

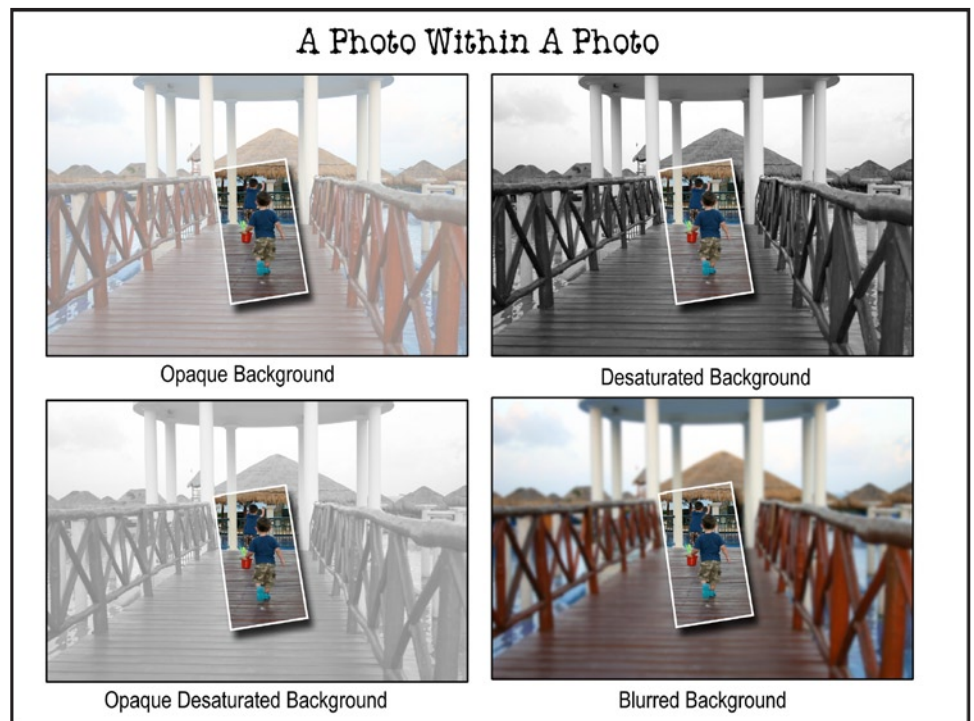
LESSON #6: Miscellaneous Mini Effects

- A Snapshot Within a Snapshot
- Calling Attention to Detail
- A Quick Way to Blend Photos
- Adding Doodles to Your Photo

We've reached the last lesson in this class. I hope you've had lots of fun learning new ways to add interest and creativity to your photos. This lesson will lead you through four more techniques that will add fun to your photos and expand your knowledge of tools and commands available in Photoshop and PSE. I hope you enjoy these lessons!

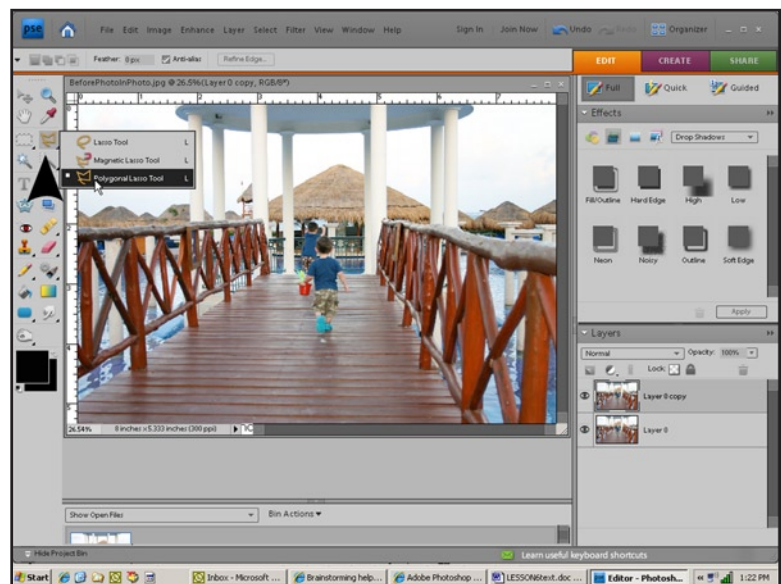
A SNAPSHOT WITHIN A SNAPSHOT

This technique calls attention to one part of your photo by making it look like a separate photo and manipulating the rest of the photo to blend into the background. You can apply different techniques to the background to achieve different looks, as in these samples.



