

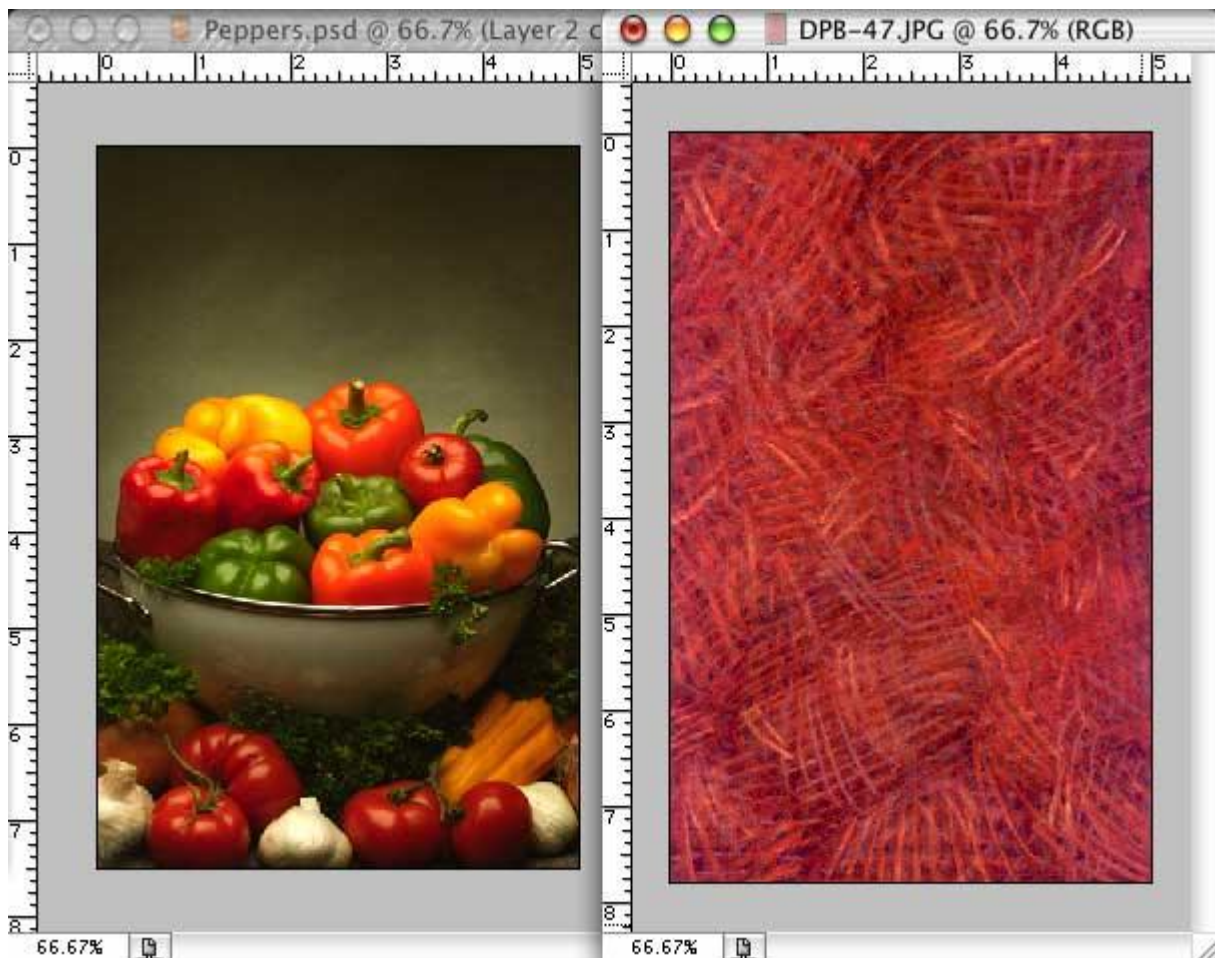
It's All About Layer Adjustments

By Rick Wetzel

Whenever I add a background texture to a photograph, I always play with the layer adjustment drop down menu and the opacity levels. In this tutorial, I take one of my [Digital Pastel](#) backgrounds, merge it with a studio image and use layer adjustments for an artistic effect.

