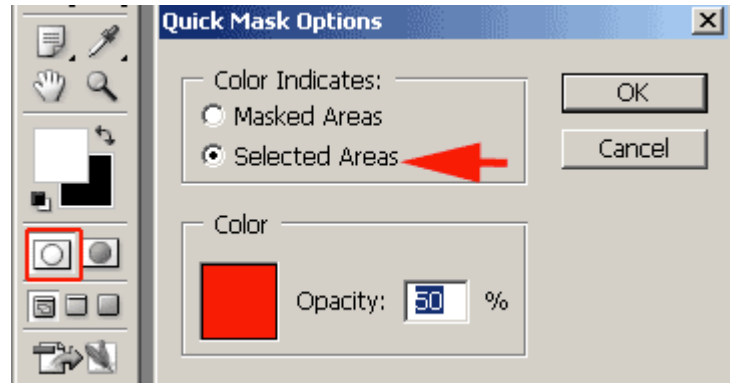
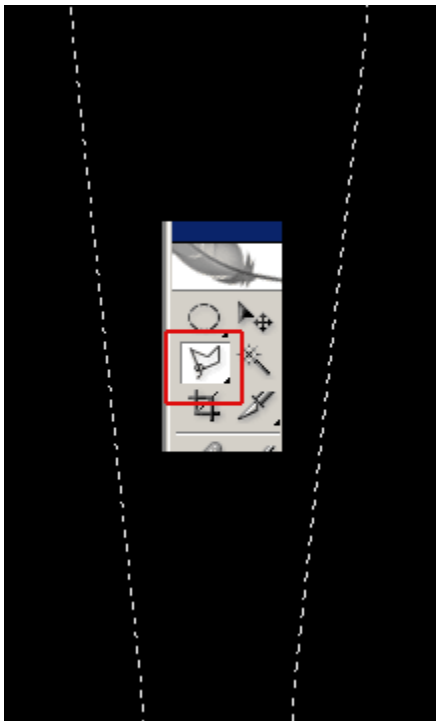


EZ-LIGHT BEAM – This tutorial also shows a **FOOLPROOF METHOD** of **FEATHERING**.

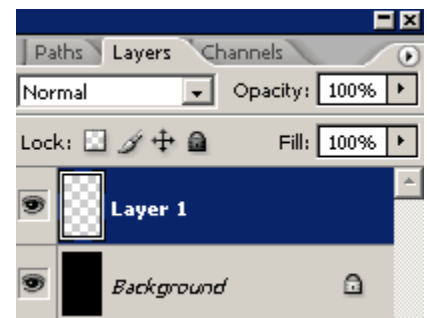
1. **BEFORE YOU START**, double click on either of the Quick Mask Icons on the Tools Palette. Change the option to "selected areas". Opacity stays at 50%. You could change the color of your Quick Mask if you like. Click OK.



2. Create a blank document and fill it with Black. The size of your document will depend on the how large you want to make your beam.
3. Use the Polygonal Lasso to create a triangle shape to represent the light beam.



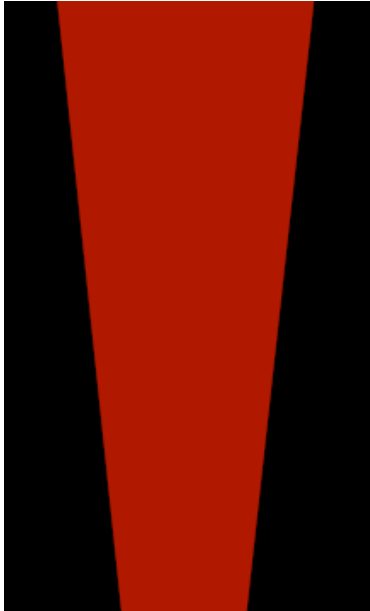
4. Create a New **BLANK LAYER** above your background. **LAYER>NEW LAYER**. You now have two layers. Your selection should still be showing.



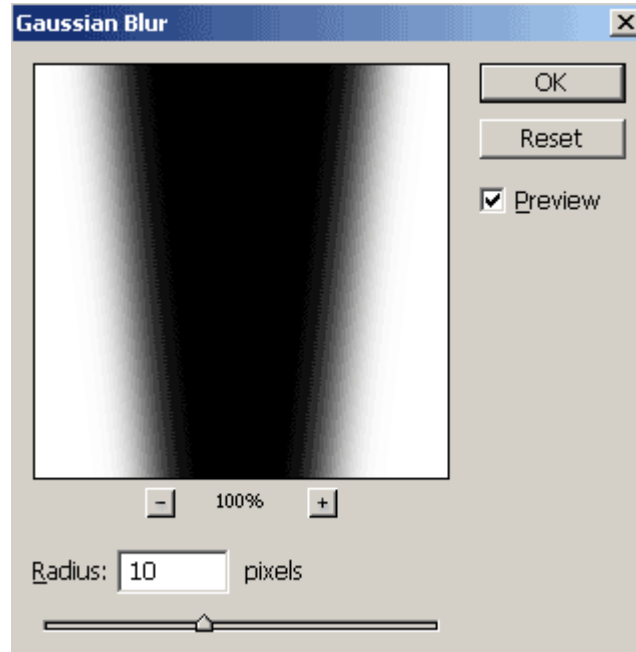
To make the beam of light look natural, you now need to Feather the selection. **DO NOT USE** the Feather Command. For a clear visual of Feathering, use **QUICK MASK** and **GUASSIAN BLUR** instead!

