Creating a distressed design

While I had been more concerned with the text and game design of my 24 hour game it would appear that most people were more impressed with the layout and graphics than anything else. After a series of e-mails came in asking "How?" I decided to create this simple PDF.

ABOVE: This is what the inside of my scanner lid looks like. I've cropped out one thin strip from the scan. This is all that we will use to create a distressed frame.

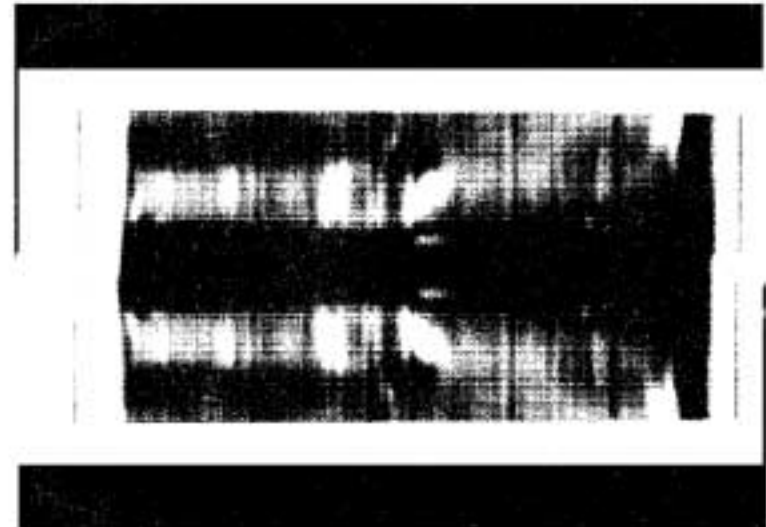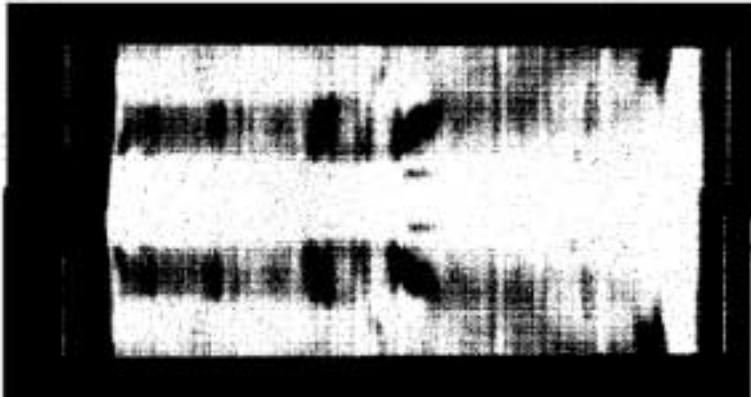**ALSO ABOVE: The type was done in Photoshop. Font is Geneva.**

ABOVE: This is the same image inverted.

ABOVE: Using the Brightness/Contrast I bumped the contrast all of the way up without touching the brightness.

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ABOVE: I've duplicated the type layer and run a motion blur on the duplicate.

BELOW: The image from above duplicated on another layer and flipped. The top layer is set to Darken and the two are then merged.