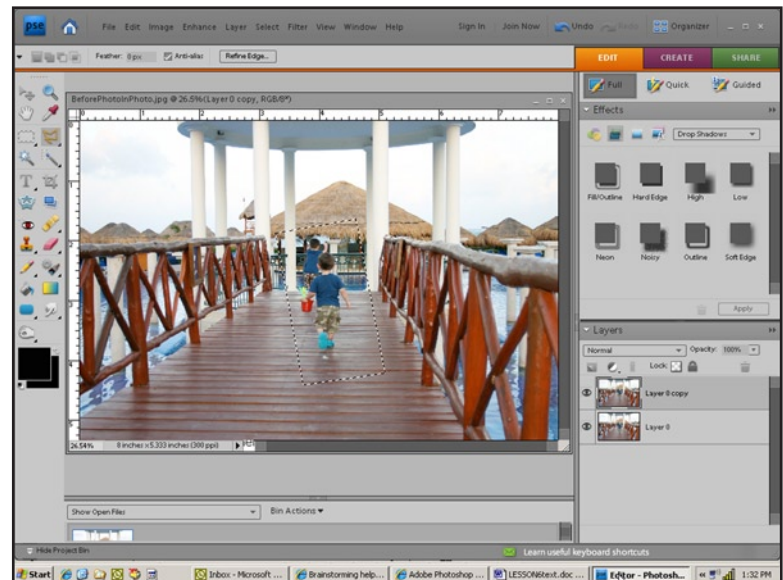
making your selection

1. Open a photo, duplicate it and do whatever correction you wish: resizing, color, exposure, sharpening, etc. I have provided my photo for you to use, if you wish. It is available as a download in the Forums. Press CTRL+Zero (CMD+Zero) to make your photo fill the screen. The next tool will be easier to use if the photo is a little bigger.
2. Double-click on the Background Layer and rename it Layer 0. Click OK. Then CTRL+J (CMD+J) to duplicate Layer 0. This will be the "Layer 0 Copy" layer.
3. For this technique, we'll be using one of, in my opinion, the trickiest tools in Photoshop-the Polygonal Lasso Tool. I have cried and screamed over this tool more than once, but hopefully I can get us through the experience unharmed! The Polygonal Lasso tool is in the left toolbar, housed with the Lasso tool and the Magnetic Lasso tool. Be sure you have selected the Polygonal Lasso tool from this location.
4. This tool will draw a selection of any size and shape that can be made of straight lines. With the Layer 0 Copy layer selected, position the Polygonal Lasso tool slightly to the left and above the area you want to focus on, in my example this is the boys. To activate the tool, click it on your photo slightly to the left and above where you want your selection to be.



NOTE: This is a good time to tell you what to do if the PL tool takes on a mind of its own and takes off across the screen. If this happens, press your ESC (Escape) key. This should solve the problem and you can start over.