STEP 1

Open both images and place them side by side. I scaled the Pastel to the approximate size of the peppers photo. Select the entire Pastel (Select>All) and copy (Edit>Copy).



STEP 2

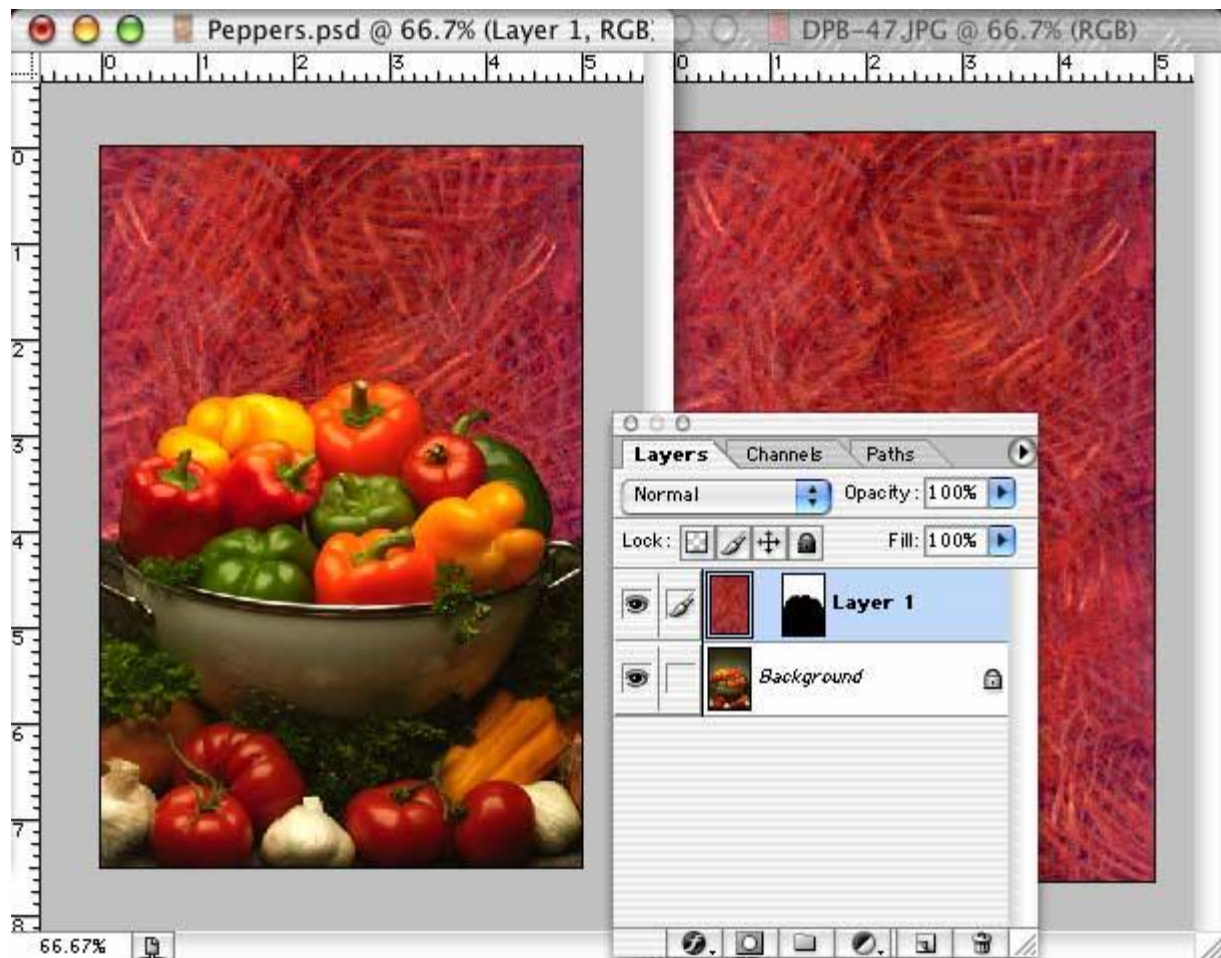
Select the background of the peppers with the Magic Wand, Pen Tool, or Lasso - your choice.



