

How to make:

Distressed vector text in illustrator

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Seed MUSE
RPG RPG

1. Ask yourself WHY? Don't use a distressed font unless it fits what your doing.

2. Type your text and expand it in illustrator.

3. Apply gradients, a simple black and white gradient will work, the white parts will look distressed when your finished. Keep in mind you can use the appearance panel to add more gradients.

4. Add Photoshop textures and then some effects like paint daubs or angled strokes and then make the text a raster image.

5. Live trace the raster image. Be sure to use the custom options. Threshold is a very important there, some blur also helps. Make sure your keep your total point count low.

6. Play with it, your first live trace will let you know if you need to change the gradients, if your not careful you could end up making the text unreadable. Always get someone else to try and read the text after you have distressed it.

7. If you only want a precise part of your text distressed, try to stitch the original expanded text back to the distressed parts. I wanted this text to look like it had been chewed on the bottom a little.

8. This technique can produce a wide verity of distressed looks, check out some of these other examples. Different textures and effects will really change the character of how the text is distressed.

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