



# PHOTOSHOP BLEND MODES

## FOUNDATION & CONTRAST

27 modes in six logical groups. Examples use a cyan–amber test layer at 72% opacity over two photographs.

EFFECT GROUP / MODE

EXAMPLES: WASTWATER AND KILMARTIN

WHAT IT DOES

|                  |              |                                                                                     |                                                                                      |                                                                             |
|------------------|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| FOUNDATION GROUP |              |                                                                                     |                                                                                      |                                                                             |
| 1                | Normal       |    |    | Uses the blend layer without a mathematical mix.                            |
|                  |              | WASTWATER                                                                           | KIL MARTIN                                                                           |                                                                             |
| 2                | Dissolve     |    |    | Randomly swaps blend pixels into the base; most visible below full opacity. |
|                  |              | WASTWATER                                                                           | KIL MARTIN                                                                           |                                                                             |
| CONTRAST GROUP   |              |                                                                                     |                                                                                      |                                                                             |
| 3                | Overlay      |    |    | Multiplies darks and screens lights for crisp contrast.                     |
|                  |              | WASTWATER                                                                           | KIL MARTIN                                                                           |                                                                             |
| 4                | Soft Light   |   |   | A gentler contrast and tonal-shaping effect.                                |
|                  |              | WASTWATER                                                                           | KIL MARTIN                                                                           |                                                                             |
| 5                | Hard Light   |  |  | A stronger Overlay effect driven by the blend layer.                        |
|                  |              | WASTWATER                                                                           | KIL MARTIN                                                                           |                                                                             |
| 6                | Vivid Light  |  |  | Burns or dodges strongly for dramatic colour and contrast.                  |
|                  |              | WASTWATER                                                                           | KIL MARTIN                                                                           |                                                                             |
| 7                | Linear Light |  |  | Adds or subtracts brightness for a forceful contrast shift.                 |
|                  |              | WASTWATER                                                                           | KIL MARTIN                                                                           |                                                                             |
| 8                | Pin Light    |  |  | Replaces mid-range values with lighter or darker blend values.              |
|                  |              | WASTWATER                                                                           | KIL MARTIN                                                                           |                                                                             |
| 9                | Hard Mix     |  |  | Reduces channels to hard colour decisions for a graphic result.             |
|                  |              | WASTWATER                                                                           | KIL MARTIN                                                                           |                                                                             |



# PHOTOSHOP BLEND MODES

## DARKENING & DIFFERENCE

27 modes in six logical groups. Examples use a cyan–amber test layer at 72% opacity over two photographs.

EFFECT GROUP / MODE

EXAMPLES: WASTWATER AND KILMARTIN

WHAT IT DOES

|                        |                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                 |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>DARKEN GROUP</b>    |                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                 |
| <b>10 Darken</b>       |       | Keeps the darker value in each colour channel.                                  |
| <b>11 Multiply</b>     |       | Multiplies values, darkening the image like stacked filters.                    |
| <b>12 Color Burn</b>   |       | Darkens while increasing contrast and colour density.                           |
| <b>13 Linear Burn</b>  |     | Adds values then subtracts white, producing dense shadows.                      |
| <b>14 Darker Color</b> |   | Keeps the darker complete colour rather than channel-by-channel values.         |
| <b>INVERSION GROUP</b> |                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                 |
| <b>15 Difference</b>   |   | Displays the absolute difference between base and blend.                        |
| <b>16 Exclusion</b>    |   | A softer, lower-contrast Difference result.                                     |
| <b>17 Subtract</b>     |   | Subtracts blend values from the base, often producing deep colour.              |
| <b>18 Divide</b>       |   | Divides base values by blend values, typically brightening and shifting colour. |



# PHOTOSHOP BLEND MODES

## LIGHTENING & COLOUR COMPONENTS

27 modes in six logical groups. Examples use a cyan–amber test layer at 72% opacity over two photographs.

EFFECT GROUP / MODE

EXAMPLES: WASTWATER AND KILMARTIN

WHAT IT DOES

|                 |                    |                                                                          |
|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| LIGHTEN GROUP   |                    |                                                                          |
| 19              | Lighten            | Keeps the lighter value in each colour channel.                          |
| 20              | Screen             | Brightens by inverting, multiplying, then inverting again.               |
| 21              | Color Dodge        | Brightens and increases contrast, especially in highlights.              |
| 22              | Linear Dodge (Add) | Adds blend values to brighten quickly.                                   |
| 23              | Lighter Color      | Keeps the lighter complete colour rather than channel-by-channel values. |
| COMPONENT GROUP |                    |                                                                          |
| 24              | Hue                | Uses the blend hue while retaining base saturation and luminosity.       |
| 25              | Saturation         | Uses blend saturation while retaining base hue and luminosity.           |
| 26              | Color              | Uses blend hue and saturation while retaining base luminosity.           |
| 27              | Luminosity         | Uses blend luminosity while retaining base hue and saturation.           |