workshop Fun Photo Effects taught by Lynn Weber

get it scrapped!
ONLINE CLASSES
www.debbiehodge.com

LESSON #1: Take the Edge Off!

- Edge Outlines
- Inked Edges
- "Burned-in" and "Blown-out" Edges
- Add a Frame
- Worn Edges

Welcome to Fun Photo Effects! This class is for students with some basic Photoshop or Photoshop Elements experience. I have chosen techniques that require some but not a great deal of knowledge of the software. One problem with Photoshop products is that the authors seem to find it necessary to move commands around from version to version. In the lessons, the screenshots I use are from PSE 7. I will attempt to make the directions as easy to follow as possible, but if you find it difficult to follow the directions in your version of the software, please post a question in the forums and I will get you the answer. Chances are, if you have a question, others probably have the same question! Now let's dive right in and get tricky with our photos!
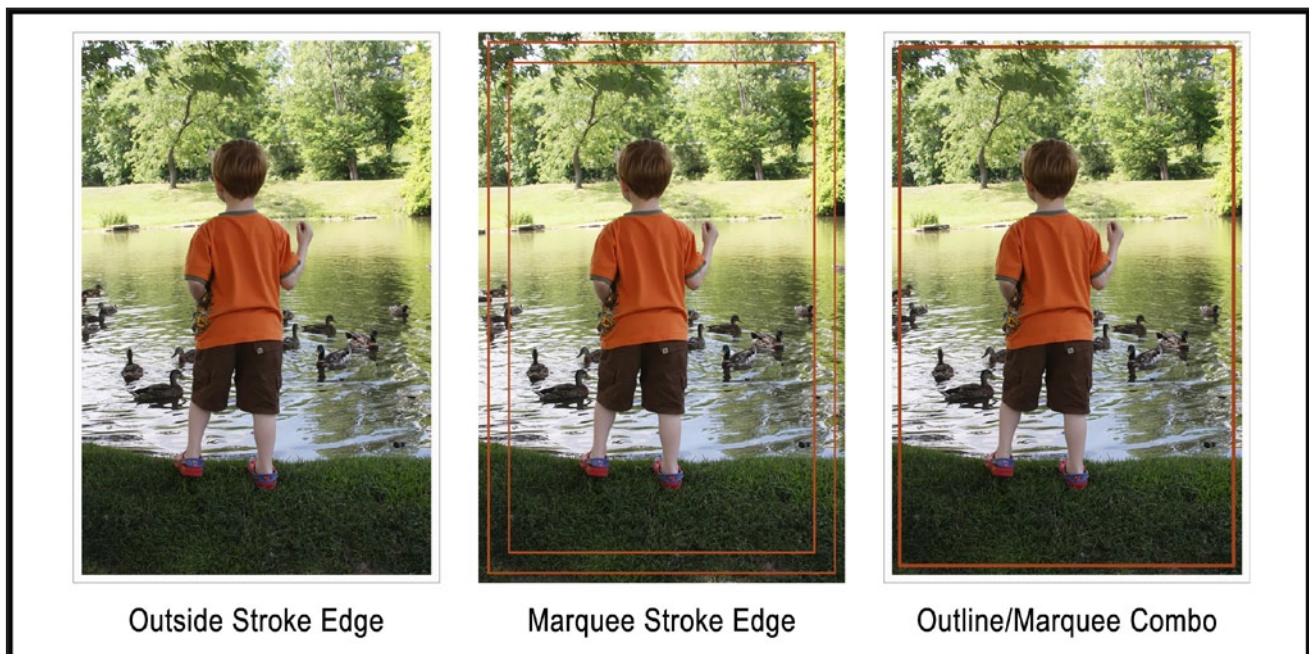
| Outside Stroke Edge | Marquee Stroke Edge | Outline/Marquee Combo |

EDGE OUTLINES

We're going to begin with two simple ways to edge photos-adding an outside stroke and adding a marquee stroke. These two techniques can give your photo many different looks depending on the thickness of the line and the color used. These two techniques can be used singly or in combination. On the first page are some examples.

adding an outline stroke

1. Open a photo, duplicate it, and do whatever correction you wish-resizing, color, exposure, sharpening, etc. If this is a photo you are planning to print, be sure you have set the resolution to a high quality. The ideal is 300 pixels per inch (ppi).

2. When you open the photo it becomes a locked background layer. In order to be able to add strokes to the photo, you will need to unlock it. Double-click on the background layer in the layers palette. This will bring up a "New Layer" pop-up menu. The layer will be renamed "Layer 0." Click OK. Now the photo layer is unlocked.
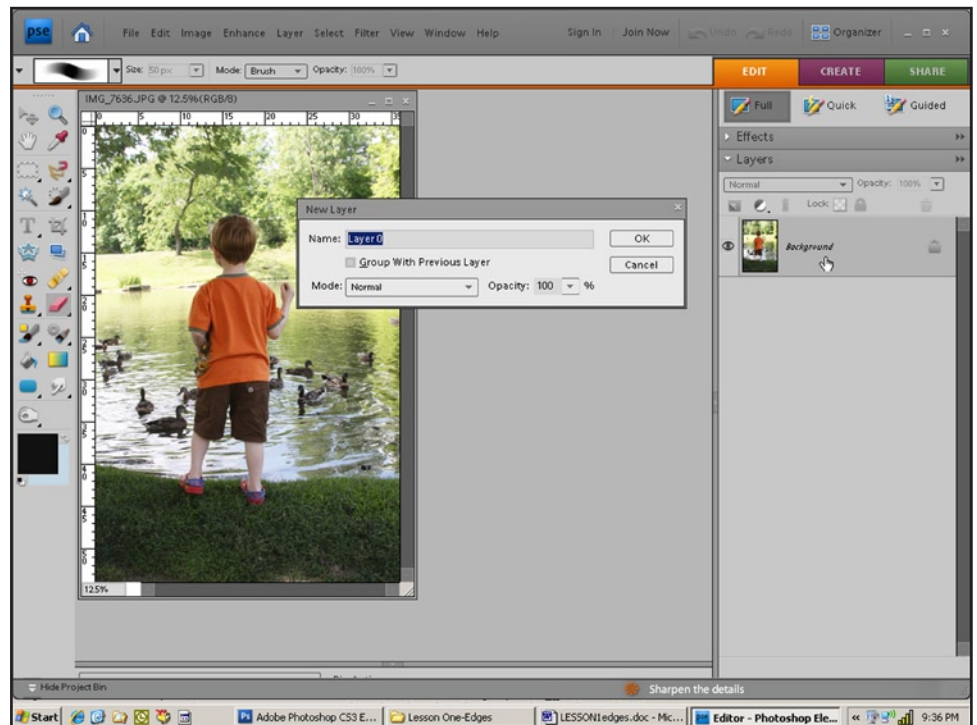
3. In the top menu bar, click on Edit>Stroke. The Stroke menu box will pop up. (Hint: if this box is covering your photo, just grab it by the grey bar at the top and move it over.)

