

Dot – To – Dots

Instructions for creating Dot to dots using Adobe Photoshop Elements 3.0

(Created by Meredith Blache, Technology Director, Seattle WA)

At a Glance

Grade Level: 3rd – 6th

Subjects: Fine art, technology, summity

Skills addressed: Layers, Opacity, Drawing tools, text tools,

Time Needed: 1 – 3 hours depending on the extent of the project

Materials: Computer, printer (optional)

Products Used: Adobe Photoshop Elements 3.0

Lesson

Overview:

In this project the students will create a Dot to Dot using an already existing image.

Objective:

Understanding what layers are and how to use them effectively

Using trouble shooting skills to figure out how to plot lines that are not straight

Using creative thinking skills to figure out how to create a picture without stopping a line

Background Information:

Did you know that some artists only use Dots to create elegant pieces of art? Go to

<http://www.kinderart.com/arthistory/dottodot.shtml> for more information on the art of

pointillism.

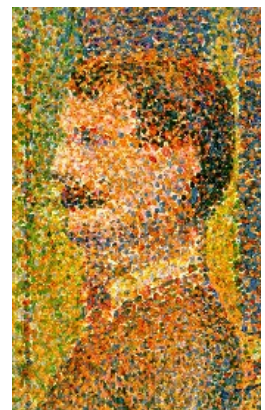
Georges Seurat

The Side Show (Detail), 1888

Oil on canvas

Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

Image scan: Mark Harden

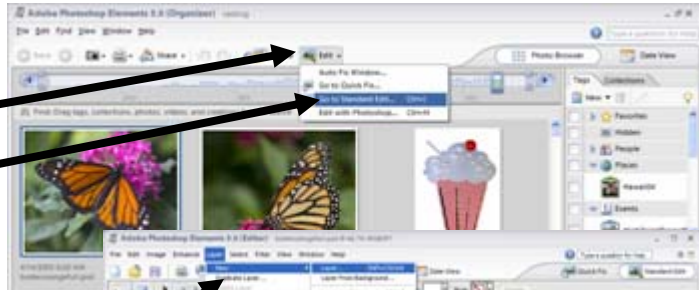


Create a Dot to Dot – Instructions

Choosing an image

Let's begin by opening Adobe Photoshop Elements 3.0 and browse for an image to use for your Dot to Dot. For our first one, let's not get too complicated. We want to be able to finish this project in just a few hours.

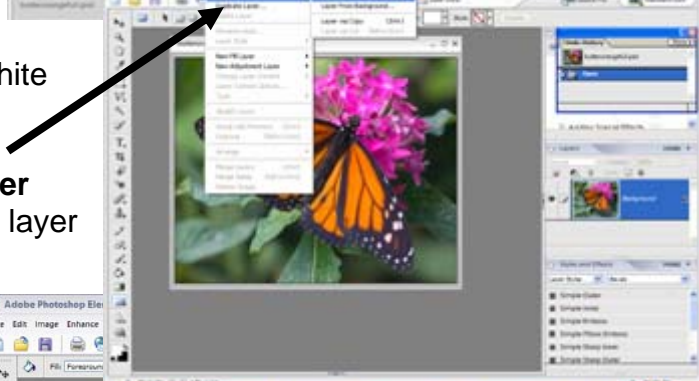
Once you find an image that had clearly defined subject edges, go to **Edit** (the one just above the browser window) then click on **Go To Standard Edit**.



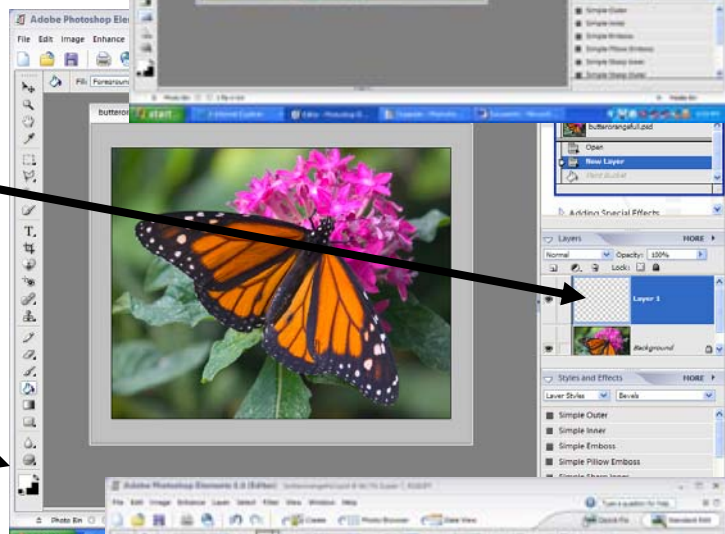
Creating a new layer

In order to create the dot to dot on white paper, we will need to create a white space to draw our dots on.

