Photoshop Tip: Make Shadows

Watch this tip,

By Bert Monroy

On today's show, I'll show you how to make shadows. Shadows give your images more depth and detail. Here's how it's done (To see this in action, watch the video clip on the right).

1. The layer that contained the tree was duplicated.

2. The duplicate was filled with black. Make sure to lock the transparency.

3. The black tree layer was duplicated again and skewed to travel along the ground plane.

4. Transparency was unlocked and Gaussian Blur was applied through an alpha channel to soften the shadow as it traveled away from the tree.

5. The Opacity was lowered.

6. A Layer Mask was applied to hide the area of the shadow that bled over the wall.

7. The second black tree layer was moved into position over the wall.

8. It was reduced in size to simulate distance.

9. It was blurred and reduced in opacity using the same parameters as the first shadow.

10. A Layer Mask was added to hide the portion of the shadow bleeding onto the ground.

Bert Monroy is a digital artist and author of "Bert Monroy: Photorealistic Techniques with Photoshop and Illustrator." Bert's book can be purchased from Amazon.com.

Originally posted May 13, 2002