

ABSTRACT PATTERN AND REPETITION IN PHOTOSHOP


Scan in your Symmetrical Composition at 300 DPI.

Use the following functions and tools in Photoshop to create a dynamic abstract design/composition that explores:

- Pattern
- Repetition
- Symmetry
- Negative space


[Preparing Your Composition.](#)

Your design must be a 1 – 1 ratio when complete. it's important to keep each iteration of your work a reasonable size and also interchangeable. See how complex you can get with your patterns!

You can use the crop  tool in your tool bar to eliminate unwanted areas or to crop your image to square proportions. Up in your tool bar select the 1:1 ratio to lock in your crop tool as a square.

Resize your image in Image>Image Size. De-select “Restrained Proportions” if your image is not quite square.

Use the Image>Adjustment tools (“levels”, colour balance etc.), Spot Healing Brush, Clone Stamp Tool and your Polygonal Lasso Tool to improve your image. Your teacher will demonstrate the use of these tools but feel free to look up tutorials on the internet for additional information.


You can explore the Clone Stamp tool  to recreate a coloured or textured area or to hide blemishes. You can also use the spot healing brush (it looks like a bandage).

[Creating Basic Repetitions.](#)

Select All (Command A) and Copy (Command C) to create a copy of your composition.

In Image>CanvasSize select a black background, anchor your image to the top left and increase the size of your canvas by doubling the height and width.

Now paste your image three times (Command V).

The Move Tool  will allow you to move new selections into alignment with the old image to create a mirrored or tiled image and to create a more dynamic and visually interesting composition.. Repeat as many times as you like both horizontally and vertically (remember to increase your canvas size as you do it though). The cursor keys paired with the Zoom tool



will allow you to make fine adjustments.

You can rotate each selection through the edit>transform>rotate function. It's nice to rotate the bottom two images 180 degrees.

Make sure you Flatten the image (there will be a number of layers) by going to Layer in your menu bar then scrolling all the way down to "Flatten Image".

Resize your image to its original size in your Menu bar: Image>Canvas Size.

Make sure you save your file by going to your menu bar and under "File" select "Save As". Name your new repetition a new name. This will create a new version of your image without over-writing the old one. You should have multiple versions of your composition/pattern by the time you are done this step.

[Creating More Complex Repetitions and More Interesting Compositions.](#)

This is where your creativity and dedication to exploration comes in.

Make changes in Colour. (Image>Adjustment functions or Paint Bucket Tool)

Create new areas of Negative space. Erase things (Clone Stamp Tool!) create new patterns WITH the negative space.

Play with Scale.

Are there ways of creating patterns that are not strictly checkerboard?

Feel free to try new things – maybe ideas that have not been suggested to you.

Have fun!