To do that, click on **Layer, New, Layer**. When it asked you about naming the layer you can just use the default name.

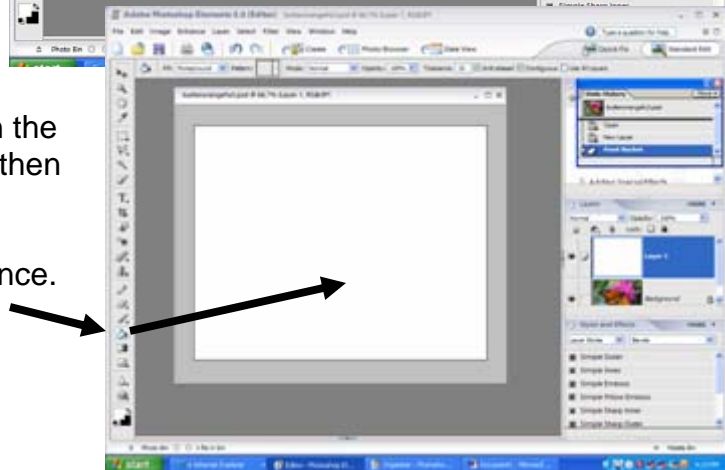


Although you will not be able to tell there is a new layer, you can see it in the layer window. It should be gray. If it is not, undo and try that step again.



Filling the layer

Now we need to make it into a white paper. Double check to see if the foreground color box is white. If it is Black you will need to click on the **reverse** arrow (just to the top right of the squares). If it is another color completely you will need to click on the **reset** (in the lower left corner) and then on the **reverse**.



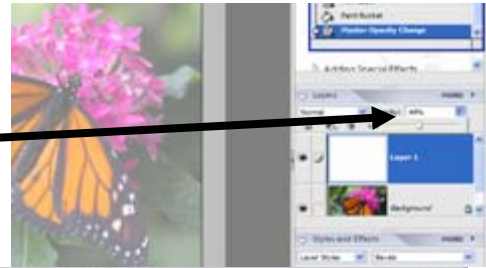
Now click on the **Fill Bucket** tool once. Then click anywhere inside of your image. It should turn all white.

Oh, but wait, now we can't see the picture any more...

Changing the Opacity

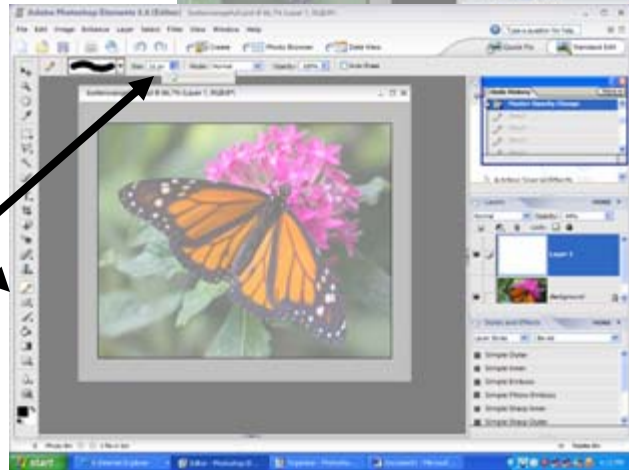
In order to create the dot to dot we will need to find a happy medium between image and white.

To do this click on the **Opacity** box above layer one in the layer window. Drag the bar to the left to see some of the image reappear. Be careful not to make it too much “image” and not enough “white” as we will need the white to draw our dots on.



Drawing tool

Now we will need to get our drawing tool to make the dots on the image. You can adjust the size of the tool by dragging the size bar to the right or by click the drop down menu for the line size. Oh ya... You will need to reverse the color pallet back to Black over white, or your dots will not show up.



Drawing dots

Can begin to put the dots on your picture by clicking your mouse on the spots where you want the dots to be. Don't put too many (like I just did) but be sure to put dots where ever the image boarder bends or else you will have a very odd looking (pointy) picture.

Think about how you will complete the image without stopping your number line.

Drawing Extras

You may want to add some extra line drawn details. Be sure to change the line size to look more like a pencil line.



Numbering the Dots

Before you start numbering the dots, adjust the layer back to 100% opacity.

To add the numbers, click on the **text** tool and adjust the size of the font to be about a size 12. Double Click on your screen where you want the number 1 to go.