4. Set the width at 50 pixels. Set the location to "inside." Leave other settings as is. Click on the "Color" box. This will bring up the "Select Stroke Color" box.

5. You can choose the color of your stroke by moving the little circle around on the color palette. We'll talk about this more in the next section. For now, move the little circle to the upper left of the box and click OK. This should choose white for your Stroke color.
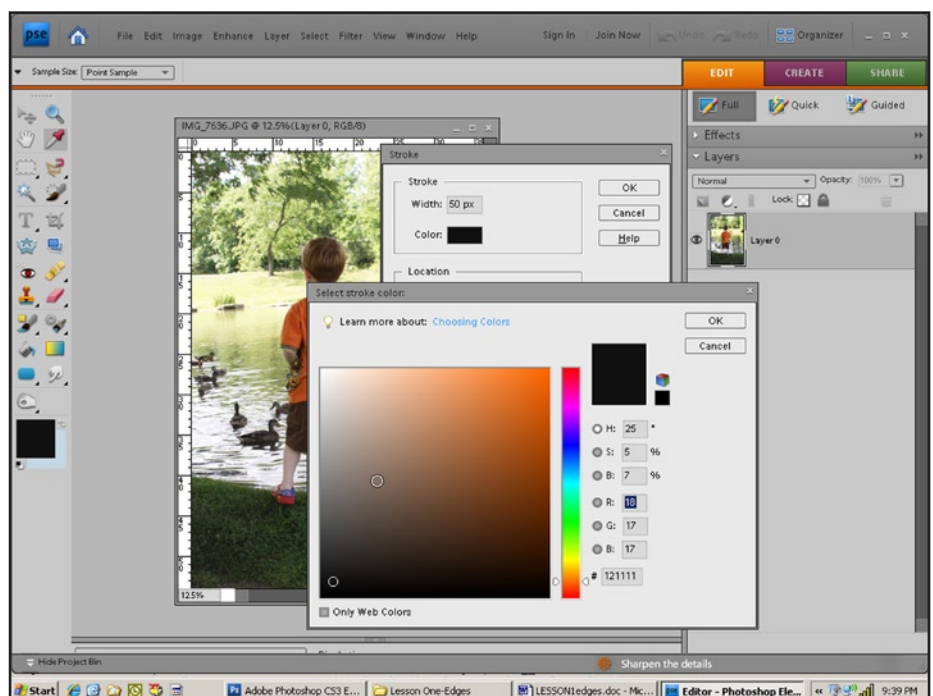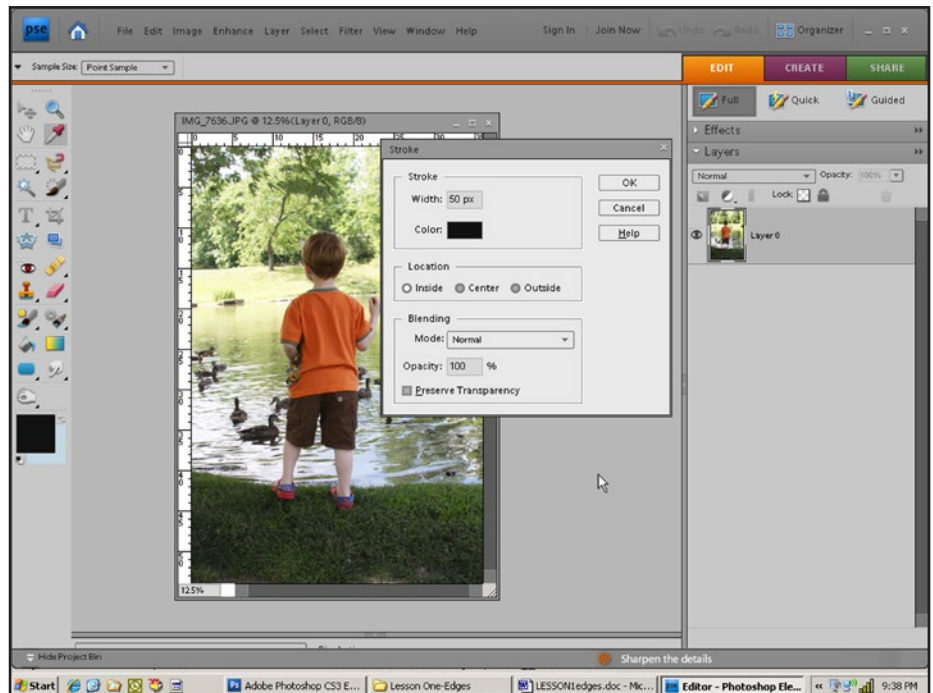
6. When you click on OK in the Select Stroke Color box, you will return to the Stroke Menu box. Click OK. A white stroked edge will appear around your photo as in the first sample photo above, on the inside of the photo edge because we chose the location "inside."