5. PRESS Q on your keyboard. This takes you into Quick Mask. Your selected area will turn RED.
(If everything but the selection turns red, then you did not change the Quick Mask options).

Next, go to the top toolbar and click on FILTER>BLUR>GAUSSIAN BLUR. Drag the slider while watching your image. When the edge is as soft as you like, click OK.



Press Q to enter Quick Mask

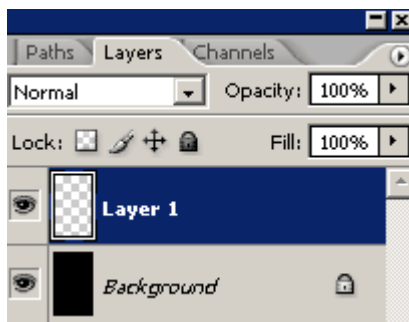


Bring up Gaussian Blur Filter – Drag slider –Click OK



Your selection is now feathered

6. Press Q again to exit Quick Mask. Your selection will look slightly rounded on any points you see.
7. Create a new BLANK layer above the background. Your selection should still be showing.
8. Change the colors on your Tools Palette to White as Foreground and Black as Background.
9. Click on the Gradient Tool. On the Options Bar, click on the LINEAR gradient option.



Create New Layer



Switch Colors to White/ Black

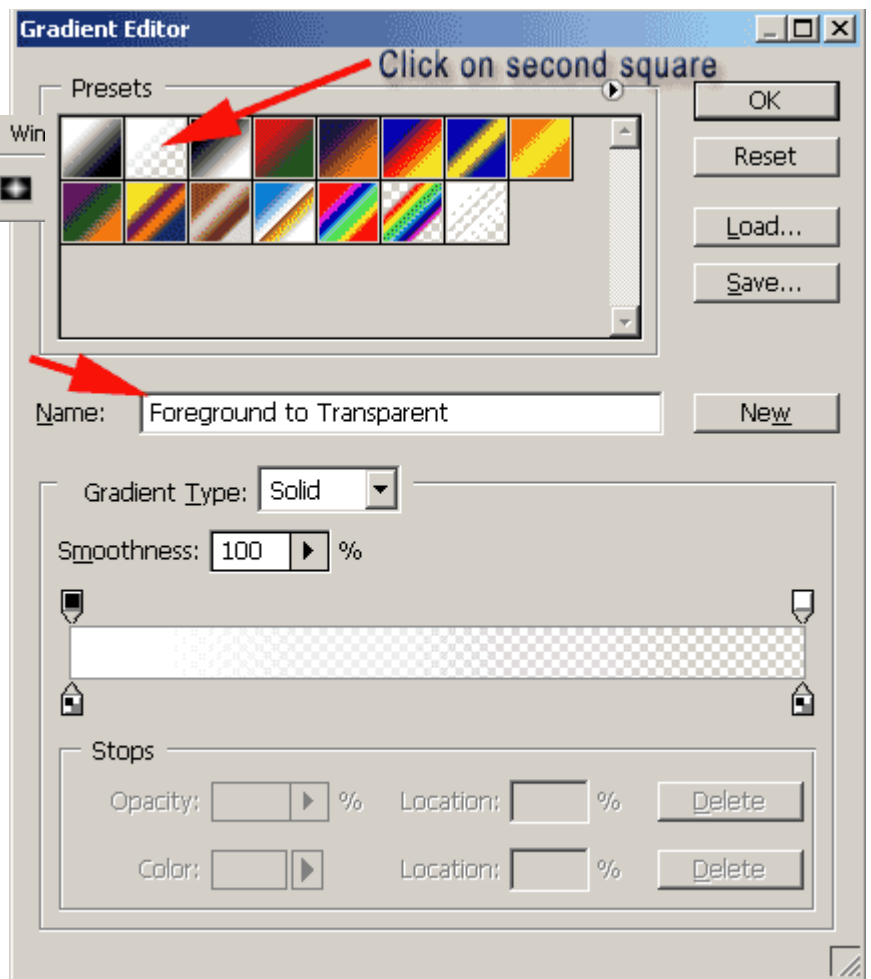
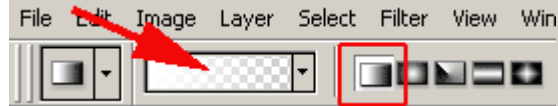