STEP 3

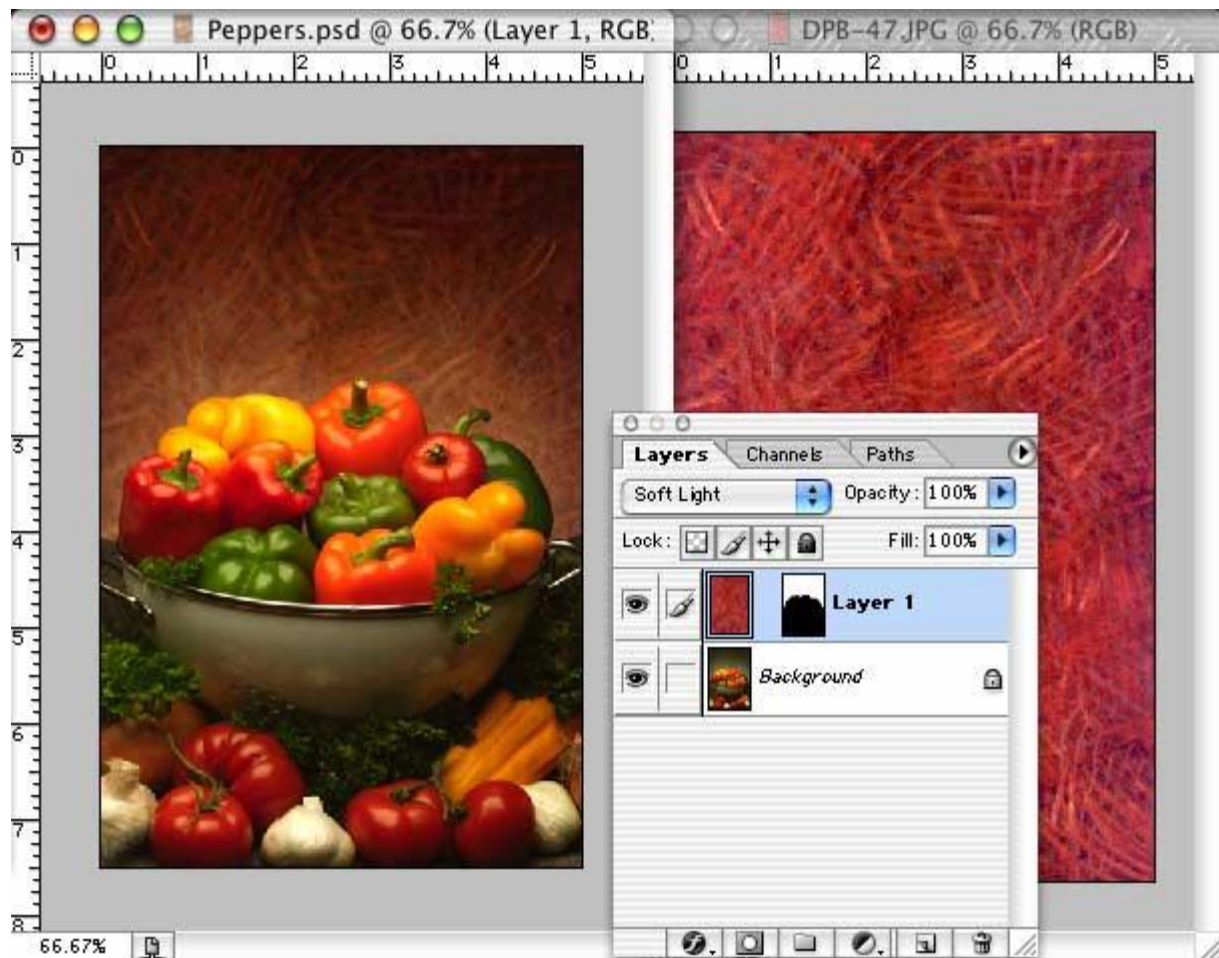
Click on the Layers Tab again. Choose Edit>Paste Inside from the main menu.

