

Re Layout Celebrate The Graphics Fairy (by Poly Joy)

This submission is really a thank you to Karen and Emily of The Graphics Fairy Site and to all the readers who post such amazing projects that utilise graphics so painstakingly provided to us through the site (and Premium Membership).

The floral elements used in this digital layout were all sourced from the Graphics Fairy Site. Although the layouts submitted are in purely digital format, I did nevertheless use the basic layout for a birthday card in which the floral shoe (and robin) and the 11-TWO-PINK-ROSES (bottom right) were cut out with Cricut Explore and affixed to the printed card using foam pads.

Steps taken:

1. Each of the floral images was “despeckled” in Photoshop CS5 according to the amount of noise within the original image.
2. Some painting effects were added using “round soft” brushes and the “dune” brush.....Photoshop brushes.
3. The Dodge and Burn tools were used to add dimension/contrast to certain areas of the images (especially the leaves). This can be more clearly seen on the leaves of the roses layered into the Edwardian boot.
4. For each flower image, levels, contrast and colour were modified.....Image – Adjustments in Photoshop.
5. Depending upon the nature of the original image, some sharpening was also applied. I used the “high pass” option (under Filter – Other) as I have found that this filter gives more control than the Smart Sharpen filter.
6. CorelDRAW X4 and Xara Designer Pro10 were used to create the backgrounds and frame – namely a four-point gradient background and a slightly “crumpled paper” effect for the centre of the layout.
7. The Edwardian shoe and parasol were rendered in Poser Pro 2012 using models from my purchased 3D library. The boot, parasol and roses/leaves were assembled in Xara where the curved text was also created (using the fit to curve facility). The British Robin was extracted from my personal photography stash.
8. All individual images were exported to Photoshop and arranged in layers for manipulation where needed.
9. Finally a layer of sparkles was added using AutoFX Mystical Lighting – Fairy Dust.

I have provided a 6 x 6 inch .png layout in case anyone wishes to use the layout. There is also a separate .png of the Edwardian boot and flowers and a pale green “crumpled paper” in jpg format for use as a background.

This is my way of saying THANKS TO ALL ☺