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Welcome to *Photoshop Techniques*—a monthly newsletter dedicated to helping you capture the full power of the world's best-selling color imaging software.

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001

Photoshop Techniques

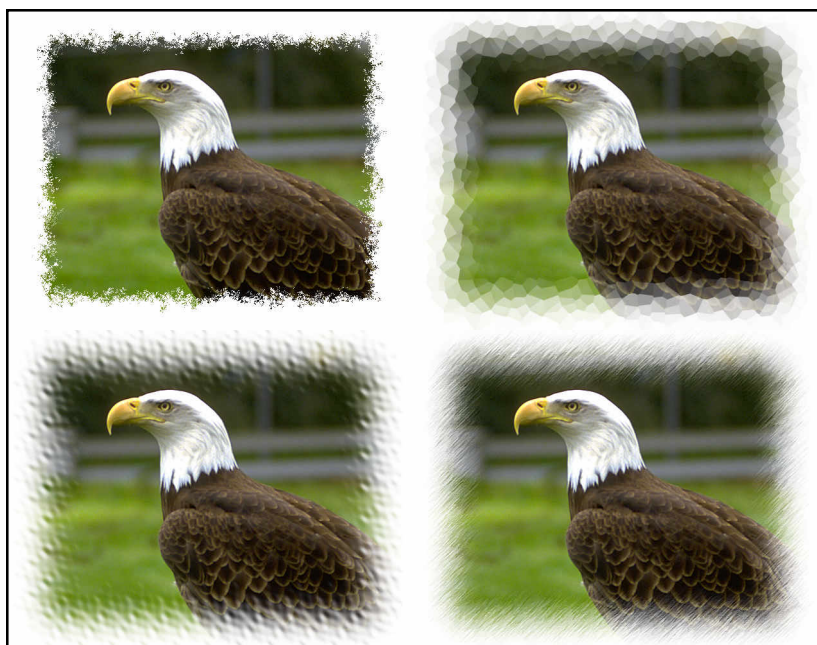
How to use

QUICK MASK TO CREATE SPECIAL PHOTO EDGES.

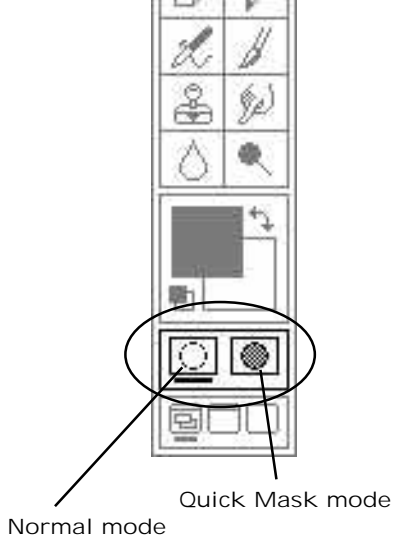
Channels and masks—the words can sound intimidating to the uninitiated Photoshop user. However, once you start to understand how to take advantage of them, a whole new world of techniques and possibilities opens up.

This issue of *Photoshop Techniques* introduces a quick and easy way to start learning about masks. The following technique shows how to use the Quick Mask tool to create special borders around existing photos.

Many designers avoid such effects because they are not sure how to create them. Using the basic techniques covered here, you can quickly explore a number of options and open up some exciting new ways of working.

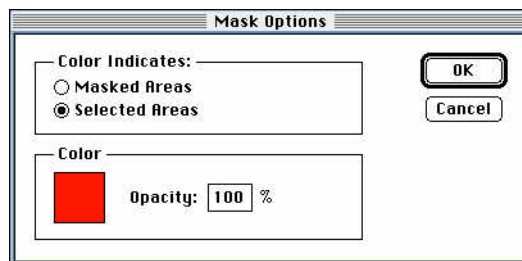


Filter combinations to create above effects can be found on Page 4.



Photoshop 3.0's Quick Mask feature.

The Quick Mask controls are found at the bottom of Photoshop's tool palette (see left). For this technique, double-click on the Quick Mask icon and enter the settings below:



[†]Rubylith overlay:

Graphic designers often use a clear overlay on top of a traditional paste-up board to indicate the position of photographs to be stripped in later.

If this analogy means nothing to you, refer to Photoshop Techniques 004 for a more universal example.

You can use Photoshop's Quick Mask mode the same way a designer might use a rubylith overlay[†] in traditional paste-up. When you click the Quick Mask icon, Photoshop covers the selected parts of your photo with a red overlay.

While in the Quick Mask mode, you can change the shape of this red overlay without effecting your main image below it. When you click back on the Normal mode icon, everything that was covered with your red overlay is selected.

Steps to creating a textured edge.

Step 1



Step 1A-1D



Step 1E

Create a rectangular selection around your photo

In this step you will create a rectangular mask that will be used to crop your photo. Keep in mind that the filters used in Step 2 might soften the final edges of the mask, so do not crop too closely to the edge of your photo.

A: Open an image in Photoshop.

B: Enter the Quick Mask options shown above.

Note: The settings at the top of the page are not Photoshop's default settings. Make sure to change them before continuing.

C: Click on the Normal mode icon in the toolbox.

Shortcut: Press the N key to quickly switch to Normal mode.

The Normal mode icon is found in the Quick Mask area (See diagram in top left of page). This confirms you are in Normal mode before you start this technique.

D: Draw a selection box with the marquee tool.

E: Click on the Quick Mask mode icon.

Shortcut: Press the Q key to quickly switch to Quick Mask mode.

When you click the Quick Mask icon, Photoshop automatically replaces your selected area with a red overlay.



