



Abstract Art with the Median Filter

by Jenifer Juris

Learn how to make a patterned paper look like abstract art with the use of the Median Filter.

For this tutorial you will need:

- The patterned paper from the download or a patterned paper of your own
- Adobe Photoshop or Photoshop Elements

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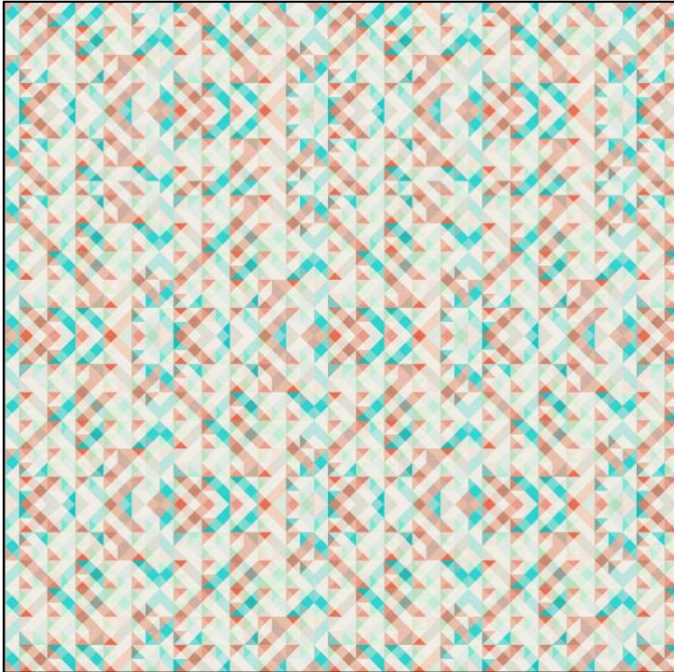
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Step One: Prepare the Workspace

- Open the paper5-Thankful-KarlaDudley.jpg file (File > Open) from the downloads.
- In the Menu Bar, choose File > Duplicate to create a copy. (PS: Choose Image > Duplicate).
- In the dialog box, click OK.
- Close the original paper file.

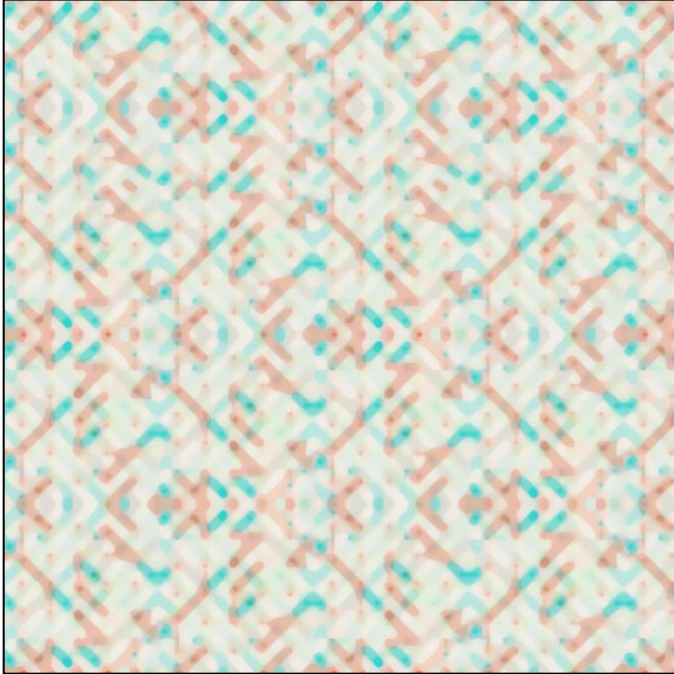


Step Two: Apply the Median Filter

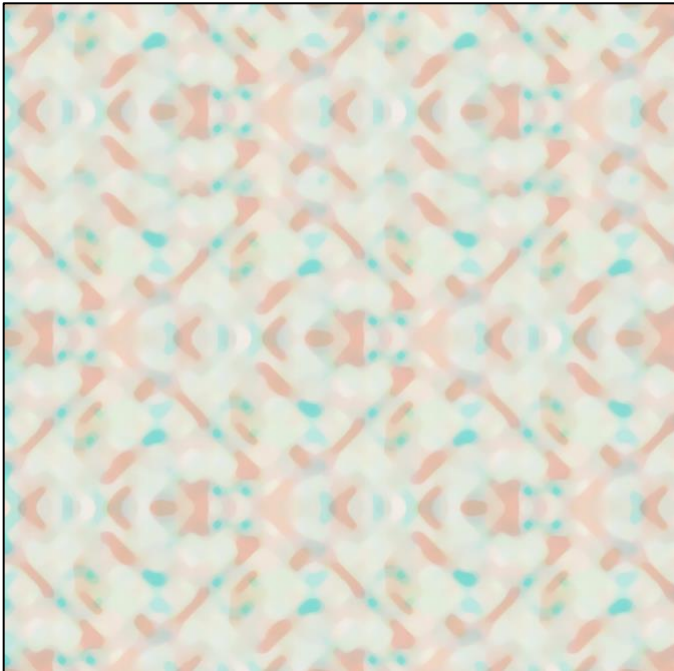
- In the Menu Bar, choose Filter > Noise > Median.