7. If you like this photo, go to Layer>Flatten image in the top menu bar. This will flatten all the layers into one Background Layer. Save the file with a new name. I usually use a name something like IMG7636stroke.jpg. Close this photo file.

adding a marquee stroke

1. Follow steps #1 and #2 in "adding an outline stroke" above.

2. From the top menu bar, click on View>Grid. You should now have a square grid over your photo. Also click on View>Rulers and you will see rulers on the top and left of your photo. (Hint: If your photo looks small on the screen, press CTRL+Zero (CMD+Zero on MAC) and your photo will expand to fit on the screen).
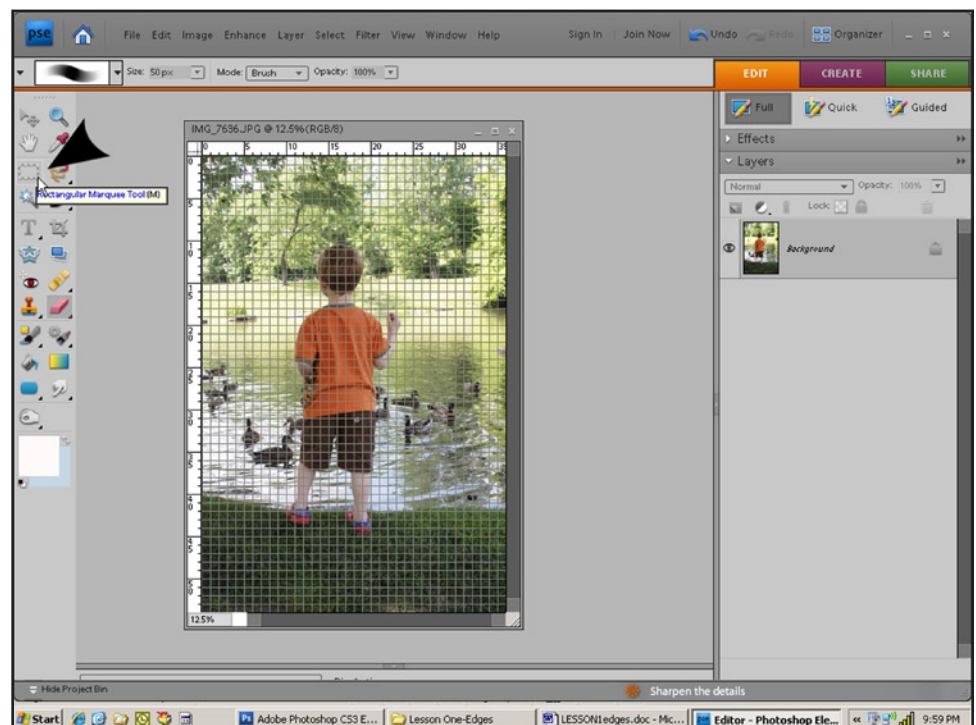

3. On the toolbar on the left side of the workspace, choose the Rectangular Marquee Tool. Your cursor should now look like a plus sign. (Hint: If by some chance your cursor looks

strange and not a plus sign, your Caps Lock is probably on. Turn it off and your cursor should behave properly!)

4.   We need to create a new blank layer above the photo layer. The icon for this is a little paper with the corner turned up. In some versions of the software the icon is at the top of the layers palette, in some it is at the bottom. Refer to Screen Shot at right. Click on it. If the new layer happens to be below your photo layer, move it up in the palette to the layer above the photo by clicking and dragging.
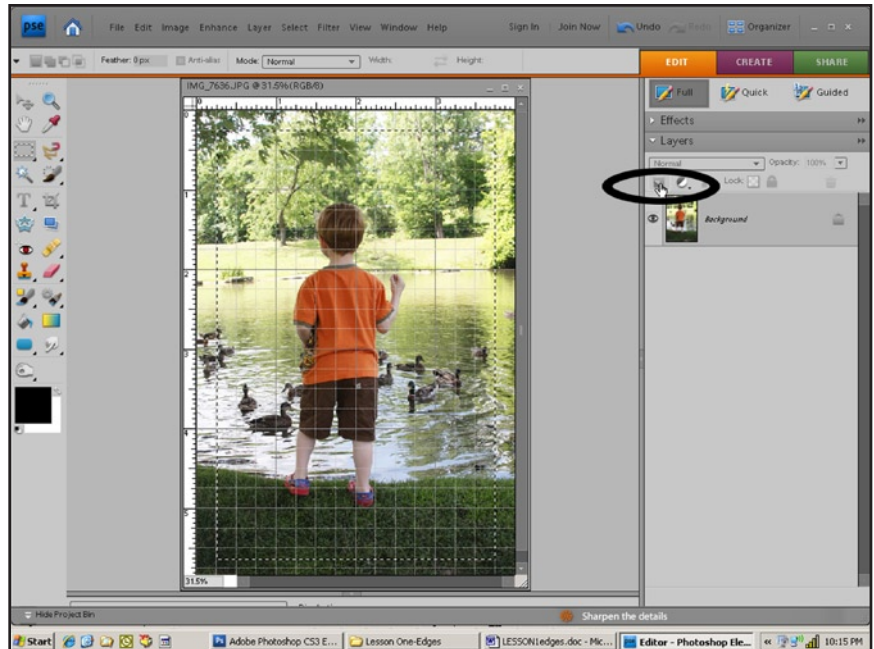
5.   With the blank layer selected, place the cursor in the upper left of the photo, at the intersection on the grid that is closest to the corner and slowly draw the marquee box to the right and down until it looks like this.
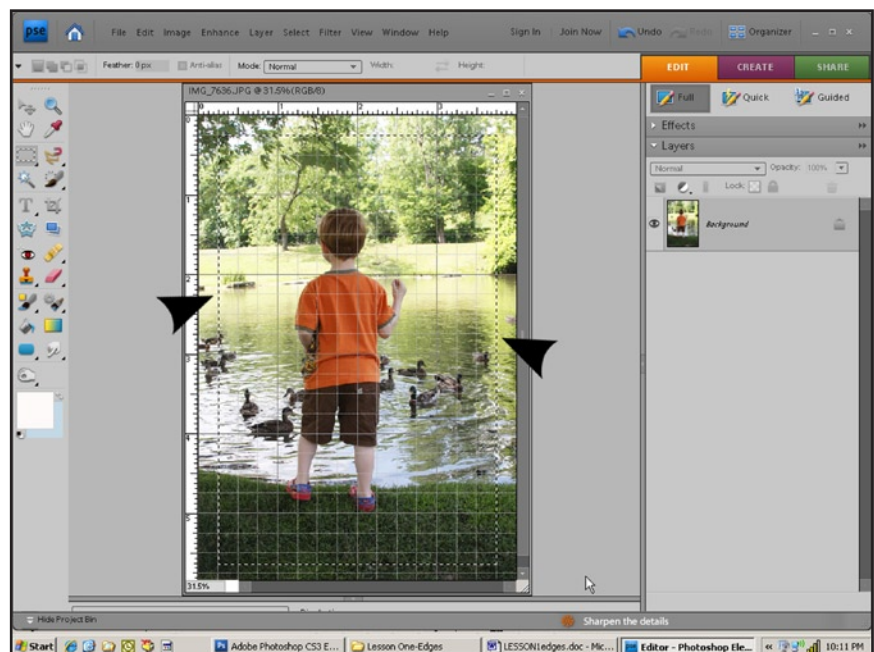
6. If you make a mistake, press CTRL+D (CMD+D), the marquee box will be deselected and you can try again.