Now you can have some fun. Try experimenting with the Layer Adjustment drop down menu. Typically, I try all of the options - dissolve, multiply, darken, etc. until I find one I like. I also tinker with the Opacity. Sometimes a layer adjustment effect is too strong, and can be dialed back.



STEP 4

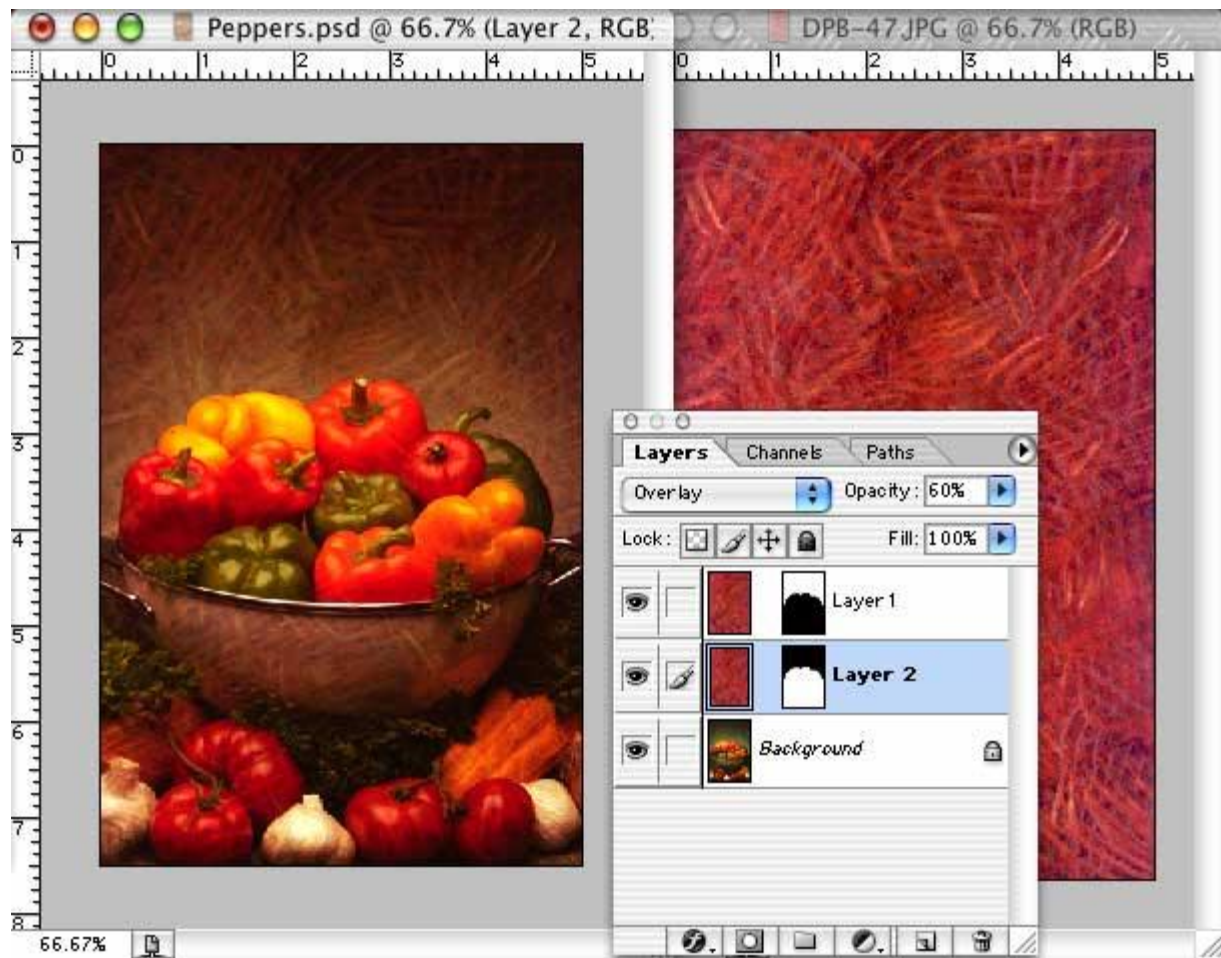
I choose Soft Light but kept the opacity at 100%.



