

A complete guide to the Photoshop blend modes...

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What do they all do and when should we use them?

Normal



The Normal blend mode is default. The two layers do not interact in any way at all.

Dissolve



Dissolve makes the lower layer take on the colours of the top layer, depending on the Opacity of the top layer, which is 50%, here.

Darken



Darken compares each pixel between the two layers and displays the darker of the two.

Multiply



Multiply darkens the lower layer based on the darkness of the upper layer.

Colour Burn



Colour Burn burns the colour of the two layers, to create a darker image.

Linear Burn



Linear Burn is similar to Multiply, only it applies a more intense finish.

Lighten



Lighten compares each pixel between the two layers and displays the lighter of the two.

Screen



Screen brightens a picture by lightening a layer based on the upper layer. It's the opposite of the Multiply.

Colour Dodge



Dodges the lower layer with the upper, to give a lighter image.

Linear Dodge



The same as Screen, just more intense.

Overlay



Overlay multiplies light colours and screens dark colours.

Soft Light



Soft Light multiplies dark tones and screens light ones.

Hard Light



Hard light does the same as Soft Light, just with colours and not tones.

Vivid Light



Vivid Light dodges or burns lower layers depending on whether the upper layers' pixels are bright or darker than a basic grey.

Linear Light



The same as Vivid light, but works on brightness and not contrast.

Pin Light



Combines both Screen and Multiply depending on whether or not the upper layer is darker or lighter than basic grey.

Difference



Inverts the colours.

Exclusion



Uses the darkness of the lower layer to mask the difference between two layers.

Hue



Hue changes just hue: not brightness or saturation.

Saturation



Alters the saturation of a lower layer, changing it to the hue of the upper layer.

Colour



Changes hue and saturation.

Luminosity



Changes luminosity of a lower layer to the luminosity of an upper layer, but changes nothing else.

Tags: blend, blend modes, colour