7. When you have drawn a box that you are happy with (even on all sides of the photo), click on Edit>Stroke to bring up the Stroke Menu as before.

8. This time we will set the stroke width at 5 pixels and the location at center, so we will draw a thinner line centered on the line of the marquee box we have selected.

9. Click on the color box. This will again bring up the "Select Stroke Color" box. This time, move the cursor in this box off the color box, onto your photo. It will become an eyedropper. Click the Eyedropper on something bright in your photo or dark if your photo is light (or light if your photo is dark.) In other words, choose a color that will show up!

10. Click OK in the Stroke Color Box and OK in the Stroke Menu Box. Press CTRL+D (CMD+D) to deselect the marquee box. You should see a colored line drawn near the edge of your photo. In the second sample photo above, I created another new layer, selected another marquee box and stroked a second box around the photo.

11. Click on View>Grid to turn off the grid. You should have a photo with beautiful edge lines! If you like your photo, flatten the layers as above, save it with a new name and close the photo file.

Combining outline stroke and marquee stroke

1. If you want to combine both types of edge outlines as in the third sample photo above, add the outline stroke first. Then you will be able to place the marquee stroke(s) easily, on new layers, within the outline.

2. Experiment with different widths, colors and combinations of strokes for a variety of looks.

3. When finished, flatten layers and save as before.

INKED EDGES

Stampers, cardmakers, and paper scrappers frequently use ink to accent the edges of a piece of paper or a photo. Now we'll learn that inking photo edges digitally is quite easy and a lot less messy! With this method, you can make your inked edge as thin or as thick, as straight or as bumpy as you wish, and if you make a mistake, you can just "undo" and do it over!

1. Open a photo, duplicate it, and perform whatever correction you wish-resizing, color, exposure, sharpening, etc. If this is a photo you are planning to print, be sure you have changed the ppi to 300. Double click on the photo (background) layer to change it to Layer 0, as in Edge Outline directions above.

2. Click on the "create a new layer" icon to create a new layer above the photo layer.

www.DebbieHodge.com

3. Click on the foreground color box at the bottom of the Tool bar on the left side of the workspace. The Select Foreground Color box will appear. Does it look similar to the process for choosing your Stroke color in the Edge Outline section above?
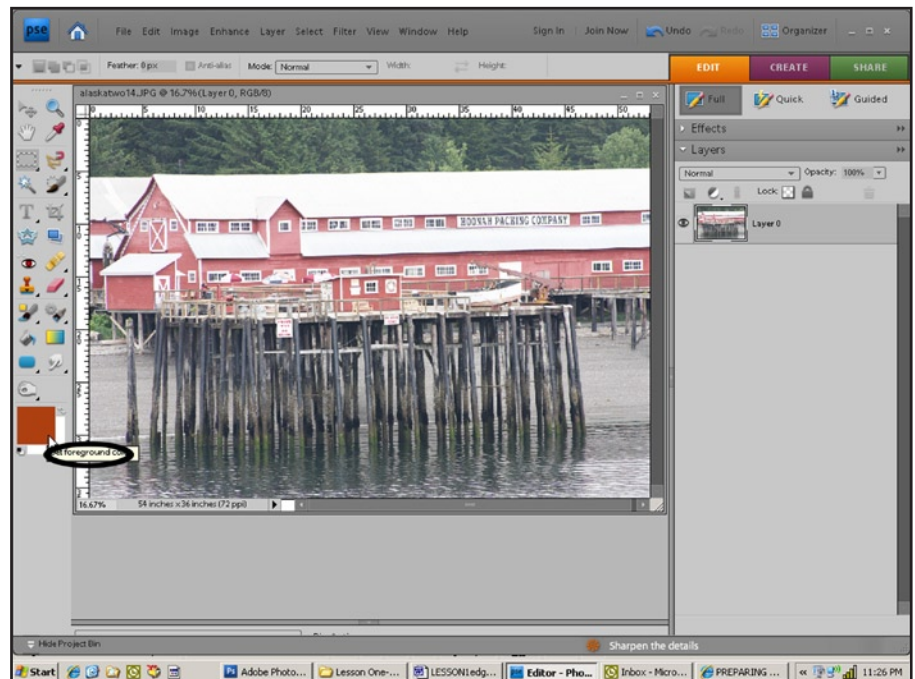
4. You can slide the two small arrows up and down the rainbow to find a color palette you like. Click the circular cursor on the color that you choose for your ink. A dark brown or black usually works well. Click OK.
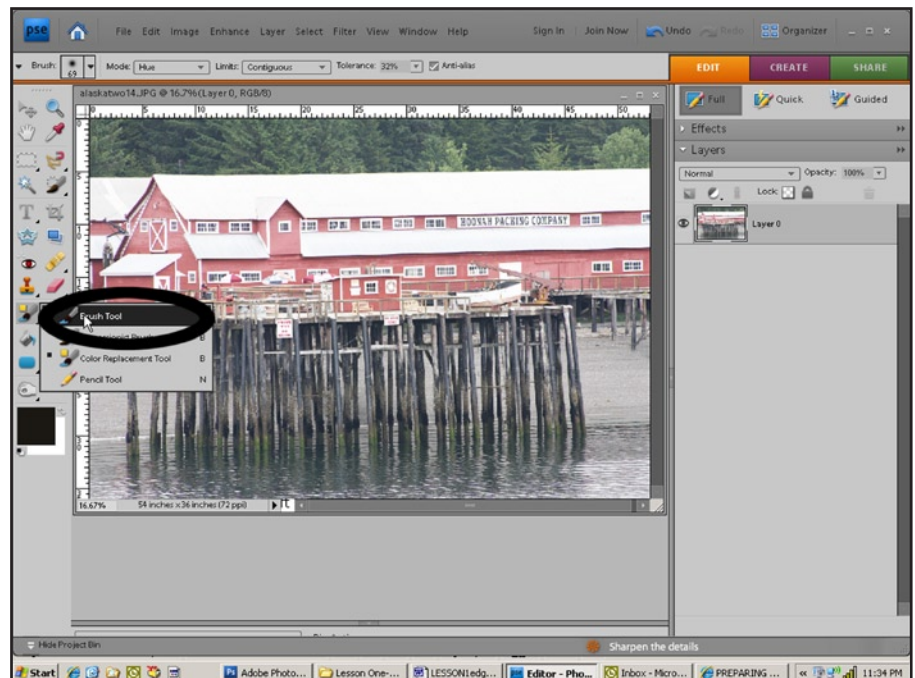
5. Now we need to choose a brush. Choose the Brush Tool from the tool bar on the left side of the workspace. The Brush Tool is housed in many different places in different versions of Photoshop, so you may have to look around a little!