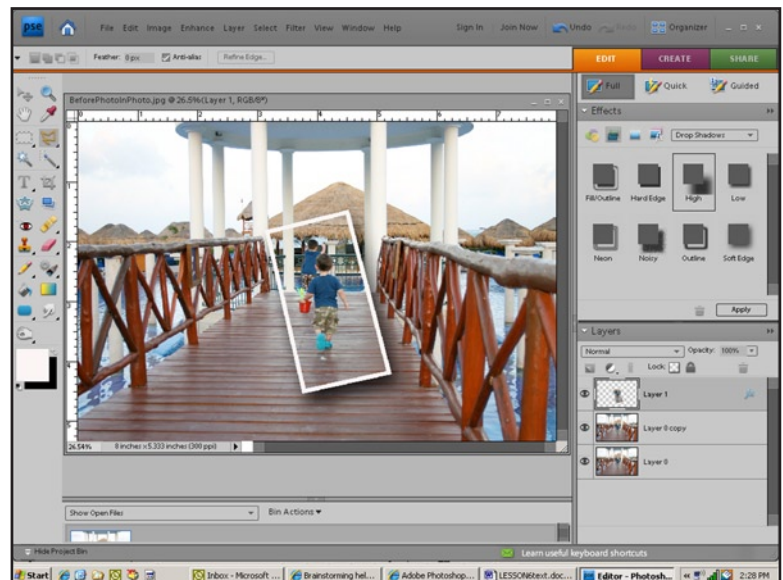
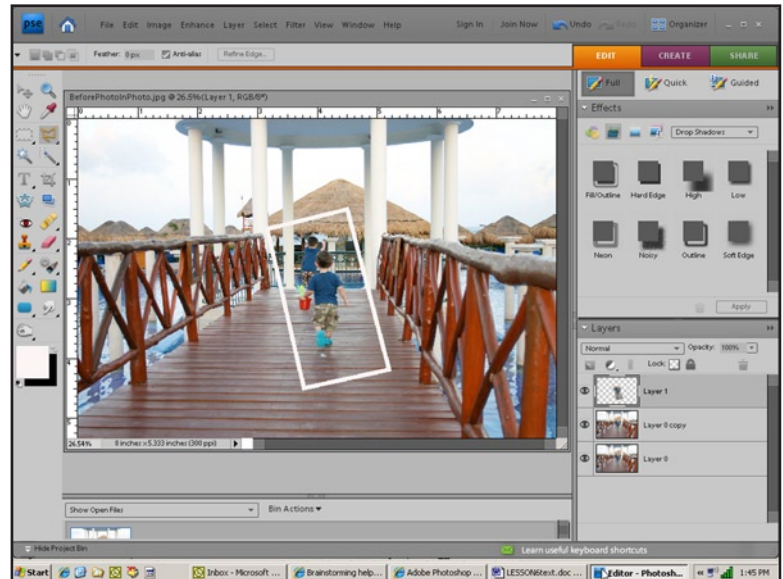
- After you click the tool onto your photo, drag a line diagonally down and to the right, until it is at the bottom on the area you wish to call attention to. Click the tool here and then draw another line to the right and slightly up. Click again and draw a line up and to the left. Click again and draw a line to the left that will intersect your first line. Click when you return to the starting point and you SHOULD have a selection with marching ants around it.



- If you don't like the size or shape of the selection box you've created, press ESC and try it again. It's a little tricky to get a box that is even. It may help you to go to View>Grid in the top menu bar and put a grid over your photo. When you are finished with the grid, you can go to the same place to turn it off. Just for your information, the box I drew around the boys in my photo is kind of crooked but I don't think it turned out looking too bad in the end, so don't stress about it too much!
- When you have a box selected with marching ants around it, the hardest part of this technique is over! With the Layer 0 Copy still selected, press CTRL+J (CMD+J) and you will get a layer that is just the selection with the rest of the photo cut away. It won't look different in the workspace, but if you look at the

Layers Palette, you'll see that the layer contains just the selected area. Rename this layer "Selection."

8. With the Selection layer selected, go to Edit>Stroke. Choose a Stroke that is about 20 pixels and white. Choose the "Inside" location to maintain square corners. The Outside location rounds off the corners. Click OK. You should have a white border around your selection.
9. There's one more step to make our selected area really pop off the page. In Photoshop, go to Layer>Layer Style>Drop Shadow and choose Size 80, Distance 60 and Opacity 75%. Click OK. In PSE, go to the Effects Palette>Drop Shadow>High and click Apply. Remember that you can click on the blue fx on the right side of this layer and change the Drop Shadow settings if you wish.
10. Your top layer is now finished and we're ready to move on to the background.

