

Digital Tips

HAVING MOIRÉ PATTERN PROBLEMS?

The Castle Press
 1222 North Fair Oaks Avenue
 Pasadena, CA 91103
 800-794-0858
 www.castlepress.com

GLOSSARY

CCD (Charge-Coupled Device) A small light-sensitive photocell or semiconductor chip. CCDs are commonly used in optical devices

Scanner A device used to analyze an original image and either generate color separations and/or digitize the image and store it on a computer .

Descreen The removal of a halftone screen pattern from an image to add a new screen.

Photoshop A software program developed by Adobe Systems that is used to create raster based images.

RGB Abbreviation for red, green, blue. The three basic components of visible light. This is the color you see on your monitor and cannot be printed on paper.

A moiré pattern is a series of dots, spots or even a curvy shadow like area that appears over your image.

This happens when scanning a previously printed image and when the original image has a repetitive pattern, such as texture in fabric. Digital cameras can produce a moiré because of the way the CCD interacts with the incoming information.

Here are a few ways to deal with this ever present issue.

When scanning, your scanner or scanner software should have a descreen button to use when scanning a previously printed piece. In most cases this will remove a prescreened moiré.

After image capture from a digital camera, open the file in Photoshop and view each of the channels (RGB) separately.

One of the channels should show less moiré than the other two.

Select the channel with less moiré and go to Edit→Define Pattern. Select the Healing Brush with the option bar set to Pattern. Select one of the two remaining channels and “paint” over the moiré. When finished, do the last channel the same way.

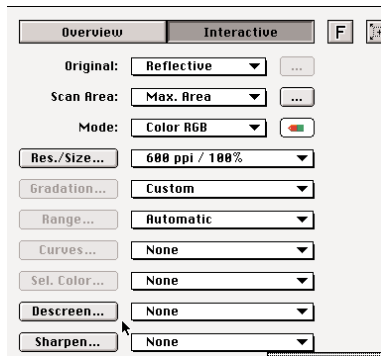
Other ways to remove moiré patterns are to use the filters in Photoshop. If one filter doesn’t work, revert and try the next one.

Filter→Noise→Despeckle.

Filter→Blur→Gaussian Blur (use 1 pixel or less).

Filter→Noise→Median (enter 1 pixel and click OK).

Remember, moiré patterns cannot be fixed 100% of the time.



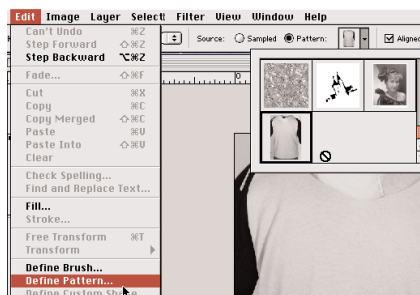
A Descreen Button



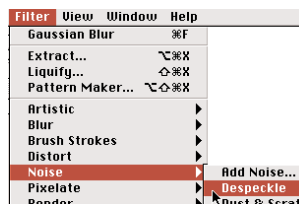
B Digital camera moiré



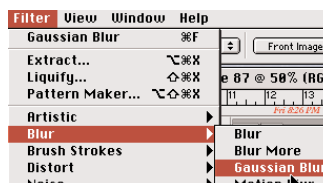
C Healing Brush



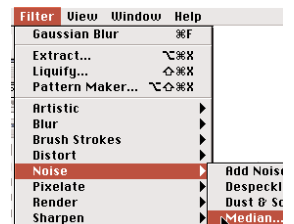
D Define Pattern



E Despeckle



E Gaussian Blur



E Median