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Emulate Obama's stylised poster

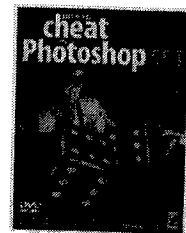
One of the most memorable images of the recent US presidential campaign was Barack Obama's 'Hope' poster. Here's how to create your own.

The stark Barack Obama poster – designed by Shepard Fairey in 2008 – is reminiscent of Russian revolutionary art in its highly stylised, graphic approach. The image of Obama gazing into the distance, the word 'hope' emblazoned in capitals beneath him, became a symbol his supporters could rally behind for his US presidential campaign.

To achieve an effect that's as good as the original takes a high degree of design expertise. However, we'll look at a way we can easily reproduce the style in Photoshop. In this example, we'll create an Obama-style birthday card for our grandfather.

The technique is similar to that used to recreate the sort of pop art print popularised by Andy Warhol, in that it involves duplicating an original photograph several times and applying a slightly different version of the same treatment to each one.

Our version uses Photoshop's Stamp filter, although we could achieve a similar effect using the Threshold adjustment instead. We find that the Stamp filter produces smoother results and requires no further processing – unlike the Threshold adjustment, which always needs some smoothing to avoid a ragged, unsightly edge.



Steve Caplin is a freelance illustrator specialising in photomontage. His latest book, *Art & Design in Photoshop*, is published by Focal Press.

Kit required Photoshop