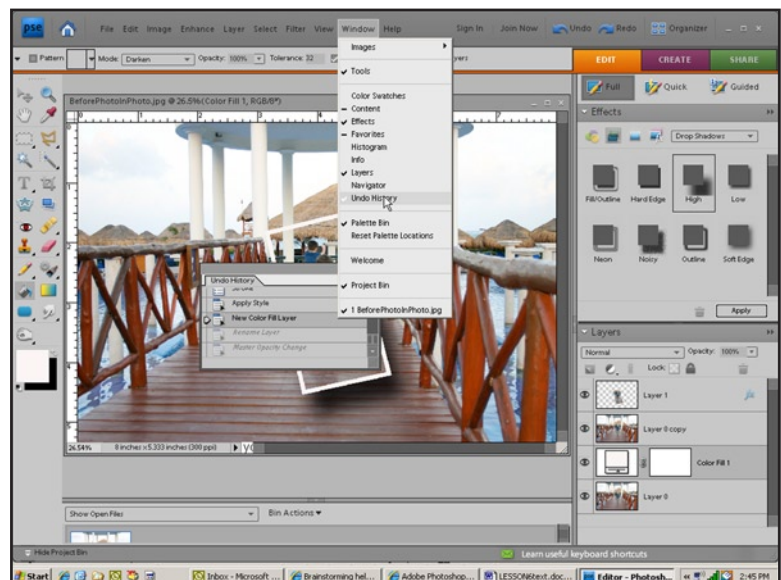


changing the background

Now we're going to give the background four different treatments to produce a variety of background looks for our photo selection.

1. Opaque Background

- a. With the bottom layer in the Layers Palette (Layer 0) selected, go to Layer>New Fill Layer>Solid Color. Click OK. Choose White. Click OK. You will see a white layer above Layer 0 in the Layers Palette.
- b. With the Layer 0 copy layer selected, go to the Opacity slider above the Layers Palette and slide it to the left to about 60%.
- c. This will make the background faded out and soft and the Selection will pop against it. We needed to add the white layer underneath to have something to show through under the opaque layer.
- d. Ordinarily, I would tell you to flatten the layers and save the photo. However, keeping our selection intact, we're going to just Undo the changes to the background and try something else.
- e. To Undo the background changes, go to Window>UndoHistory. The Undo History Palette will pop up. Go to the bottom of the Palette. Near the bottom, there is a layer called New Color Fill Layer. Click on that layer and anything you did after that command will be "undone." Click



on the small x on the right top of the palette and we're ready to try another background treatment.

2. Desaturated Background

- a. With the Layer 0 copy selected, in PSE go to Enhance>Adjust Color>Remove Color. In Photoshop, you will need to go to Image>Adjustments>Desaturate. Now your background is black and white with a colored selection over it. Again, the selection stands out against the background.
- b. You can stop here or you can make the Desaturated background Opaque also by sliding the Opacity slider left to about 60%.
- c. Because we want to try one more background treatment, go to Window>UndoHistory. Go to the bottom of the Palette and click on the New Color Fill Layer. Now the background is ready for its third treatment.

3. Blurred Background

- a. With Layer 0 copy selected, go to the top menu bar and choose Filter>Blur>Gaussian Blur.
- b. Select a radius of 10 px and click OK.
- c. Now you have a selection against a blurred background.
- d. Right-click in the Layers Palette, choose Flatten Image. Save the file with a new name. Close this photo file.

CALLING ATTENTION TO A DETAIL

Sometimes, even though the photo is fine, there's an item in the photo that you want to call attention to. In my photo, there was a bald eagle sitting on the mast of the sailboat. I like the photo because the masts are included to help identify the setting. However, I

had fun playing with a couple of ways of calling attention to the fact that's a bald eagle up there! Here are my samples.



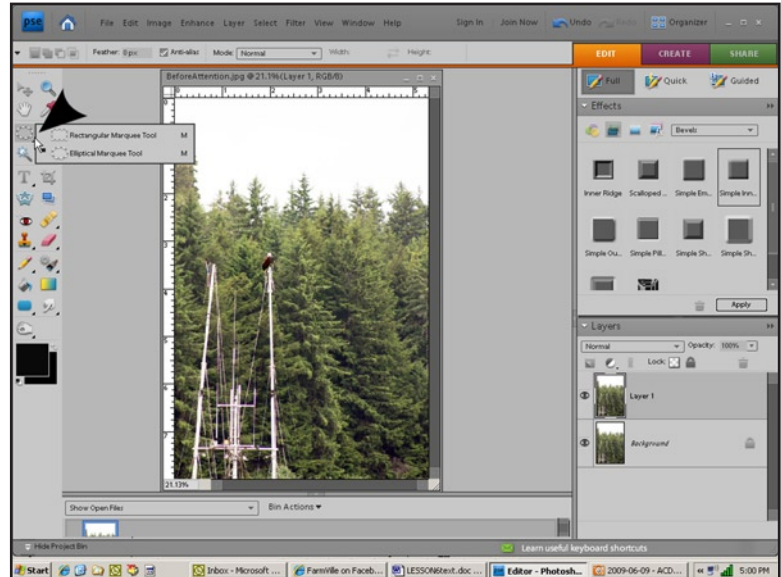
For the next two sections, I will suggest Bevel and Stroke sizes based on my photo. These settings might be different for your photo. Experiment with the Options and see what you can create!

bevel effect

1. Open a photo, duplicate it and do whatever correction you wish: resizing, color, exposure, sharpening, etc.
2. Press CTRL+J (CMD+J) to duplicate the photo. Rename this layer "Selection."

