

014. Toning with Letraset Digital Tone - By Sonia Leong

Manga School



veatdro
MANGA STUDIOS
www.veatdro.com

Calling all budding manga artists out there! Take a seat - the class is starting.

Each issue in *M4U* magazine, different artists from Veatdro Studios will be taking you through the stages of creating a piece of artwork, from pencil sketches, to rough marker pieces, to full pages of manga! Each will be offering not only hints and tips on creating your own artwork, but also an insight into their own methods and techniques. Once again, we're concentrating on tone this issue! If you want to try the digital approach, here's another method, this time using the handy Letraset tone CD by Sonia Leong. Takes you through how to use Photoshop, with the tones made available in digital format by Letraset, to create a professional looking page with ease! Pencils at the ready! Class in progress...

Using Letraset Digital-Tone

With tools and time around being pushed at the moment as software and technology improves, many artists choose to add tone digitally to their manga pages. This is often more cost-effective (as you can avoid the cost of ink), and makes correcting mistakes a lot easier! Letraset has produced a series of Digital-Tone product kits especially for such artists, containing many patterns in a CD (the added benefit of these kits is that should you wish to take a little time, say, months, they come with ten sheets of glass-coated sublimation film, so that you can print out the tone to use by hand). The process of toning digitally is very similar to that of toning by hand - you place layers of one through line on top of your layer of artwork. In this example, Adobe Photoshop CS is being used, but any graphical editing software with a layer function should work in similar way and produce similar results.



Grab your tone

Open a tone from the Letraset CD. This is a 100% grey at 100 density, a medium line, light grey. Select an amount slightly larger than the area you wish to tone. Copy/Clipboard it.



Prepare your lineart

Make sure that your lineart is as crisp and clean as possible. If you have traced digitally, it should already be fine. If scanned in, get rid of any grey pixels (smudges) by converting it to pure black and white (Go to 'Image', then 'Adjustments' and select 'Threshold'). Work at 600dpi for a detailed finish. It may look jagged on screen, but will reproduce well in print.

Letraset manufacturers and supplies high quality art materials especially for manga. Whether you're an experienced artist or just getting started, our dedicated staff at store includes everything you need. For markers, pens, felt tips, digital products and more go to www.letraset.com or call 01203 258 875 to find a local stockist.

Paste your tone

Paste it on a layer above your lineart. Make the white areas of the line art see-through by changing the layer setting to 'Multiply'.



Other techniques

Open up a tone sheet, then go to edit > Define pattern. Name and save it. Select the pattern stamp tool, and select the pattern you have just saved. Then paint on the tone like you would draw with any brush.



Cut out unwanted areas

Highlighting this is a number of steps:

1. Use the 'Eraser' tool to go beyond the edges by hand and delete.
2. Use the 'Eraser' to rub them out.
3. Use the 'Magic Wand' to select enclosed areas to delete. Hit 'Eraser' 'Background' tab is helpful at the top of the screen. For to your lineart layer, select areas you need to rub out to select more than the area that go to your lineart layer and delete as needed.



Haze etching (Sand eraser)

Create a soft etched look by using a white eraser tool by using a white eraser tool and erasing the 'Stroke' option, then adding new lines to be highlighted. This keeps you etching in black and white without introducing greys.



SWEATDROP STUDIOS

is always, for any further information on techniques or styles and please do head over to www.sweatdropstudios.com, where you can share ideas and artwork as well as browse Sweatdrop's own range of original UK manga. We will also be at the various fairs in Scotland, and the International Manga and Anime Festival in November, in addition to a number of one-day events in various places like festivals - please check out our schedule and come and say hello!



Layer your tones

Tone is a core member of Sweatdrop and creator of Once Upon A Time and Telling Stories. Other achievements include winner - M3 Magazine's 2004 manga competition, judge - International Manga & Anime Festival, 2nd Place - SCOTTMOP, first 30 Rising Stars of Manga competition. Her work appears in the British manga magazine (2006). Her manga adaptation of Akira's a job will be published January 2007.



Layer your tones

Place tones at top of set another for added sophistication. Experiment with different textures, or alignment.