6. When you choose the Brush Tool, the Brush Options Bar will open above the workspace. Click on the arrow to the right of the brush. From the dropdown menu box, click on the arrow in the Brushes box. From this dropdown menu, choose Thick Heavy Brushes. We'll want a large brush with an uneven edge, so from the Thick Heavy Brushes, choose the 104 pixel Rough Round Bristle brush. If you hover the cursor over the brushes, the names will appear.
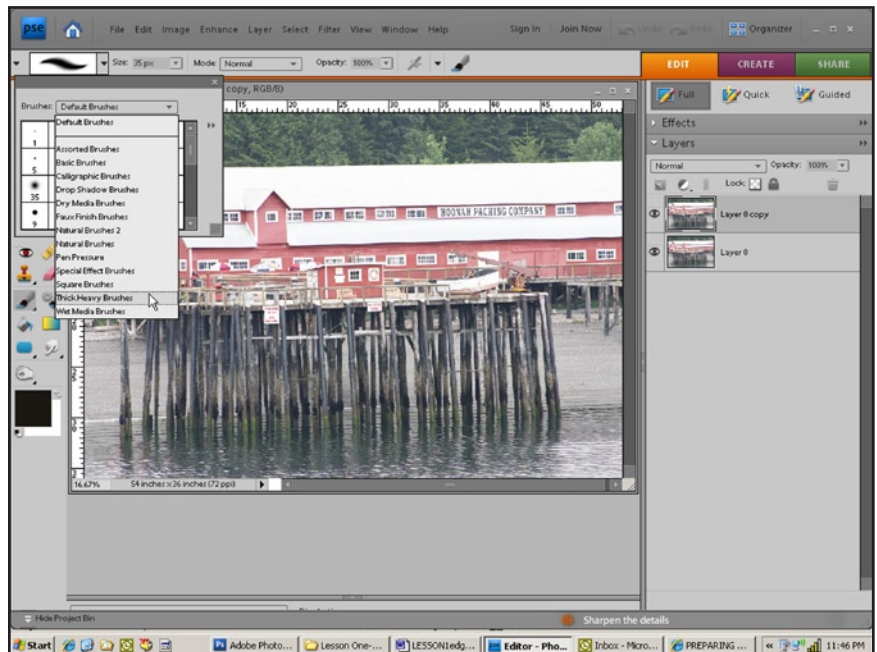
7. With the Photo Layer selected, press CTRL+A (CMD+A) to select the edges of the photo. This will keep the ink on the photo only and not allow it to bleed off the edges.
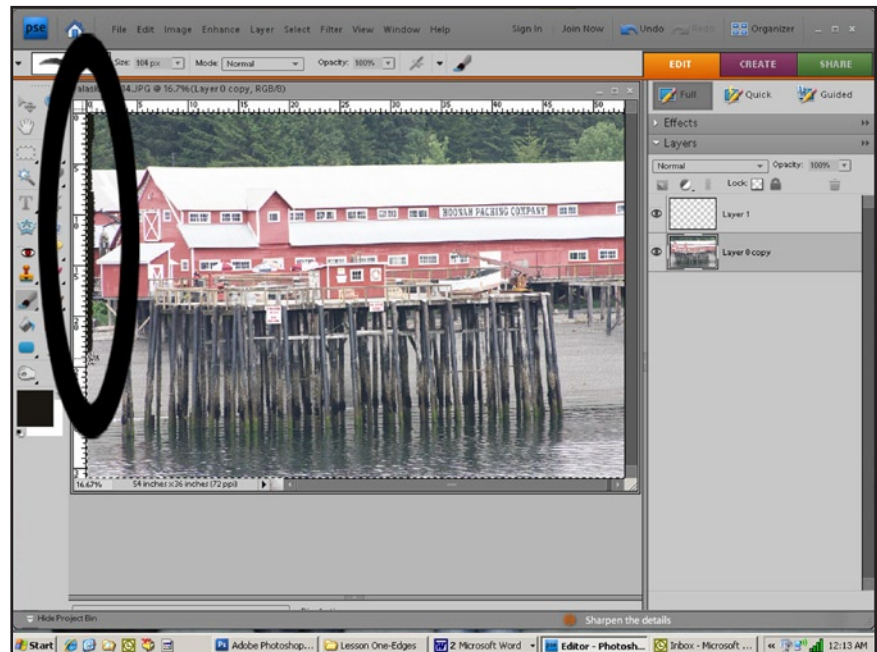
8. With the blank layer selected, start at the upper left corner (or anywhere you wish!) and slowly drag the brush down the edge of the photo to brush on the ink. You can make this ink line as thick or thin, straight or wavy as you wish. Continue all the way around your photo.

