



GRC 101
INTRODUCTION TO
GRAPHIC COMMUNICATIONS

CLONING STAMP MAGIC

Information
Sheet No.

514

An Indispensable Photoshop Tool

Once you become comfortable with Photoshop, you'll be surprised at how often you'll be asked to do the impossible. Can you get rid of those leaves in the background? Can you get rid of those pimples on my wedding picture? Well, if you get asked that again... say yes.

The clone tool is one of the easiest and fastest way to make some of these adjustments. You'll love

what it can do for you. Your friends, family and (hopefully) your clients bow down at my feet in astonishment over some pretty easy tasks.

Remember to always say "sure, I can do it, but it's gonna cost you." Just kidding.

Let's start with a photo Victrola Museum at the Delaware state capitol in Dover.

See the rope around the two victrolas on the



left? It intrudes into the subject. Let's get rid of it.

Now get your cloning stamp tool (the circled tool pictured to the left (below)).



The trick to this is that you want to find an area that matches the color and pixel assortment of the area you are going to change. Zoom in to your picture very closely. Here you can see that the walls, display pedestals and floor are obvious areas that are different from one another. The floor where the support poles rest is darker than the wall or pedestals. Let's take a sample of that area to "erase" the pole.

Hold down your alt key and click in the floor area, not too far away from the pole. Select a brush size by hitting your [key for smaller sizes and your] key for larger before you do this. Pick a size that will fit within the pole or its base. Use something small. Now go over to the pole make some clicks right on top of. You should get something like the photo below. On the left is circled the sample area. The circle is a little bigger than the sample brush used.



To finish the remaining portions, just do the same thing. Match the color with the area you are going to "erase" by looking closely around the area and finding a match. Then you can click on the area to get rid of. Don't forget the shadows being cast on the floor and walls.

Here are a few tips:

1. Use a smaller brush when in doubt.
2. Only make a few clicks at a time, and then go back to take another small sample. The results are always better this way.
3. Try not to take sweeping strokes as you would

with a paintbrush. You lose control and your computer will sometimes bog down a bit.

4. Take your time and use your history palette if something goes wrong. You can always do it over.

5. Always make a copy of the layer you are going to work on. You'll save yourself a headache. Trust me.

5. Have fun

Below is the first phase of the final product. Not too bad for about 2 minutes of work. In your careers you will find much more challenging pieces to deal with than this one, but in time you'll have it mastered.



Now, remove the glass partition between the two machines on the left, the stairway and the glass enclosure around the machine on the right. No cropping allowed!