NOTE: This filter works by averaging together the colors. The higher the Radius setting, the softer and more diffuse the look. The lower the Radius setting, the closer it looks to the original paper.

- In the dialog box, set the Radius to 35 px and then click OK.



- If you wanted a softer look, you could repeat the filter by going to the Menu Bar and choose Filter > Noise > Median.
- In the dialog box, set the Radius to 50 px and then click OK.



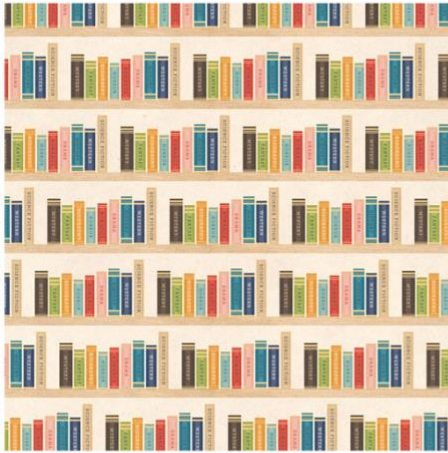
- Press Ctrl Z (Mac: Cmd Z) to Undo the change and go back to the 35 px version, but feel free to keep the softer version if you prefer it.

Step Three: Save As

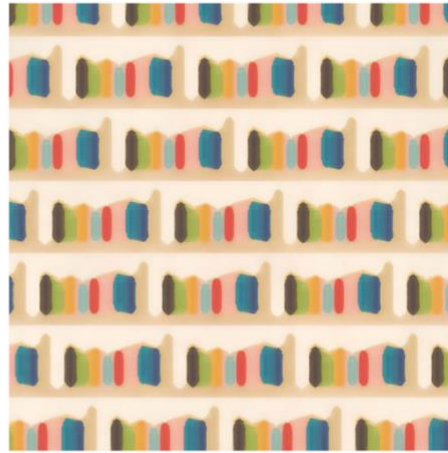
- Save the document (File > Save As) as a high-quality JPEG file with a unique name.

Here's how a few more papers look after applying the same filter to it:

BEFORE:



AFTER:



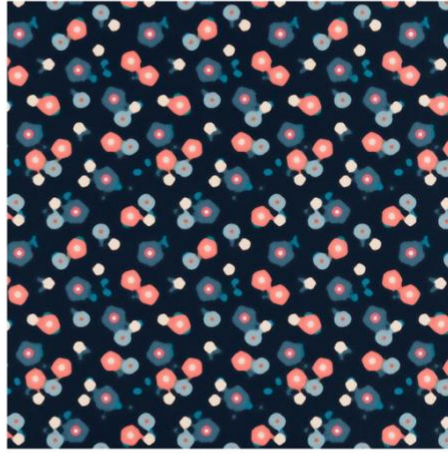
50 px Radius

I love how this first example ends up looking like repeated brush strokes of paint.

BEFORE:



AFTER:



32 px Radius

I really like how the filter made this flower pattern more abstract. It also softens the look so that it's less visually distracting as a background.

BEFORE:



AFTER:



32 px Radius

In this third example, I really love how the pattern of the leaves made something totally new. It looks like modern art, or something you'd see as a cool wallpaper pattern.

Here's the scrapbook page I made using the third example image as the background. This paper I made using the median filter gave me such a perfect background for the pictures I wanted to scrap. The light blue was the prominent color, but the averaging of the colors brought some pink, which was perfect for a page about my niece. I love how this effect softened the pattern of this paper, giving me a perfect piece of art to work with.



Credits:

Paper from tutorial: from the Thankful kit by Karla Dudley

Example 1: Paper 9 from Bibliophile by Kristin Cronin-Barrow

Example 2: Paper 12 from Yes You Can by Bellisae

Example 3: Paper 3 from Faith Love Hope by Kim B Designs

Page & Photos: Jenifer Juris

Kit: Faith Love Hope by Kim B Designs

Fonts: Forever Grateful, GarageGothic, Grad

