TackIt! Mini Instructions

Thank you for downloading the TackIt! Mini Action! These instructions will assist you in your use of this action by providing guidelines for use and explaining some of the steps involved in creating the TackIt! Mini effect.

What's Included:

- The TackIt! Mini action
- The "Tack" (small) Photoshop file
- These Instructions

How to use the actions:

- Load the "TackIt! Mini.atn" file into Photoshop via the "Actions" palette.
- Choose one of the "TackIt! Mini action and press the "play" button.

Special Customization Instructions:

The Picture Border
Early on, the action will bring up a prompt asking you to choose a pixel value for the border you want on your picture. When the "Canvas Size" dialog comes up, make sure you enter a PIXEL value (not percent). If you don't want a border at all in the finished effect, enter 0 in the width and height fields. In any case, both width and height should be the same value.

The Picture and Tack Shadows
There are options for adjusting the amount of blur applied to the shadows of both the picture and the tack. Adjust the default values up or down as desired. The higher the value, the softer the shadow.

Including the "Tack.psd" File in the Action
You will be asked to open the "Tack.psd" file and drag the tack onto the picture effect. To do so, simply open the file, and with the selection tool (arrow), drag the tack onto your picture (NOTE: The "Tack" and Shadow" layers are linked, so there is no need ot merge or flatten the Tack.psd document before dragging. In fact, doing so will cause the action to error!). This will place both layers of the Tack onto your picture effect. They should be the topmost layers in the document.
You may want to adjust the tack for size once it is placed in the picture effect. To do so, choose "Edit, Free Transform" (or Ctrl/Cmd-T), and drag the sizing handles while holding down the "shift" key (to maintain proportions).
As a side, please DO NOT EDIT the "Tack.psd" file (at least without backing up the original first), as changes to this file may cause the action set to error!

Changing the Color of the Tack
A prompt will come up which will give you the option of adjusting the color/saturation of the tack. Simply adjust the sliders as desired.

Choosing Whether to Merge Layers or not

Near the end of the action, you'll see a prompt asking you whether you want to continue with the action and merge some layers (to make it easier to drag and drop the effect into another document) or whether to stop at the current point.

If you like the way the picture looks and don't want to do a lot of customization, then you may choose to continue and merge layers. If, however, you want to do some more customization, then stop at this point.

A Note about The Shear Filter:

If you encounter an instance where the curvature of your picture looks jagged or sudden instead of smooth, you might need to reset the Shear filter to its default values and run the action again. To reset this filter, simply choose Filter/Distort/Shear from the menu (while an image is open), press the "Defaults" button, and then choose "OK". This should reset the filter and when you run the action again, the curves on the images should be smooth.

I hope you enjoy this action and have fun with it! If you have other questions or comments about this set (or any of my work for that matter), please feel free to e-mail me or post in the FinesseFX forum.

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