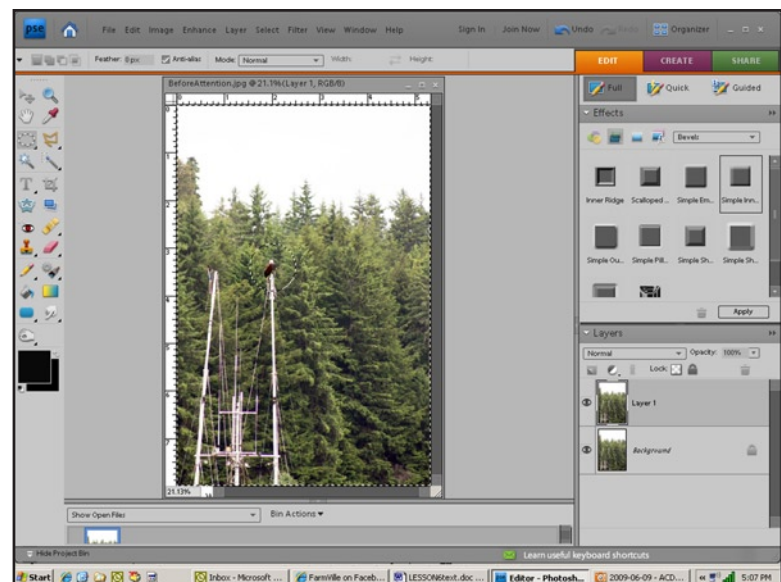
3. From the toolbar to the left of the workspace, choose the Elliptical Marquee Tool which is near the top of the toolbar and is housed with the Rectangular Marquee Tool.

4. With the Selection layer selected, position the Marquee Cursor to the left and slightly above the area you want to highlight. Holding down the mouse button, drag the cursor slowly down and to the right until you have encircled the area. If you are unhappy with your selection, press CTRL+Z (CMD+Z) to Undo and try again.



5. When you are happy with your selection, from the top menu bar choose Select>Inverse. This will put marching ants around everything you want to cut away from the layer.

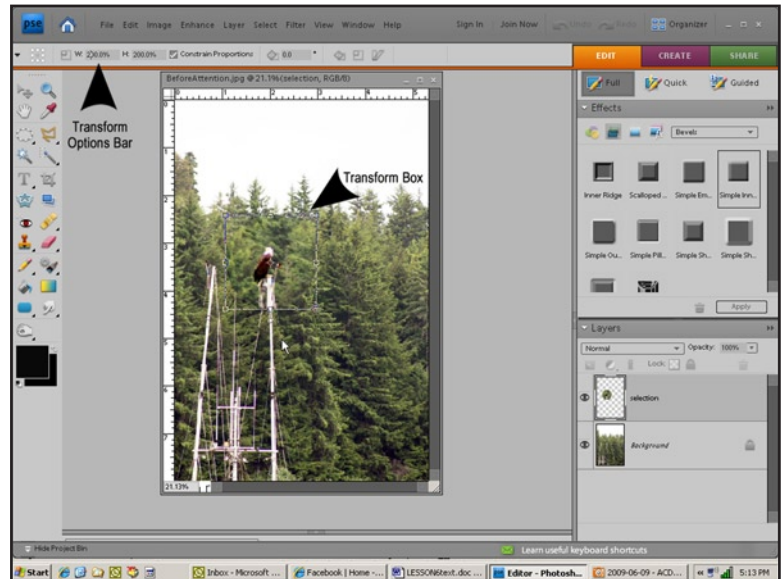
6. From the top menu bar, go to Edit>Cut (shortcut is CTRL+X or CMD+X). This will cut the rest of the layer away, leaving only your selection. It won't look different in the workspace, but if you look at the Layers Palette, you'll see that the layer contains just the selected area.



