Tools Palette (Figure 20). NOTE: The Tools Palette, in Figure 20, has been truncated.



Figure 20

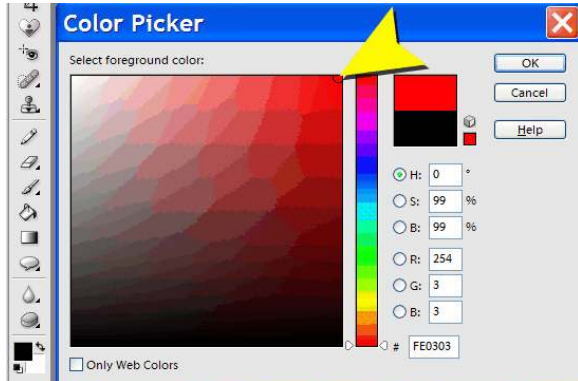


Figure 21

21. Select a color to apply to the selected areas of the photo (Figure 21).

22. Using the Paint Bucket (yellow arrow in Figure 22), pour the chosen color into the selected areas.



Figure 22

23. Flatten the Image (Figure 23):

- ❶ Click on “More” button in the Layers palette.
- ❷ Click on “Flatten Image.”

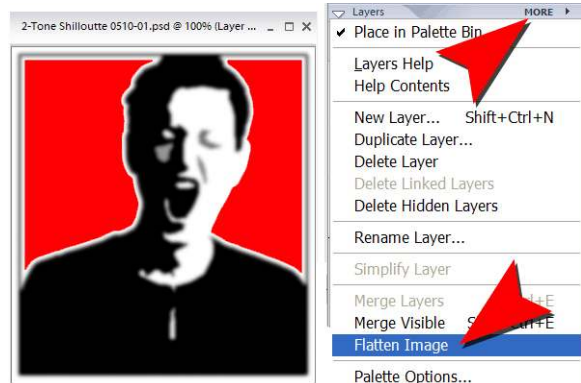


Figure 23

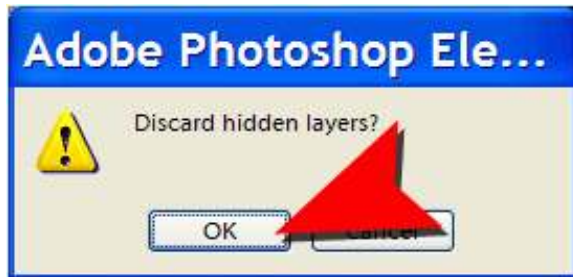


Figure 24

24. Click on “OK” button to discard the hidden layers (Figure 24). In this case, it is the original photo which we kept as a backup in case we made an error.

25. The final photo causes the subject lady to really stand out (Figure 25).



Figure 25