



INTRODUCTION TO GRAPHICS

Salvaging sub par Images

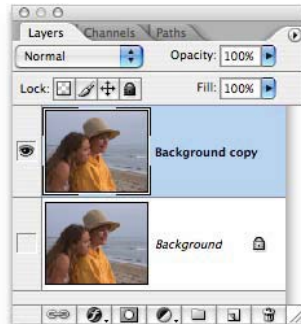
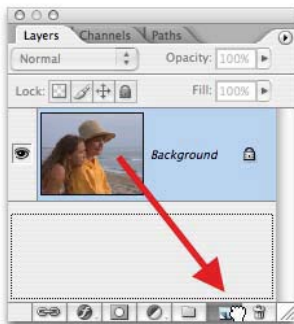
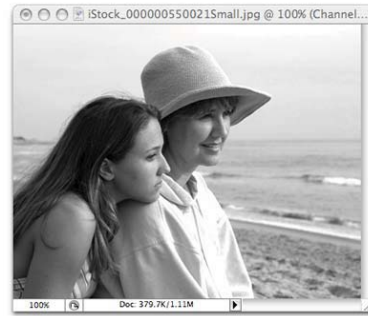
Information Sheet No. PS948

Mundane images, even those with bad lighting, skin blemishes, etc. can be saved by using this technique in Photoshop.

This tutorial uses a photo of a mother and daughter with less than optimal lighting. Yes you could fix it in Photoshop, but let's say we're going for a more nostalgic look and feel.

Make it grayscale

The first step is to zap all color from the image. Though this can be done in several ways, lets use this technique:



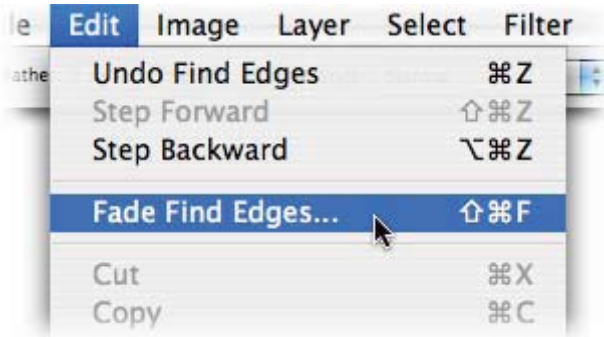
Create the sketch

Step 3: Choose Filter > Stylize > Find Edges. Don't panic when your image immediately turns into something rather freakish, you'll fix it in the next step.

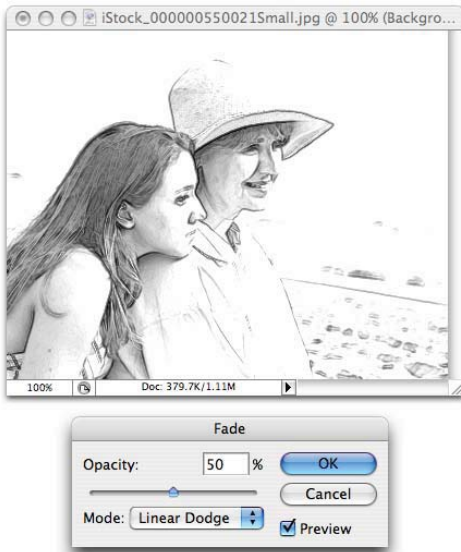
Step 2: Choose Image > Adjustments > Channel Mixer. In the resulting dialog box, click the Monochrome button at the bottom, then tweak the various sliders until you get a nice black and white image with a fair amount of contrast. The image, may be brightened by boosting the red, green, and blue channels, and decreasing the Constant (rather, overall brightness). Click OK when finished.



Step 4: Choose Edit > Fade Find Edges. This will allow you to back off the effects of the Find Edges filter. Beware: This command is only available **immediately** after running the filter, else it'll be grayed out.

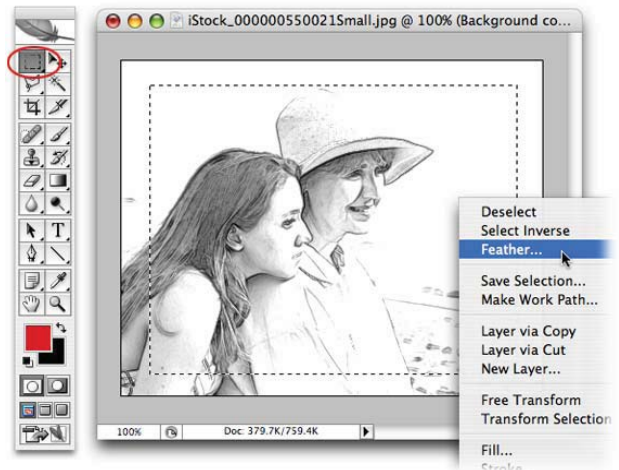


Step 5: In the resulting dialog box, lower the Opacity to about 50% (this will vary by image), and change the Blend Mode to Linear Dodge. This gives us a nice soft sketch feel. **TIP:** Try Hard Mix for a darker sketch.

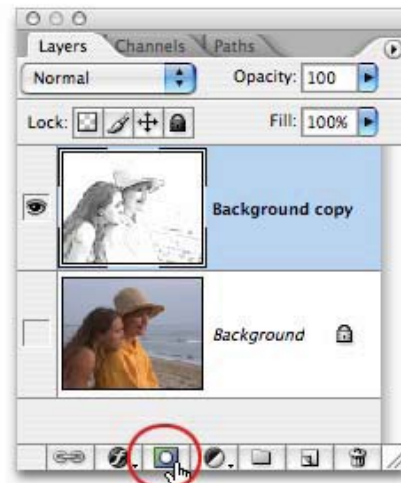


Give it a soft edge

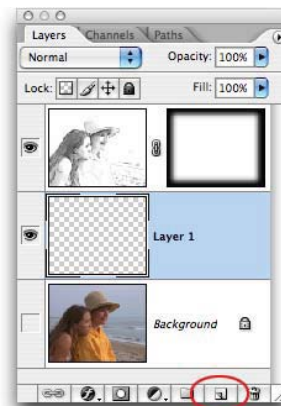
Step 6: Press M to select the rectangular marquee selection tool and draw a selection around the image about 1/4 inch inside, as shown below. Right click within the selected area (inside the marching ants) to bring up the shortcut menu and choose Feather. Enter 10 pixels and press OK.



Step 7: Instead of deleting the edges of the image, we'll hide them with a layer mask by clicking the half black/half white circle at the bottom of the layers palette.



Step 8: Ctrl click the new layer icon at the bottom of the layers palette to add a blank layer beneath the one currently selected.

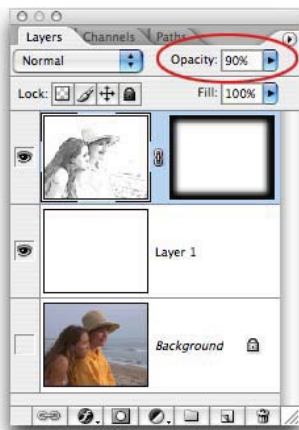


Step 9: Press D to set your color chips to the default of black and white, then

X until white is perched on top. Fill the layer with white by pressing Alt + Delete.



Step 10: Lighten the sketch slightly by reducing the Opacity of the sketch layer in the Layers Palette.



Sit back and gaze with awe upon our new creation:



Before



After