9. When you have inked all the way around the edge of your photo, check it out and see if you are satisfied. You can go back and "touch up" spots that are sparse or erase areas that are too heavy. If you don't like your inked edge, press CTRL+Z (CMD+Z) to undo your inked edge and you can try again. If you are happy with your inking, press CTRL+D (CMD+D) to deselect the marching ants around the photo edge.

10. When you are happy with your inked edge, flatten the layers as above and save it with a new name and close the photo file.

11. It's quite fun to try different colors and widths of inking and also to experiment with different brushes. For this photo, I used a medium blue ink and a 250 pixel diameter brush. I think it makes a great "Eastery" frame.

BURNED-IN AND BLOWN-OUT EDGES

Sometimes a very subtle shading or highlighting around the edge of a photo will make a huge difference in how it looks on your scrapbook page. A burned-in edge is darkened and a blown-out edge is lightened. Here are some samples of this very subtle but effective technique.


Photo Before   Photo with burned in edges   Photo with blown out edges

applying a burned-in edge

1. Open a photo, duplicate it, and do whatever correction you wish: resizing, color, exposure, sharpening, etc. If this is a photo you are planning to print, be sure you have changed the ppi. Double click on the photo (background) layer to change it to Layer 0, as in Edge Outline directions above.

2. Click on the Create a New Layer Icon to create a new layer above your photo layer.

3. We're going to set the Foreground Color to black. You can either go to the Foreground Color Box at the bottom of the left toolbar and choose black from the

Color Picker OR (and I love to use this shortcut!) just press the letter D and the foreground color will automatically be set to black (and the background color is set to white)!

4. With the blank layer highlighted, go to Layer>New Fill Layer>Solid Color>OK. This should fill the entire layer with black. If you would prefer to use a keyboard shortcut, ALT+Backspace will also fill the layer.

5. Next, with the black layer highlighted, we're going to use the Marquee Tool to draw a box. You may want to turn the grid on before you draw this box to keep it even. Now, using the Rectangular Marquee Tool, click and drag the marquee to create a box just inside the edges of the photo.

6. To soften the edges of your selection, go to Select>Feather. When the Feather Selection box appears, set the radius at 150 if your photo is 300 dpi or 40 if your photo is 72. If your photo is another resolution, try a radius somewhere in between 40 and 150.
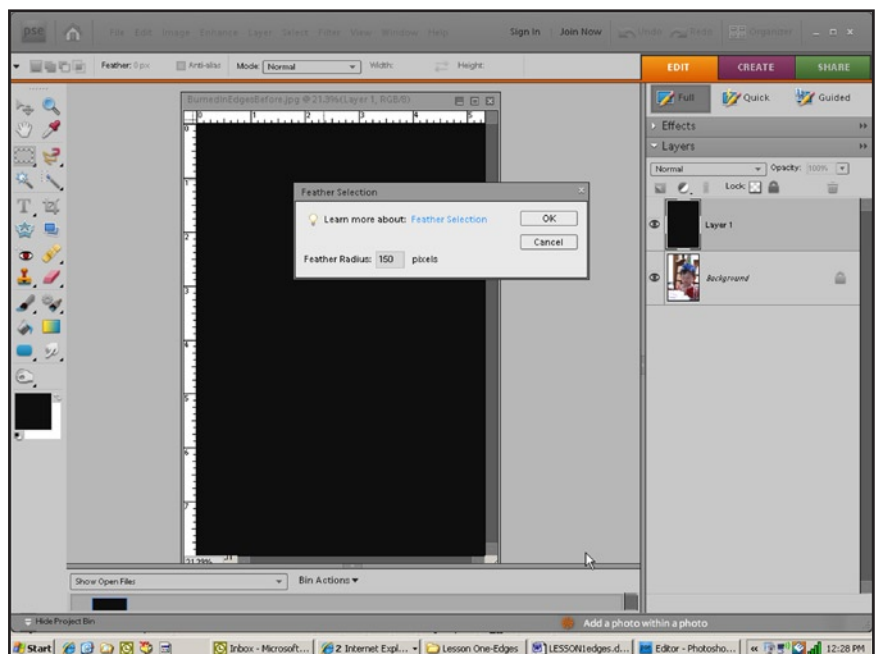
7. With the fill layer selected, go to Edit>Delete and the center of the black box will disappear. Poof! You should just have a feathered black area around the edge of your photo, but it is rather dark.

8. Press CTR+D (CMD+D) to deselect the marching ants around the marquee box.

9. Go to the Opacity Slider above the Layers Palette. Click the arrow in the Opacity box to open the slider. Move the slider to the left to reduce the opacity of the dark edge until you like the effect. Usually an opacity of about 40 % looks good. If you want to see the photo with and without this darkened edge, you can click on the small eyeball to the left of the fill layer and it will turn the edge off and on. This may help you decide if you like the effect as it is.
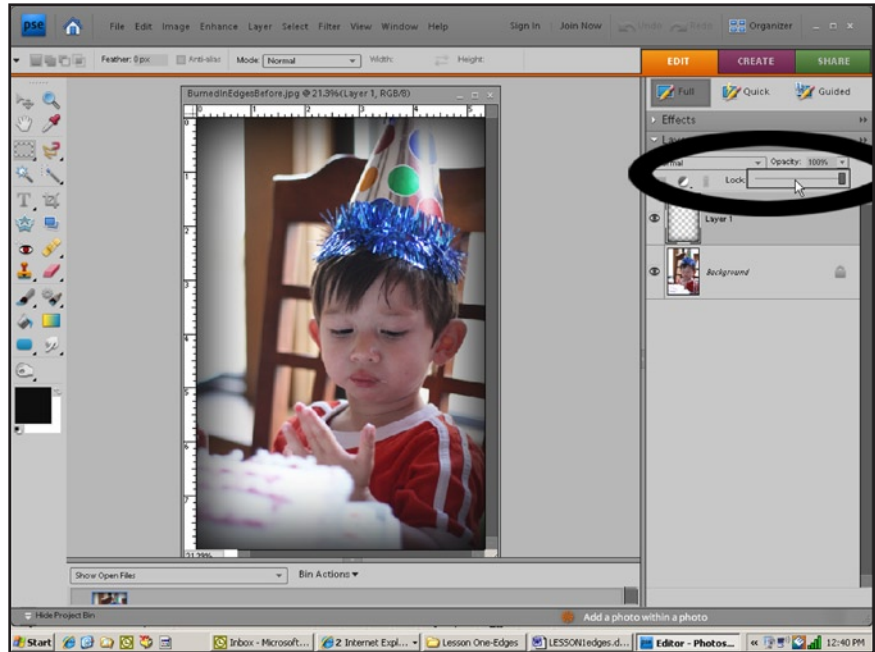
10. It is always possible to delete the fill layer and start completely over if you don't like the effect. To do this, right click on the fill layer and choose Delete Layer from the pop up menu. Then you can follow the process and try again until you get an effect that you like.

