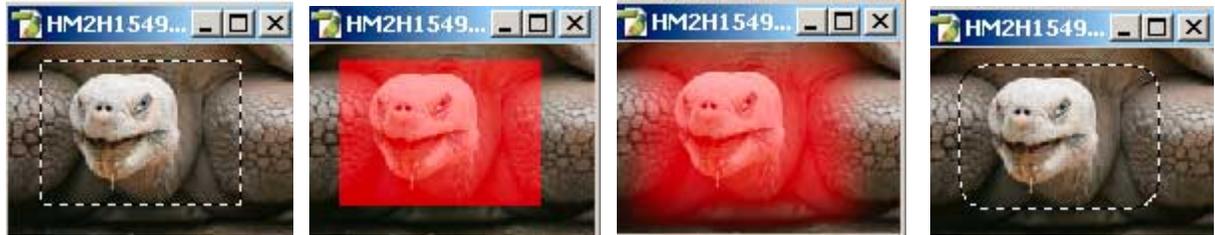


1 - PREVIEW FEATHERING WITH QUICKMASK – Blurring in Quick Mask is the same as Feathering a Selection

1. Make a selection in your image. Press Q on the keyboard. Your selection is now RED. Go to Filter>Blur>Gaussian Blur. Starting with a low number, drag slider over until the edge is as soft as you'd like. Exit Quick Mask.



a. Create Selection

b. Enter Quick Mask

c. Use Gaussian Blur

d. Exit Quick Mask

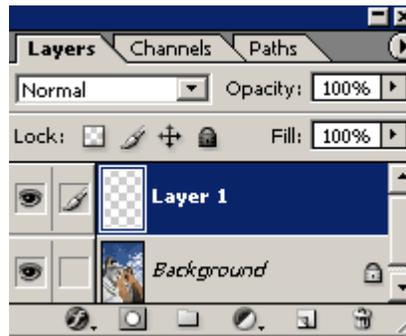
2 - EZ VIGNETTE with preview of FEATHERING- Without using the “Feather” command



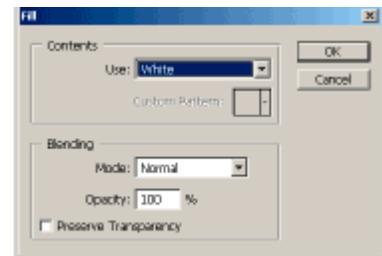
1. Elliptical marquis



2. Invert selection



3. New blank layer



4. Click on “Edit” > “Fill”. Choose White.



5. Result is a hard edged white mat around your image



6. Deselect and then use Gaussian Blur on Mask

#3 - **BLUR A MASK TO CREATE FEATHERING** – I use this method for “burning in the edges of images”

1. Create a selection in your image. In this tutorial, I want to darken the edges of my image so I used the Marquis Tool to draw a selection just inside the edges of the image. I then inversed the selection.



a. create selection

b. invert selection

2. Bring up the Layers Palette and click on the Adjustment Layer Icon at the bottom of the Palette. Choose “Levels”. (Fig 2) Watching your selection, I dragged my left slider over until the edges were as dark as I wanted. Note that the edge is very HARD. (Fig 3)



Fig 1

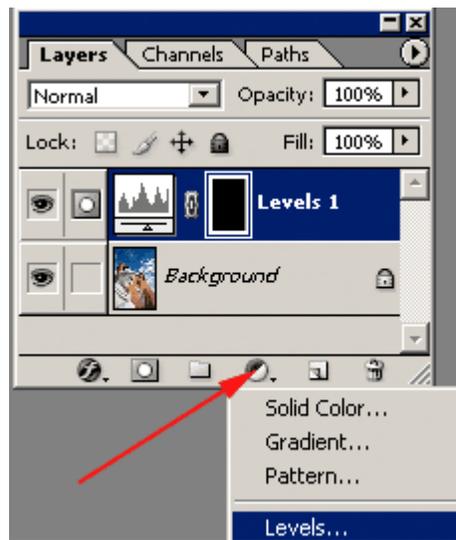


Fig 2



Fig 3

3. Press Control/Command “D” to deselect. Look at the Layers Palette. Note that you now have an “Adjustment Layer” just above the background. Click on the Mask of this adjustment layer. It’s the one on the right side of the layer.

Click on “Filter” “Blur” and choose “Gaussian Blur”. Starting with a low number, look at your image and then drag the slider to the right until the adjustment is more gradual at the edges.



Don't forget that you can now edit the Mask further by painting on it with Black and White.

NOTE: Use the above suggestion for ANY MASK. For instance, select the shadows in an image using "Color Range". This method, like all methods of selecting, results in a very HARD edge. If you use the "Feather" command, there is no preview so it can be a guessing game as to how much is needed. To get a perfect feathering amount and preview too, do the following:

Create a "Levels" adjustment Layer. Drag the slider to lighten. Now Blur the Mask to adjust the edges. This allows you to preview the feathering needed rather than guessing at a feathering amount before the adjustment layer.



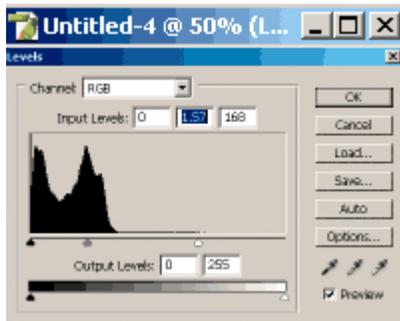
1. original



2. select shadows with "Color Range"



3. resulting selection (hard edges)



4. levels adjustment layer



5. Deselect



6. Apply "Gaussian blur" on the resulting mask until edges have softer transition

Of course you could also use the wonderful new "Highlight/Shadow" adjustment in Photoshop CS but it's always good to know all the options!