



Perhaps you are of the likes of Katrin Eissman, who realized that she could not get all she wanted to express with a single camera shot and decided to make image composites. She started out cutting photos with her scissors, put them together with tape or did photo-montages in the darkroom, until one day she found that a computer offered the possibility of putting her ideas to practice in a much faster, easier and simple way.

This new book by Katrin is the kind you want to keep right next to the coffee mug because it will often get you out of trouble. This book is for anyone using Photoshop who wants to get acquainted with or would like to improve his or her selection techniques.

The book has four sections:

- * Tools and selection techniques
- * Working with layers
- * Masks
- * Selecting and working with very detailed images.

Katrin explains that, before starting to manipulate an image, we must be very clear about what we want to accomplish, this will enable us to decide which is the most appropriate selection method. We tend to use recipes and each image requires something different due to its color, texture or the way it will be combined.

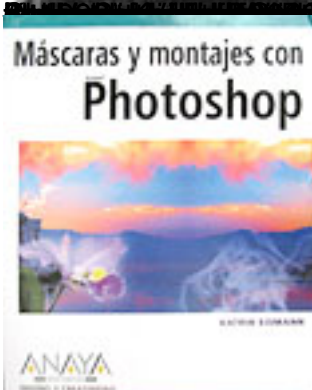
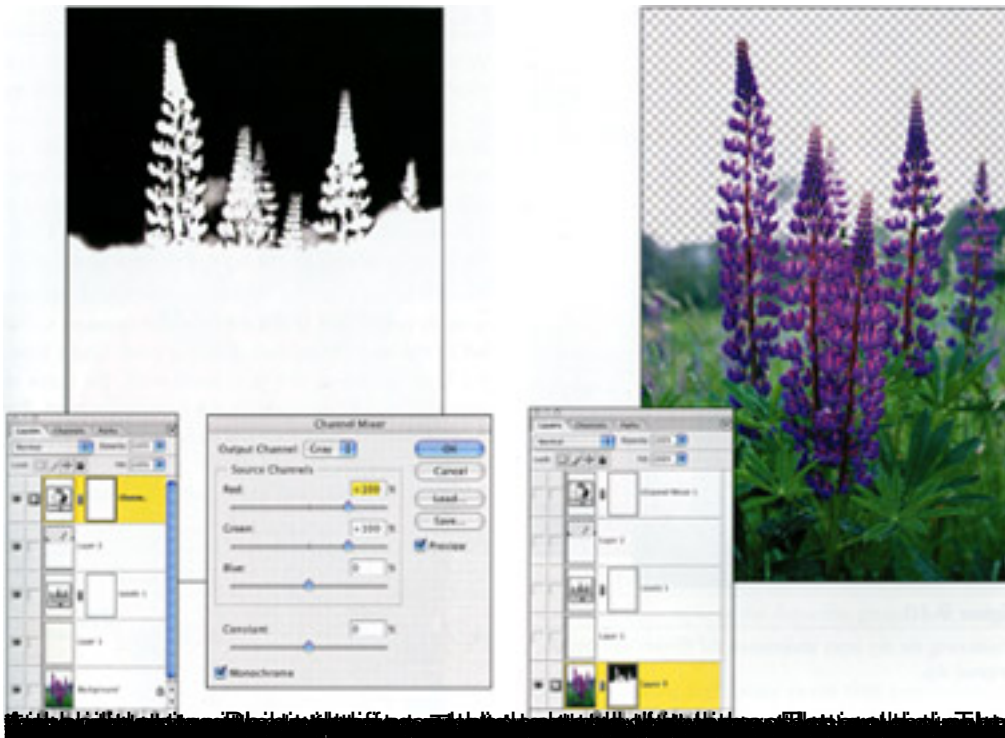
We must take into account that the original digital photos (the ones coming from the camera or scanner, the background layer) are like the negatives, so they should not be altered. She advises to make a copy of the background layer file before starting. Even though this takes up space of your hard drive, you cannot afford the risk of losing an image if you have second thoughts.

She recommends to always have a camera with you, so you can shoot your own image bank,

this will ensure that you have the material you need, according to your needs and personal style.

The book opens up the door to use tools that are forgotten because they are so intimidating, like the pen tool. She tells us effective ways to use it, and makes us understand that mastering this tool requires patience.

“Masks are your friends” is the title of a chapter that seeks that the reader will lose the fear of using this technique. The function of a mask is to control, which part of the image will be modified and which will not. Katrin suggests a variety of efficient solutions, with tools I thought were meant to do other things, such as filters, channels, layers and color contrast, which render impeccable selections without having to spend long hours painting with the brush tool or clicking the mouse hundreds of times.



<http://www.zonahorizonte.com/foro/2010/01/06/ps-que-es-un-mask/>

which is a must for every photographer, is now also