



TERMINATOR VS PREDATOR

1. INTRODUCTION

This tutorial is made more for the editors own sake and will to explore the features of video editing software, than practical use perhaps. But still, you'll might find it useful as VE points to some effects that you can make on your computer in order to give your movie a special touch.

In this tutorial VE has made red robot eyes (a bit like "Terminator") and a scope somewhat like the one used by the predator in "Predator". The point is to give you some inputs on what you can do with some easy tricks and adjustments and perhaps inspire you to play around with your movies and video projects.

2. STARTING

VE has used Photoshop in order to make the effects, but most photo editing software will "take care of business" since there are not many specifications needed. The most important one is the possibility to save transparency and export with this feature.

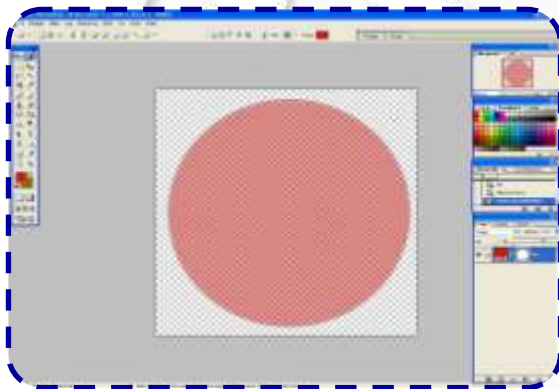


Fig. 1

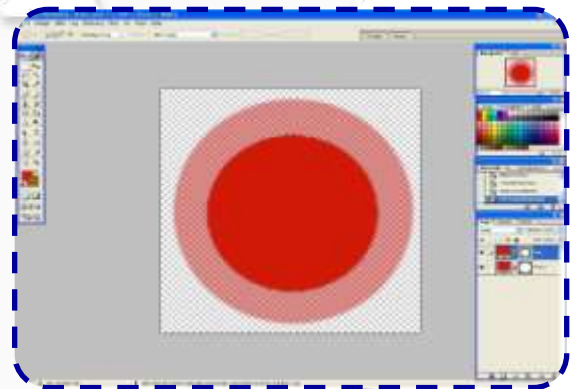


Fig. 2

Simply create a round circle, paint it red and adjust the transparency since this will form the outer part of the eye. This is done in Fig. 1. In Fig. 2, VE has added another circle making this solid red. This will be the centre of the eye. If you plan to make the eye zoom in and out, you should make more layers with the different settings and appropriate size.

Save the individual images and you have made "Terminator" eyes.

3. IMPORTING AND USING

In Fig. 3, VE has imported the image and placed this on top of the original movie clip. There are many options and adjustments to be made. If the person is sitting still, it's quite easy, but if the person is moving there might be a challenge to have the red eye follow and replace the normal eye.

Keyframing is one option if your software supports this feature (along with size). If not, you might have to copy the same image several times and make the individual settings to get the image replace the eye. Same procedure goes with zooming.



Fig. 3

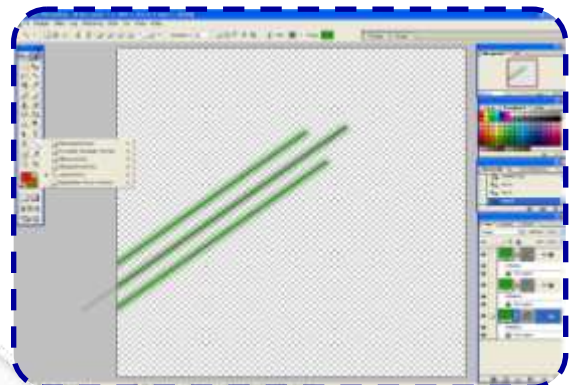


Fig. 4

4. SCOPE

Not much fun having a normal scope flying over the screen. Why not try to make a Predator look-alike scope? That is of course if you need a scope to your movie.... In Fig. 4, VE has opened Photoshop and added 3 lines. This can also be made with more low budget software without any difficulties. Once again, the one important thing is the ability to export transparency.

In Fig. 5, the setting for the lines is adjusted giving them an outer glow. This is just one example of how you can do it. You can have other lines underneath and group the layers to getter or add shadows. Many options and things you can do.

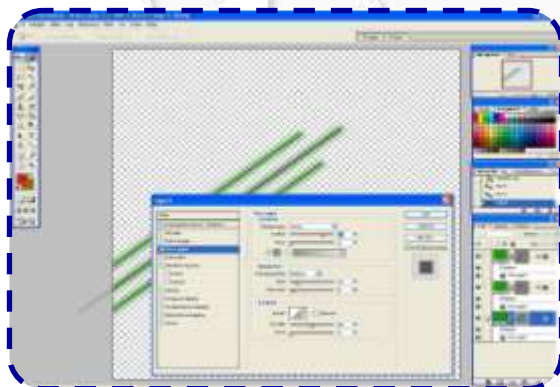


Fig. 5

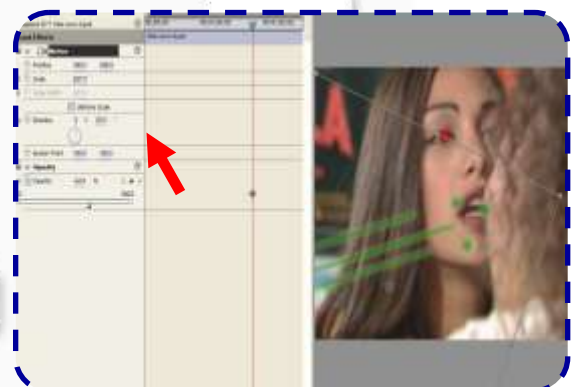


Fig. 6

5. CONCLUSION

As you can see from Fig. 6, the added effect isn't that great. It hasn't been fine-tuned. But with opacity, keyframing, zooming (red arrow) and perhaps a trip back to edit the original, you should be home free.

Trying and perhaps failing is useful in the respect of learning. Hope you have gained some ideas about what you can do to make some simple effects. ■■