

Burned Edge Effect in Photoshop

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It is easy to produce a burned-in edge for an image in Photoshop. A burned-in edge is a dark feathered edge around an image. Lets start with this image, Fig. 1.



Fig. 1. Image to receive burned-in edge

To produce a burned-in edge, open an image in Photoshop. Immediately Create a new layer in the Layers palette.

Press “d” to set the Foreground color to black. Press Option + Delete to fill the new layer with black. Use the Rectangular Marquee to draw a rectangle just inside the image borders, Fig. 2.

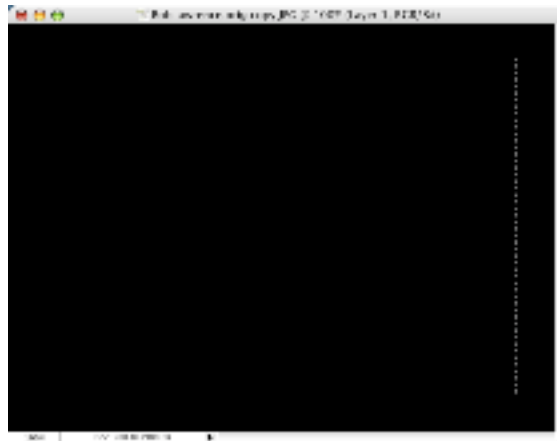


Fig. 2. Draw a rectangle

Go to the Select menu and choose Feather... Set Feather to 40. Click OK. After your first try, I suggest you play with the 40 Feather figure. You may like anything from 20 to 60 as a Feathering figure.

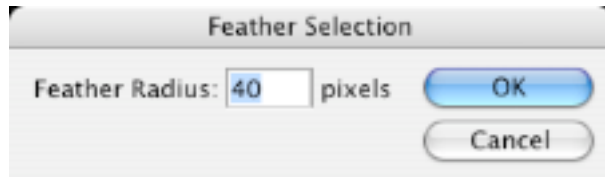


Fig. 3. Feathering

Press Delete to reveal your feathered image. Press Command + D to deselect the marquee. Now go to the Layers palette and lower the opacity to 50%, Fig. 4.

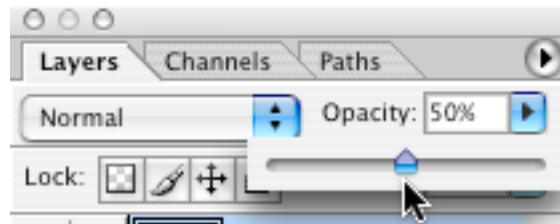


Fig. 4. Lowering Opacity

The finished image with burned-in edges appears in Fig. 5. I used a Feathering figure of 20 to make the burned-in edge appear more definite. Your choice. If you use a figure in the 40-50 range, the effect will be far more subtle. You can also play with the opacity percentage to see what you like best.



Fig. 5. Image with burned-in edge

If you want to learn more Photoshop effects, get Scott Kelby's book, *Classic Photoshop Effects*, Peachpit Press, \$39.95. MUG members get a discount, or try Amazon for a better price.