11. When you are happy with your Burned-In Edge, flatten the layers as above and save it with a new name and close the photo file.

applying a blown-out edge

1. To create a lightened, or blown-out, edge follow steps #1 and #2 above. This time we'll be setting the Foreground Color to white. You can either go to the Foreground Color Box at the bottom of the left toolbar and choose white from the Color Picker OR (and I love to use this shortcut!) press the letter D to set the default colors (foreground black and background white), and then press the letter X and the foreground color and background color will automatically switch and now white will be your foreground color!

2. To complete the Blown-Out Edge, follow steps 4 through 11 above using white as your Foreground Color.

3. To create other interesting looks, you might like to try using other Foreground Colors, drawing a wider or narrower marquee box, or setting the Feather at a different size. Have fun!

ADDING A FRAME

Do you ever wish you could just add a fast frame to a photo for a little pizzazz? This is one of the quickest techniques you can possibly add! Unfortunately, this option is only available in Photoshop Elements and not Photoshop. So for those of you who are PSE users, try this quick technique to add a frame to your photo like this:

1. Open a photo, duplicate it, and do whatever correction you wish: resizing, color, exposure, sharpening, etc. If this is a photo you are planning to print, be sure you have changed the ppi. Double click on the photo (background) layer to change it to Layer 0, as in Edge Outline directions above.

Fat Chrome Frame   Neon Red Frame
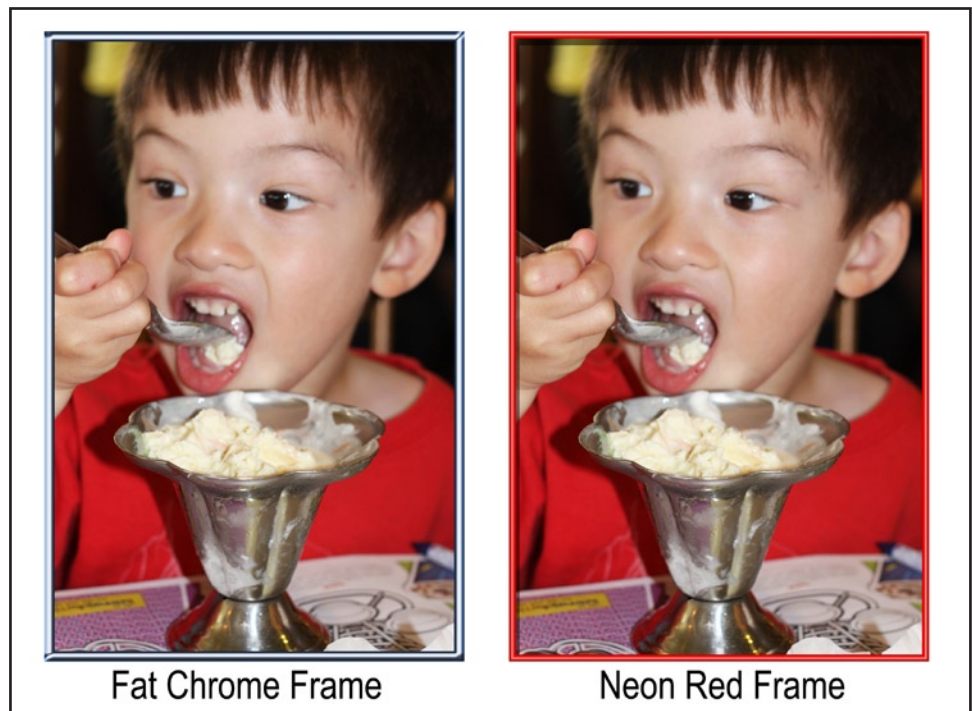
2. Right click on your photo layer and choose Duplicate Layer. Click OK. You should now have two layers of your photo.

3. With your duplicate photo layer selected, go to Window>Effects and the Effects palette should open on the right side of your screen, above the layers palette. You may need to click on the arrow next to Effects to open the dropdown menu.

4. Click on the little window to open the dropdown menu and choose Wow Neon from the menu.

5. Click on one of the frame effects in the menu. Be sure that your duplicate photo layer is selected and click on Apply at the bottom of the Effects window. You should have a framed photo!

6. Unfortunately, with these effects, what you see is what you get. You cannot change the color or size of these frames. However if you want a quick frame, this is it! Different versions of PSE have different effects in the effects palette, so you may want to look around and play with some of the frame options.

7. When you are happy with your framed photo, flatten the layers as above, save it with a new name, and close the photo file.

www.DebbieHodge.com

WORN PHOTO EDGES

I have a little treat for you! Lynn Grieveson, a digital designer who sells her products at Designer Digitals, has given me two of her wonderful Worn Edges to share with you! The hard work is already done. I'll just walk you through adding one of these edges to your photo.

1. Open a photo, duplicate it and do whatever correction you wish-color, exposure, sharpening, etc. (Check below before you resize.) If this is a photo you are planning to print, be sure you have changed the ppi. 300 ppi is ideal. You won't be doing anything directly to your photo, so you can just leave it as a background layer. The Worn Edges are sized at 4" x 6" at 300 ppi. If you want to use them on a 4" x 6" photo, go ahead and resize your photo to 4" x 6" now. If you want to use a different size photo, resize it to the size you want and we can resize the Worn Edges later.

