Golden Fall Photos

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by Nannette Dalton

I love autumn! It is a time for apple orchards, pumpkin patches, baking, gorgeous foliage, canning, and built-in quality family time. Here where I live, autumn is one of the most magical seasons of the year.

Did you know that light actually changes in Autumn? As winter draws in, the sun moves through a lower arc in the sky, and light angles become much longer and more golden. I am not always able to capture this effect in my photography, but I can, with the help of Photoshop, replicate it and enhance it.

Step One: Open and Duplicate a Photo

- Open a photo (File > Open).
- In the Menu Bar, choose File > Duplicate and click OK. (Photoshop: Choose Image > Duplicate.)
- Close the original photo.

Here is a photo that was taken in the fall, but which lacks that golden touch.

Step Two: Apply Color Adjustment Layers

- In the Layers panel, click on the Create New Fill or Adjustment layer icon and choose Solid Color.

- In the dialog box, enter Hex Code #614019 and click OK.

- In the Layers panel, change the Blend Mode to Overlay and the Opacity to 45%.

- In the Layers panel, click on the Create New Fill or Adjustment layer icon and choose Solid Color.

- In the dialog box, enter Hex Code #f1ebd9 and click OK.

- In the Layers panel, change the Blend Mode to Soft Light and the Opacity anywhere between 50–100%, depending on the photo.

Step Three: Add a Vignette

- Press the letter D to reset the Color Chips to the default of black and white.

- In the Layers panel, click on the Create New Fill or Adjustment layer icon and choose Gradient.

- In the dialog box, open the Gradient Picker and choose Foreground to Transparent. If you don't see Foreground to Transparent, open the drop-down menu and choose Default. (Photoshop: Open the fly-out menu, choose Reset Gradients, and click OK.) Set the Style to Radial, set the Angle 90°, check Reverse and Align With Layer, and set the Scale to your liking.

Note: Photoshop Elements users will probably want to set the Scale at 150%. Photoshop users will have a little more flexibility.

Step Four: Save the Photo

- In the Menu Bar, Choose Layer > Flatten Image.

- Save the photo with a unique name (File > Save As).

Here is the photo before and after the effect was been applied. I feel like it gives the photo more of that warm autumn feel.

A boy and his stick

Hyrum, you are the busiest little boy I have ever met. Even busier than your dad and that is saying a lot. You are non-stop action! It is hard to get a photo of you where you are just sitting still. I love these photos of you playing with a stick. It doesn't take much to make you happy. I love you little man!

Credits:
Digi Scrap Tutorial: Golden Fall Photos by Nannette Dalton
Software: Photoshop Elements 12, Adobe Photoshop CC 2014
Scrapbook page: Boy and His Stick by Nannette Dalton
Papers and embellishments: Autumn Days by Kristin Cronin-Barrow
Fonts: Garamond Italic, Arial Narrow