ABOVE: I invert the merged image.
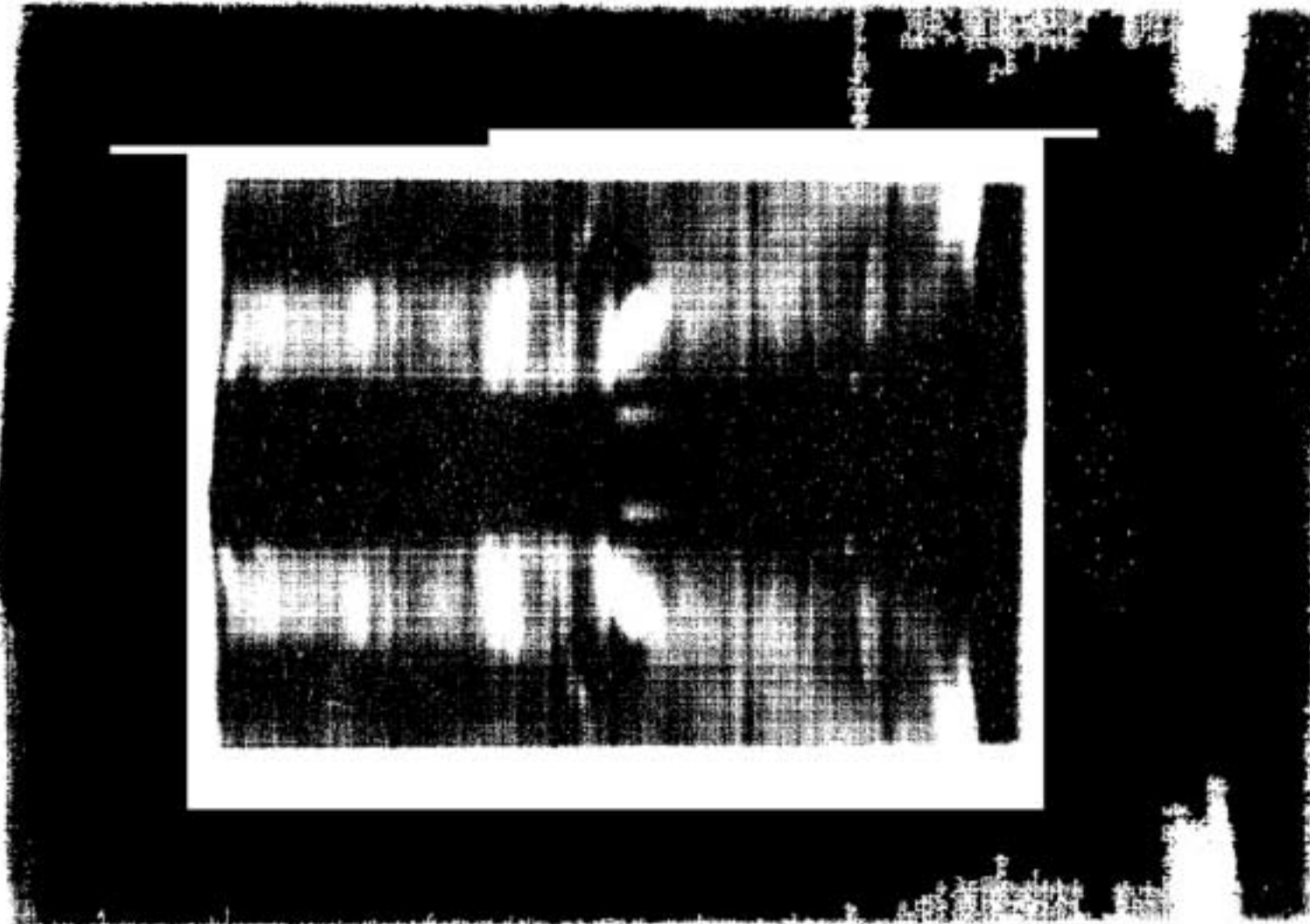
RIGHT: I've cropped away all of the excess black.