2. Worn Edges 1 and 2 are available as downloads in the forums. If you have not done so yet, please download them and open one of them at this time. The files are of landscape orientation. If your photo is portrait orientation, you will need to go to Image>Rotate>90 degrees left and click OK to turn it to fit on your photo.

3. Once the Worn Edge file is open in Photoshop, this is the time to resize it to fit your photo, if necessary. To resize, click on Image>Resize>Image size to bring up the Image Size Screen.

4. Near the bottom of the Image Size Screen, remove the checkmark next to "Constrain Proportions." It is usually not a good idea to remove this checkmark as, if you no longer constrain the proportions (keep the width and height in the same ratio), the image can become very distorted. That should not be a problem in this instance with the Worn Edges as long as you are keeping the frame rectangular.
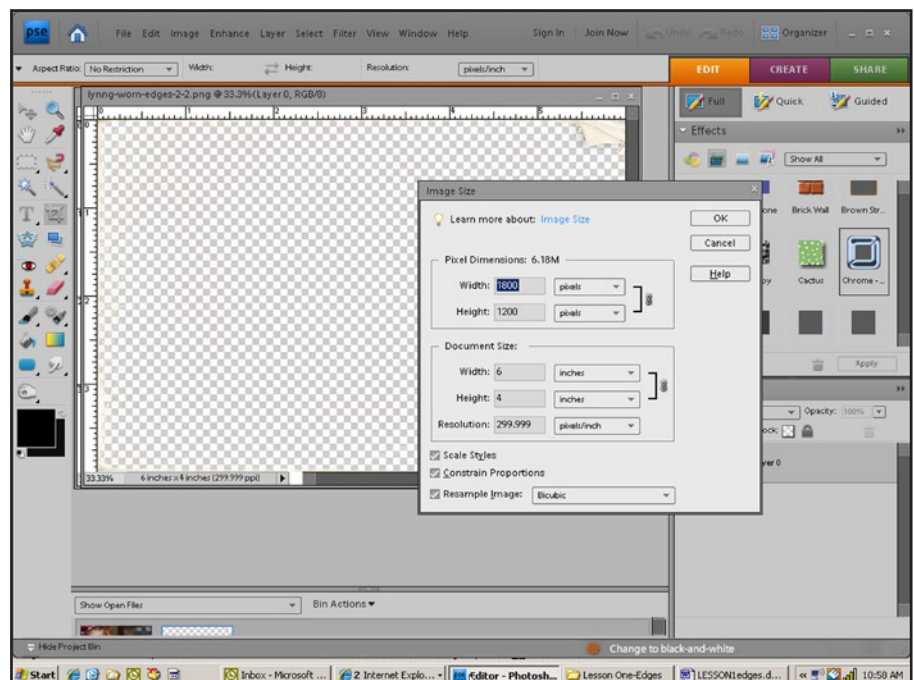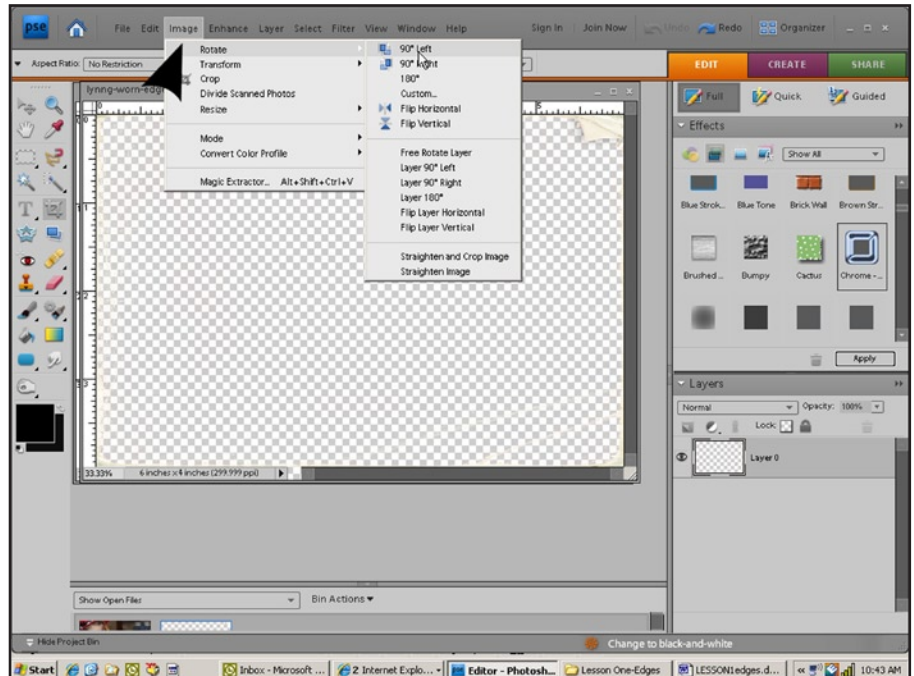
5. Type in the width, height and resolution that you want the Worn Edge to be. Then Click OK. Again, this is **<u>not</u>** always the ideal way to resize a file but, in this instance, it will work fine. Just be sure that, when you close the Worn Edge file you **<u>do not</u>** save the changes you made here.

6. You should now have a photo file and a Worn Edge file that are the same size. Holding down the shift key and the mouse button, drag the Worn Edge (being careful to grab it by a portion of the worn edge) onto your photo. (If you hold down the shift key as you drag it over, the Worn Edge will be centered on the photo.) You should now have a magically aged photo!

7. When you are happy with your Worn Edge photo, flatten the layers as above, save it with a new name, and close the photo file. Again, when you close the Worn Edge file **<u>do not</u>** save the changes!

IN CONCLUSION

We've come to the end of our first lesson. I hope you've enjoyed these techniques to add interesting edges to your photos and that you've learned a few new tricks for using your software. Please be sure to ask questions or add comments in our Forums. I'd also love to see your photos in our gallery. Your work can really give inspiration to others, so please share!

NEXT UP

Lesson Two-Fun With Text