Step 2

Step 2

Apply filter(s) from the Filter menu.

While in the Quick mask mode, any filters you use will only change the mask overlay. The photograph below will not be effected until the mask is applied in Step 4. Experiment with different filter combinations to create a variety of effects.

On page four there is a chart with a number of different examples. The example to the left uses the following steps:

A: Choose Stylize → Diffuse from the Filter menu.

B: Repeat the Diffuse filter several times.

Shortcut: Command-F (PC: Alt.-F) to reapply the same filter again.



Step 3

Step 3

Click on the Normal mode icon (Press N).

When you click back on the Normal mode icon, everything that was covered with the mask overlay becomes selected.

You should see a selection outline indicating where your mask overlay was.

Step 4

Copy the selection into a new document

When you copy the selection, Photoshop only copies the area that was covered by your mask overlay at the end of Step 2. By pasting this copied selection into a new document, you create the equivalent of a window mask for your photo.

A: Choose Copy from the Edit menu.

Shortcut: Command-C (PC: Alt.-C).

This copies your selection into memory.

B: Choose New from the File menu.

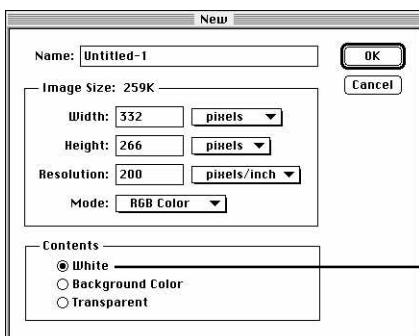
Photoshop automatically enters the dimensions of your copied selection as the default size and resolution. Click "OK" to create a new blank document.

Note: Set the Contents to White.

C: Choose Paste from the Edit menu.

Shortcut: Command-V (PC: Alt.-V).

Your photo should paste into the empty window with the edge effects you created in your mask overlay. You can try a variety of effects to get a feel for working with masks.



Step 4B



Step 4C

A	B
C	D

On the Cover

A Stylize → Diffuse (20x)

B Blur → Gaussian Blur;
Stylize → Crystalize

C Blur → Gaussian Blur;
Distort → Ripple

D Blur → Gaussian Blur;
GE Spray Stokes†

 <p>Blur → Gaussian Blur; Stylize → Color Halftone</p>	 <p>Blur → Gaussian Blur; Stylize → Extrude</p>
 <p>Blur → Gaussian Blur; GE Craquelure†</p>	 <p>Blur → Gaussian Blur; GE Ripple†</p>

†The Adobe Gallery Effects collection is an excellent source of additional filters (about \$89 mail-order).



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Quotes from our READERS.

"Publisher Craig Swanson touches upon one effect per issue and shows how to achieve it, step by step. The presentation is excellent, brief and to the point. The whole issue can be read and understood with a few glances. This publication makes a useful reference to any electronic designer's shelf."

- Tom Geller, Associate Editor, ZiffNet forum on eWorld.

"Looks like you've put a lot of work into developing and presenting these Photoshop tips. Very Impressive."

- Rob S. (Straittime@aol.com)

"I want to thank you for Photoshop Techniques. It is a real pleasure to read and own. Not very often is there a "zine" available that is so knowledgeable and yet easy to use."

- Kent Eichler

"I like your Photoshop Techniques Newsletter. ...I have an easier time digesting just a few tips and tricks at a time than getting through a whole book at once. ...With your newsletter format getting mailed out once a month there is that feeling of something new coming in all the time. It stimulates my motivation."

- Rob Teutsch

"Great stuff!"

- D. Pepper, Federal Express, Media Production

"I'm impressed! ... They're organized the way I comprehend information: Short, succinct step-by-step directions."

- Sue Ruff

"Fabulous! 'bout time somebody did this!"

- Jeff Farmer

"Your publication is great! I teach Adobe Photoshop and your instructions are so far the most understandable I have seen. I might include some of your "How to's" in my sessions and will certainly suggest my students to subscribe to *Photoshop Techniques*."

- Ivana Starcevic

(As of January 1, 1995)

Answers to frequently asked QUESTIONS...

Do you support the Windows platform?

Yes. My assistant editor works on a PC platform. Most techniques should work the same regardless of the computer used. The reason you see Mac screen shots in the newsletter is that I work on a Mac and I produce the final layouts.

Can I get my subscription through e-mail?

Right now we do not offer the full printed edition in an electronic format. We are exploring several methods for electronically distributing the full editions. Depending on the interest, we are also considering releasing a CD-ROM with back issues and support files sometime in late 1996.

Can I get copies of the back issues?

When you subscribe to Volume #1 of Photoshop Techniques we start your subscription off with *all* the back issues starting from issue #001. After that you will receive a new packet of four issues each month through issue #052.

Will there be a Volume #2 of Photoshop Techniques?

We will be making that final decision sometime in late 1996. It will depend on the interest of our readers, plus changes in technology. I expect we will continue with Adobe Photoshop. However this is a growing market and other programs could potential rise to the top of the industry. Regardless, we will be continuing to develop and provide new tools for the digital imaging community.

What if I decide later that I don't want Photoshop Techniques?

Your subscription is fully guaranteed. If you decide to cancel for any reason, let us know and we will gladly refund your full subscription amount.

Can I pass along this electronic file?

Absolutely, please do! But do not edit, change or remove anything. If you are interested in reprinting *Photoshop Techniques* articles in other magazines or newsletters, please contact me first.

-Craig Swanson, Editor and publisher of *Photoshop Techniques*.

An index of **BACK ISSUES.**

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- #016 - How to Add new Objects to a Photo.