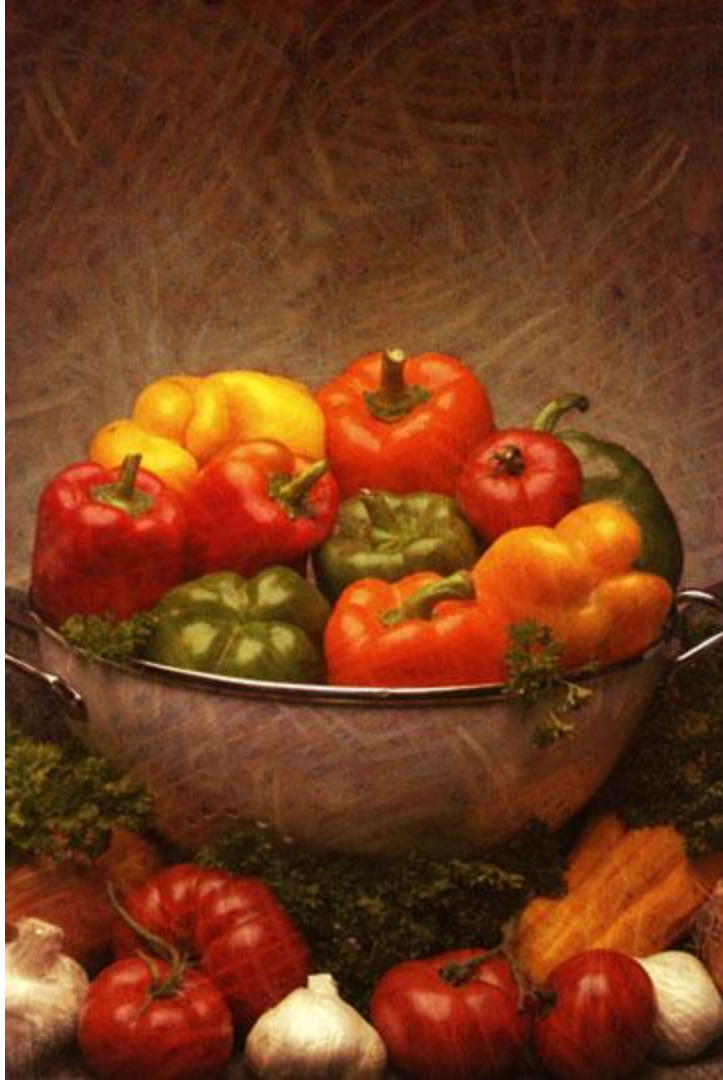
STEP 5

I wasn't quite happy with final product and felt rest of the photograph needed a subtle touch of the pastel background. To quickly make a new mask; reselect the old mask and invert. Just command click the black & white mask in the Layers Window using the Move Tool. With the original area selected, go to the main menu and choose **Select>Inverse**.

Once again, choose **Edit>Paste Inside** and experiment with the Layers adjustment drop down menu. I choose **Overlay** with an opacity of 60%.



The final product after only a couple minutes of work. Don't forget, it's the Layer Adjustments.



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