BELOW: The blurred layer is shifed in two directions and the layer is set to Darken.
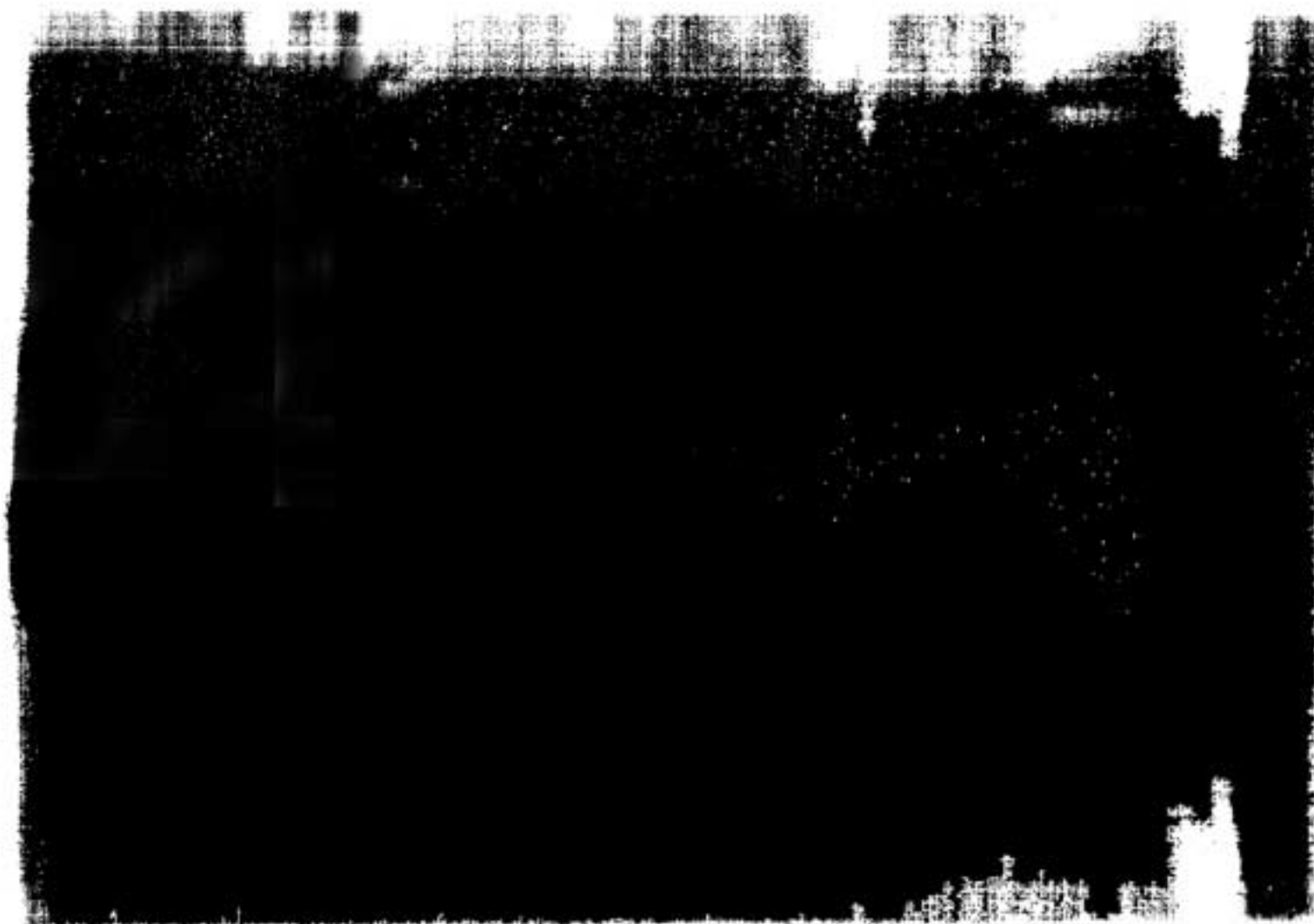
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I think we'll stop here with the type.