- With the Selection layer selected, press CTRL+T (CMD+T) to bring up a box around the selection. This is the Transform box and, with this around the selection, we can resize the selection.

- In the Transform Options bar above the workspace, set the Width and Height to 200%. Click on the green checkmark.

- With the Selection layer still selected, in PSE, go to Effects Palette>Bevels>Simple Inner. Click Apply. Click on the blue fx on the right side of the Selection layer and set the Bevel size at 50. To do this in Photoshop, go to Layer>Layer Styles>Bevel and set the Bevel size at 50.



- Right-click in the Layers Palette, choose Flatten Image. Save the file with a new name. Close this photo file.

stroke effect

- Repeat Steps 1 through 7 above.
- This time change the Width and Height to 300% and click on the green checkmark.
- Go to Edit>Stroke and choose a stroke of 5 px, white and with a center location.
- Click OK.

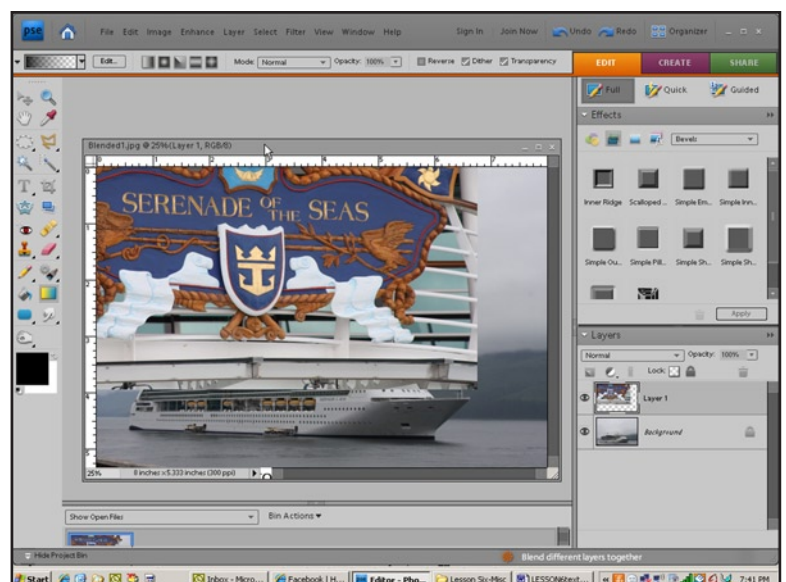
- Right-click in the Layers Palette, choose Flatten Image. Save the file with a new name. Close this photo file.

A QUICK WAY TO BLEND PHOTOS

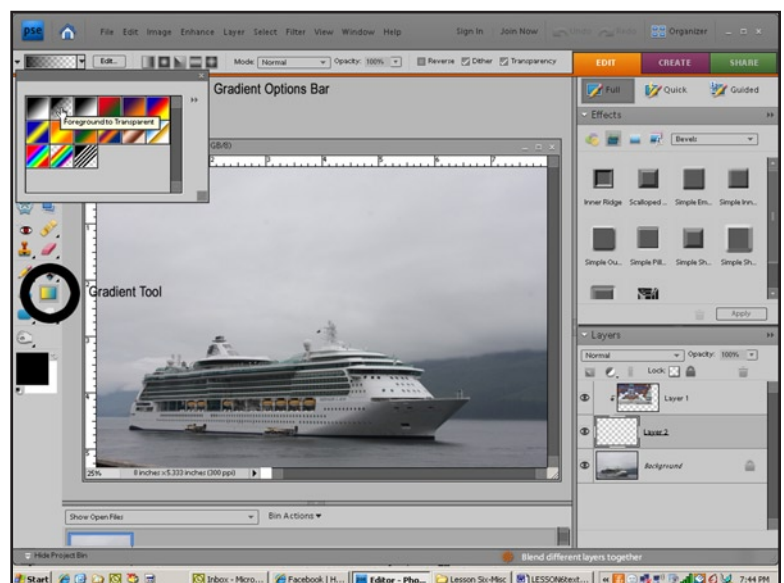
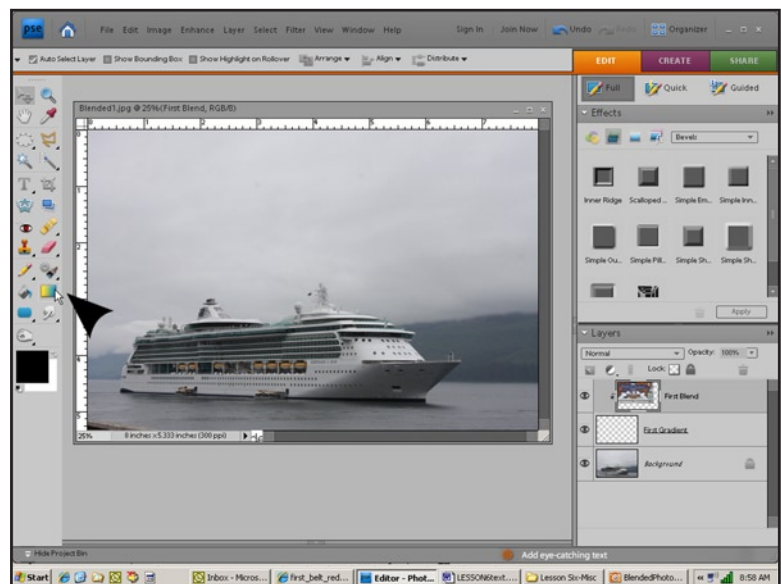
In my sample I blended three photos together. Sometimes choosing the photos to use is the trickiest part of this technique. I have provided you with my photos so that we can work through this technique together but please choose your own photos to blend together and share them with us in the Gallery!