Click Gradient Tool

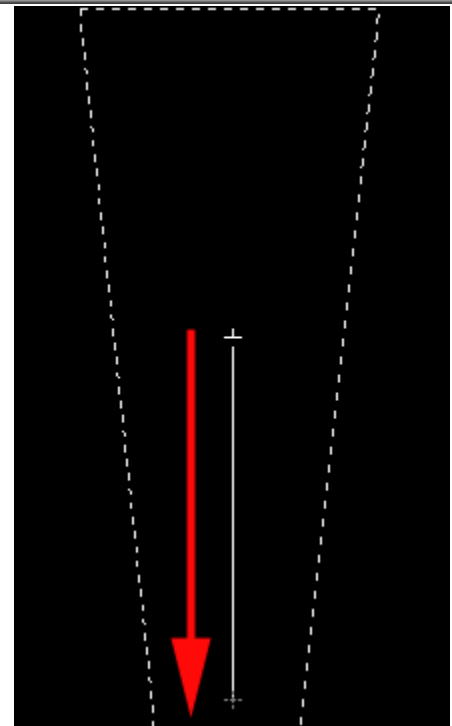


Choose Linear Gradient

10. On the Gradient Options Bar, click inside the bar to the left of the Gradient Options. This will bring up the Gradient Editor (right). Choose Foreground to Transparent. Click OK



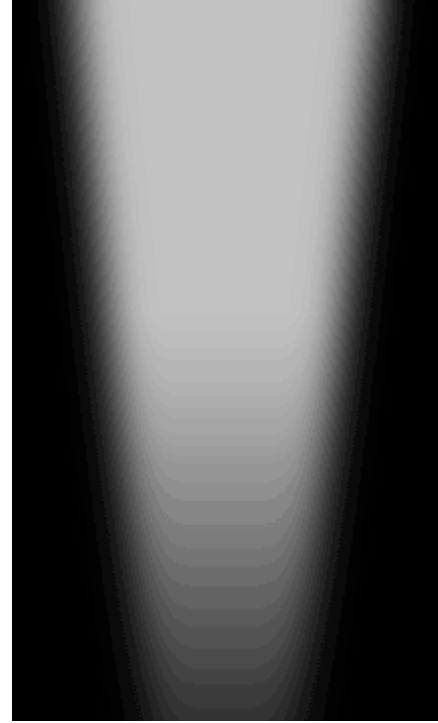
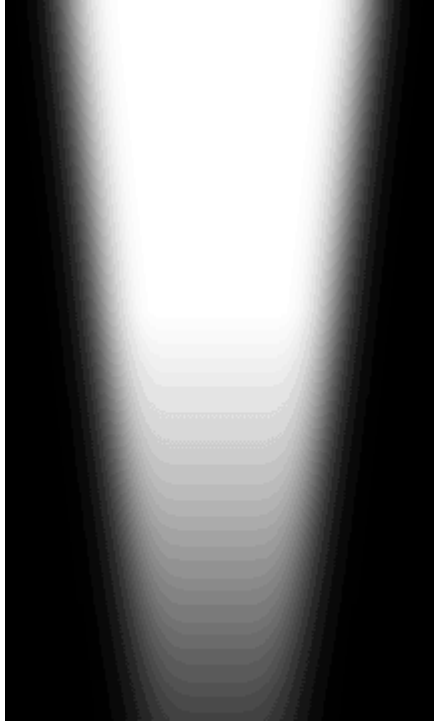
11. Using the Gradient Tool, begin about the middle of the document and then CLICK and DRAG down to the bottom of the document PAST the edge and then let go of the mouse.



12. Your selection will be filled with a gradation of white. (The selection will still be active). If you don't like the result, UNDO the gradient and then click and drag again. Experiment until you get something you like.

When you get something you like, Deselect the selection (Control/Command + D)

If the beam is too strong, just lower the opacity of the layer.



Lower Opacity of Layer to soften the Light Beam

That's it! Now that you know the basics, you can use this tutorial on one of your images.

Option: You can drag the light beam layer from this tutorial onto any image! Just open another image. Go back to the Light Beam and click on the Light Beam layer. Now just click and drag it over the other image. If you can't see it light beam in the other image, drag the layer to the top of the stack. Finally.....use the Transform Tool to size as needed for the new image!

Questions? marianne@ezpixels.com