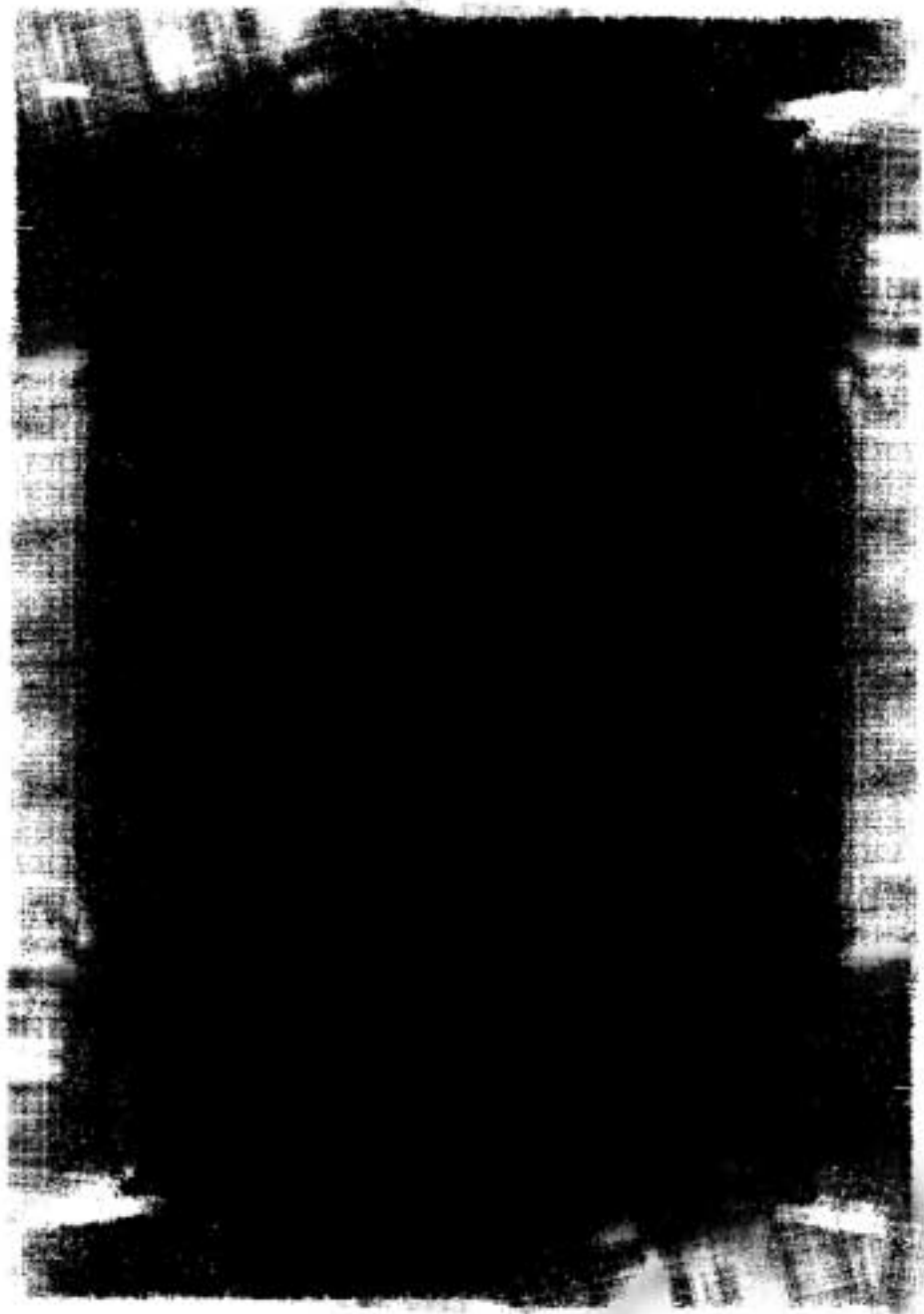**LEFT: I've duplicated our image and filled one of them in a bit.**

ABOVE: This is our two image layers. The filled image is behind the other. I've set the layer in the foreground to Screen. I will now duplicate the foreground layer about six times.

ABOVE: By distorting (and rotating) copies of the top layer (with Screen still on) and erasing bits that we don't want you can see how the edges are made.

**ABOVE: This is what our image looks like
after about three minutes of work.**

ABOVE, RIGHT, AND BELOW: Taking the image from the previous page and compressing it in one direction we've created a distressed line. The line was then duplicated and placed to create a partial frame.

LEFT: Two copies of the image from the previous page have been stacked, one of them rotated 180 degress. By setting the top layer to Darken we've changed the shape of the box. With work we could modify the sides so that they're not a mirror image.

And that's it. By scanning the inside of my own scanner I've managed to create a single distressed element that, with work, can become an endless number of elements.

By varying what you scan there's no limit to the number of boxes, frames, lines, whatever that you can create. Some of my favorite things to scan include my shirt, old books, and junk mail.