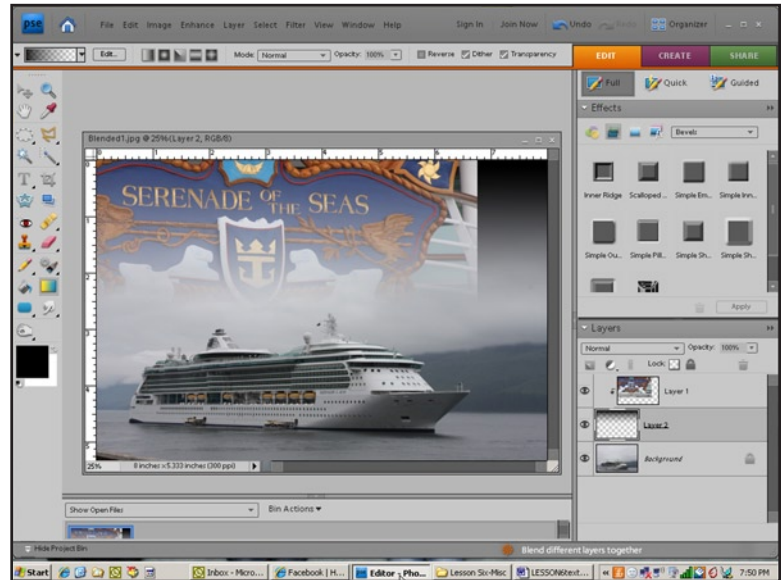
- Open photos Blended1 and Blended2 in the workspace.
- With the Move tool active, drag Blended2 over onto the Blended1 (the ship) layer. I positioned it so that the Serenade of the Seas sign will show in the area above the ship. Rename this layer "First Blend." Close the Blended2 photo.



3. Click on the Create New Layer icon. Drag this new layer below the First Blend layer. Rename this layer "First Gradient."
4. Position the Pointing Finger icon on the line between the First Blend layer and the First Gradient layer. With the First Blend layer selected, ALT+ Click to group the two layers together. This will make the Blended2 photo disappear temporarily.
5. Press the letter D to set the Foreground color to black. Then, from the left toolbar, choose the Gradient (rainbow looking) tool. A Gradient Options bar will appear above the workspace.
6. In the Gradient Options bar, choose the second gradient from the left, Foreground to Transparent. Hover over to see the names.



