

The Royal Albert Hall

Trick 4: London Flooded

You will need:

- One picture of Royal Albert Hall



To complete the effect:

1. Make a copy of the Albert Hall background layer – our new layer will have our reflection on it. Increase the height of the image to 22cm, so that blank space appears beneath (in Photoshop, this is the Image > Canvas Size command, in Photo Impact Format > Expand Canvas).



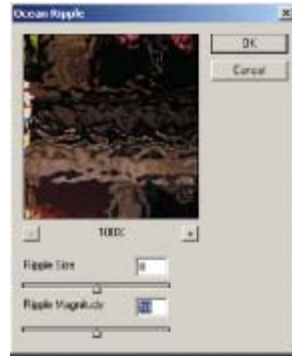
2. Use the Rectangular Marquee tool to create a selection across the width of the image, starting at the top and ending just below the red London bus' wheel arches. Flip the selection vertically (Image > Rotate > Flip Selection Vertically in Photoshop) and move it down so the top is level with just under the wheel arches of the red London bus.



3. The street looks slightly awkward, so crop it off to concentrate the image on the Royal Albert Hall.



4. Use a ripple filter to give the reflection layer a ripple effect. In Photoshop, this is Filters > Distort > Ripple. In Paint Shop Pro a similar effect can be found under Effects > Geometric Effects > Ripple, but it will ripple around a center – use a target that might make ripples. In Picture It there is no ripple effect, but you can create a watery effect by applying a strong blur, Touchup > Sharpen or Blur, and then add a watercolor effect.



5. Duplicate the reflection layer and blur the copy with a strong Gaussian Blur – around 10 pixels.



6. Still on the reflection layer, reduce the color saturation using the Hue/Saturation dialog box.



7. Place the blurred reflection layer beneath the reflection layer and set the reflection's opacity to 50%.



8. On the reflection layer, create a straight edged selection around the reflection of the white stripes on the green bus using the “Polygonal Lasso” tool. Use the “feather” command in the “select” menu to feather the selection by 5 pixels.



9. Using the Free Transform tool, rotate the selected stripes so they are roughly parallel with the bus above. The shortcut is CTRL/⌘+T in Photoshop, and CTRL+R in Paint Shop Pro.



10. If you like, soften the edge of the water at the top in the background by selecting all of the blank pixels in the reflection layers, applying a 10 pixel feather then clicking delete. Repeat for both reflection layers.



The Royal Albert Hall is named after Queen Victoria's husband, and was opened in the same year as the Albert memorial.

The Hall was opened on 29th March 1871 by the grieving Queen herself.

The volume of the auditorium is 3.5 million cubic feet!

Alfred Hitchcock staged two assassination attempts in the Hall, in two different films, both called *The Man Who Knew Too Much*, over 20 years apart.



Trick 5: Adding extra floors to the Royal Albert Hall



You will need:

- One picture of the Royal Albert Hall or a suitable substitute.

To complete the effect:

- Copy and paste portions of the Albert Hall into new layers. Each portion should be selected from the bottom of the shadow cast by the balcony with the balustrades up to the top of the picture. Do this twice, so you have two new layers.
- Position the first layer so that the shadow of the bottom of its balcony is just below the frieze. Repeat this with the second layer, so that its shadow is just below the frieze of the first layer. Call one layer “balcony 1” and the second “balcony 2”.
- Carefully erase any parts of the layer that appear in the wrong place.
- If you are brave enough to tackle the doorway, then it’s more of the same.
- Extend the arched window on the right-hand wall of the doorway so that it covers the full height of the wall. Simply copy and paste new layers (called window 1 and 2) to create the extra height, then erase away until it looks right.

Trick 6: A giant hand playing with the London bus



You will need:

- An image of London featuring a famous red London bus.
- A picture of an arm with the hand in an appropriate position.

To complete the effect:

- Use the Lasso tool to cut the arm using feathering. You may wish to take a shot of the arm especially with a digital camera to get the position of the hand just right.
- Place it and drag it into position using the move tool.
- Duplicate the arm layer, then move the lower layer a little way behind (this will form our shadow).
- Using the Levels or Brightness/Contrast command, adjust the arm image until the entire arm appears black (in Levels this is achieved by dragging the left-hand slider to the right).
- Apply a strong blur to the shadow layer, and adjust the layers opacity.
- Erase some areas of the shadow (or paint more in using a black brush) to give the impression of the shadow being cast closer to the fingers where they’re touching the bus.
- Finally, create a new topmost layer with a graduated fill from black to transparent in the top right hand corner to give the impression of something more than the arm out of shot.
- Reduce the opacity of this layer to around 20%.