Photoshop – Frozen Fonts

Use filters and other effects in Photoshop to make letters take on the characteristics of the word they spell, such as ICICLES.

Note: Photoshop CS2 was used in this exercise; if using Photoshop Elements 6, ignore item 2.

1. Create new Photoshop document with a black background and enter some text in a heavy font (e.g. Arial Black), font colour white and a large point size. For this example we are typing ICICLES since we wish to create the icicle effect.

2. Select the Text layer by clicking on the layer thumbnail in the Layer palette. In the Menu bar click on **Layer**, **Rasterize**, **Layer**; the layer is now rasterised and the text you typed in the layer will appear in the layer thumbnail.

3. Ensure that the former "Text" layer is still selected; you open the **Filter** menu, click on **Noise**, **Add Noise** and click **OK**. Still in the **Filter** menu, click on **Pixelate**, **Crystallize**, choose a small **Cell Size** (e.g. 5) and click **OK**.

4. To create the icicle effect, turn the "Text" layer on its side by choosing the **Edit** menu, **Transform**, **Rotate 90° CW**. In the **Filter** menu, select **Stylize**, **Wind** and in the resulting dialogue box set the **Method** to **'Wind'** and the **Direction 'From the Right'**, and then click **OK**. Reapply the filter several times by pressing **Ctrl + F** and watch the icicles grow.

5. Rotate the "Text" layer back to its original orientation and add a **Hue/Saturation** layer to reduce the red hues in the text and increase the blue hues slightly to give the lettering an authentic icy appearance.

   To do this you select the **Layer** menu, **New Adjustment Layer**, **Hue/Saturation …** Click **OK** in the resulting **New Layer** dialogue box, a **Hue/Saturation** dialogue box will appear. Make sure the **Colorize** and **Preview** boxes are checked, set the **Hue** to 173, the **Saturation** to 35 and the **Lightness** to 0.

   Click **OK** for the selections to take effect.

Using white text

Using coloured (RGB blue) text

The illustrations above are the result of the exercise.