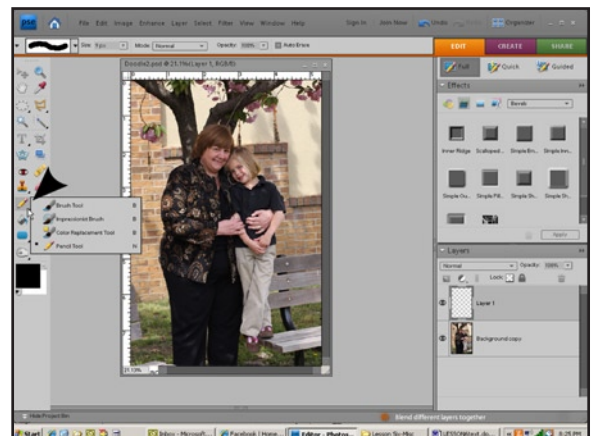
7. In the Layers Palette, click on the First Gradient layer. Position the cursor in the upper left corner and drag straight down about halfway down the photo. When you let go, Blended2 will appear in the upper left corner. Magic!
8. Open the Blended3 photo and drag it onto the ship photo, positioning the Welcome aboard sign in the lower right corner. Rename this layer "Second Blend." Be sure that the Second Blend layer is the top layer in the Layers Palette. Close the Blended3 photo.
9. Create a new layer and drag it below the Second Blend layer. Rename this layer "Second Gradient." With the Second Blend layer selected, ALT+ Click to group these two layers together. The photo will disappear.
10. Press G to switch to the Gradient tool. Click on the Second Gradient layer. Position the cursor on the right side edge of the photo and drag to the left straight across, about 1/3 of the way across the photo. You're done!
11. Right-click in the Layers Palette, choose Flatten Image. Save the file with a new name. Close this photo file.



ADDING DOODLES TO YOUR PHOTO

We're going to end with a simple way to add interest to your photos-adding Doodles.

1. Open a photo, duplicate it and do whatever correction you wish: resizing, color, exposure, sharpening, etc.
2. Click on the Create a New Layer icon. Position this layer above the Background layer.
3. In the left toolbar, choose the Pencil Tool. In different versions of Photoshop, this tool is housed in different places. If you can't find it, just press N and the Pencil tool should be selected. A Pencil Tool Options bar will open above the workspace.
4. In the Options bar, choose a size of 10 px, Mode Normal, Opacity 100%. This should be a good size to start with. Also choose Black as your Foreground color, unless you'd prefer to doodle in a different color!
5. With the empty layer selected, position the Pencil tool on your photo, hold down the mouse button and draw a doodle. This is easier said than done! It requires a little practice! Press CTRL+Z (CMD+Z) to Undo doodles until you have doodles you like.



6. When you are happy with your doodles, you can leave them as is or you can add a stroke. To do this, with your Doodle Layer selected, go to Edit>Stroke. Choose a size of 15 px, white and outside as a starting point. If you don't like this, CTRL+Z (CMD+Z) to Undo and change the settings until you are happy with the look. That's it!
7. Right-click in the Layers Palette, choose Flatten Image. Save the file with a new name. Close this photo file.

Many people like to use a tablet, like the Wacom, for drawing. It does take some practice also, but usually results in much smoother lines.

A GIFT FOR YOU

Designer Anna Aspnes, who sells her designs at Designer Digitals, has gifted you with a package of doodles. This product is available to download in the Forums. To use these doodles:

1. Open a photo, duplicate it and do whatever correction you wish-resizing, color, exposure, sharpening, etc.
2. Navigate to Anna's Spring Doodles folder. Open the folder. Click on the icon at the top right of the folder window and choose Thumbnail to see each doodle. Choose the doodle you want to use and click Open.
3. With the Move tool selected, drag the doodle onto your photo. Be sure to grab the doodle by a line, not the empty space around the doodle. If you'd like to make it larger or smaller, press CTRL+T (CMD+T) to bring up the Transform box. Either pull out or push in from the corner of the box or choose a percentage in the Options bar at the top of the workspace. Click the green checkmark.

4. Position the doodle where you want it by choosing the Move tool and using the arrow keys on your keyboard.
5. Add a stroke if you wish.
6. After you have added all the doodles you want, right-click in the Layers Palette, choose Flatten Image. Save the file with a new name. Close this photo file.

Thank you, Anna!

IN CONCLUSION

During these lessons, you have learned many techniques for adding creativity and fun to your photos. You've learned more about the tools, filters, blending modes and miscellaneous commands in your software. I hope these lessons are a springboard for you to explore the many creative options available to use with Photoshop and Photoshop Elements! Be sure to post in the Gallery and share your creations with us!

If you enjoyed this class, I hope you will join me for my next class, Fun Photo Effects, the Sequel!