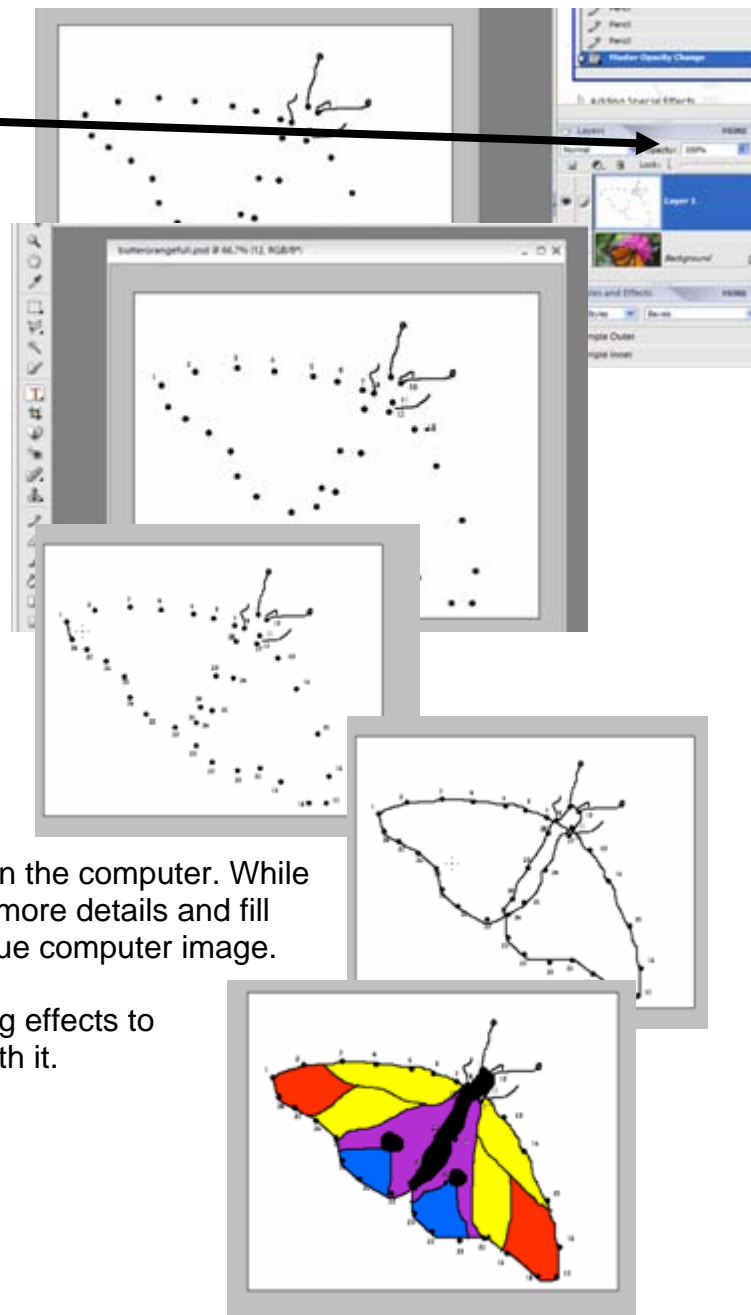
Double Click again on the screen where you want the number 2 to go, and so on.

Hey look! A dot to dot!

Be sure to save your image as a .jpg file.

If you want you can print over and over, or you can have someone else try the dot to dot on the computer. While you are at it, you can even draw more details and fill with other colors to create a unique computer image.

You might even want to try adding effects to your colored picture. Have fun with it.



For using this activity for a Math project, also try the Graph Plotting Project.

Discussion Questions (things to consider):

Did the student select an image with simple lines or outlines that will be easy to recreate?

Did the student use an appropriate number of dots to make the image look right?

Evaluation:

4.0 work: Student has chosen an image that is appropriate for the project. There are an appropriate number of dots. All dots are numbers in an order that make sense to complete the image. Student is proud of their creation.

3.0 work: Student has chosen an image that might not be the easiest to create the dot to dot for. There are too many dots or not enough dots to make the image look right in the end. All dots are numbers in an order that make sense to complete the image. Student is proud of their creation.

2.0 work: There are too many dots or not enough dots to make the image look right in the end. Dots are not numbered correctly to complete the picture. Student agrees that they could have done better.

1.0 work: Image is not complete. Dots are not numbered correctly to complete the picture. Student agrees that they could have done better.

Supporting Materials**Vocabulary: (as appropriate for this lesson)**

Opacity: To be able to see through a layer

Tools and Resources:

Computer, Adobe Photoshop Elements, Images to use, optional printer.