COVERS
PHOTOSHOP
3.0

021

Photoshop

Techniques

How to add
SHADOWS OR GLOWS TO AN OBJECT.

Adding quick shadows within Photoshop is probably one of the most frequently needed techniques you will run into. The quick shadow becomes a simple task using Photoshop 3.0's new Layers palette.
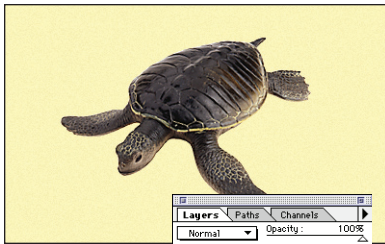
Adding a glow uses essentially the same layering technique as does shadowing. The following issue covers these two related step-by-step techniques and provides a good basic introduction to using Photoshop's new Layers palette.

Note: This technique is for adding shadows within a Photoshop file. If you want to shadow a cut-out object for use in QuarkXPress or PageMaker refer to one of the techniques listed below:
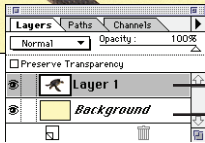
#003 How to Create a soft shadow for Postscript images.

#010 How to Create a shadow for cut-out objects.
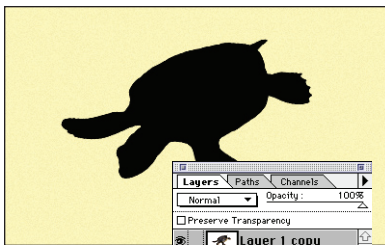
Step 1

Step 1

Isolate the object on its own layer.

Before we can shadow an object using this technique, it must first be isolated on its own layer. (Note: If you are new to layers, follow the steps on Page 4.)
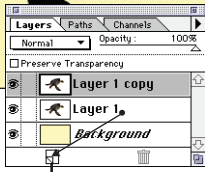
The example image to the left contains two layers: "Layer 1" holds the object we want to shadow. "Background" holds the background texture or color.

Step 2

Step 2

Duplicate the layer and fill the object with black.

This duplicated layer will become our object's shadow.

A: **Drag the object's layer onto the New Layer icon.**
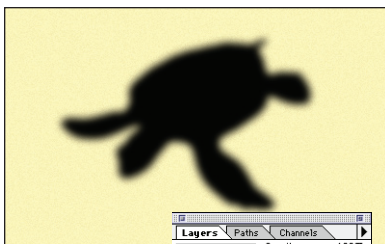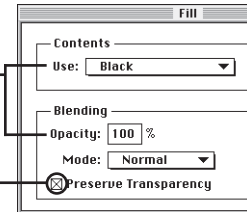Dragging a layer onto this icon duplicates that layer.

B: **Choose Fill from the Edit menu.**

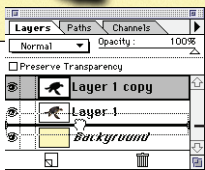**C:** **Set the fill to 100% Black**

D: **Turn on "Preserve Transparency"**
With Preserve Transparency on, the black will fill only the shape of your object.
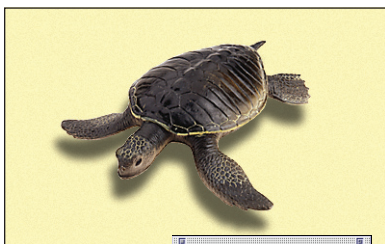Click OK to apply your fill.

Step 3

Step 3

Blur the black duplicate.

Choose Blur → Gaussian Blur from the Filter menu.

The blur filter will create our shadow's soft edge. Blur to taste. This example uses a blur radius of 4 pixels.

Step 4

Step 4

Move the copied layer behind the original one.

Position the shadow beneath the original object.

A: **Drag the copied layer below the original one.**
In the Layers palette, click and drag the copied layer as shown to the left.
Note: Make sure that you see a dark line between the layers before you let go of the mouse.

B: **Offset the shadow using the Move tool.**
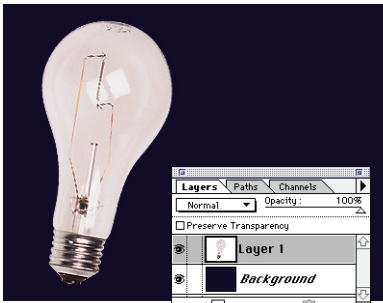In this example, we moved the shadow left and down.
Shortcut: You can also use the arrow keys on your keyboard to move your shadow in 1 pixel increments.

C: **Adjust the shadow using the Opacity slider.**
Make sure the shadow's layer is selected and use the Opacity slider to control how dark the shadow appears.
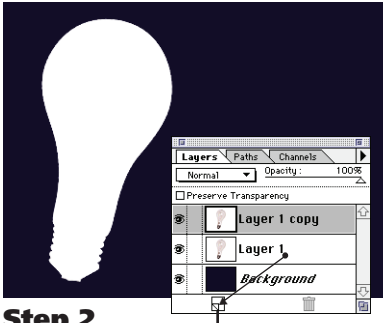
Step 1

Step 1

Isolate the object on its own layer.

This step is identical to the first step on the opposite page. The only difference is that in this example, we choose a darker background color to show off the glowing effect better.

Step 2
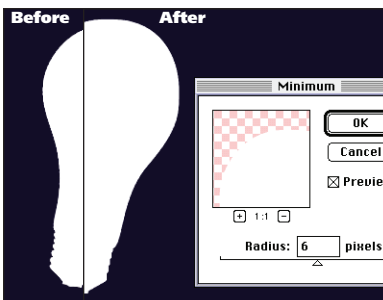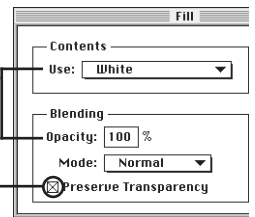
Step 2

Duplicate the layer and fill it with white.

In this step, we fill our object with white instead of black.

A: **Drag the object's layer onto the New Layer icon.**

B: **Choose Fill from the Edit menu.**

C: **Set it to fill with 100% White**

D: **Check "Preserve Transparency"**
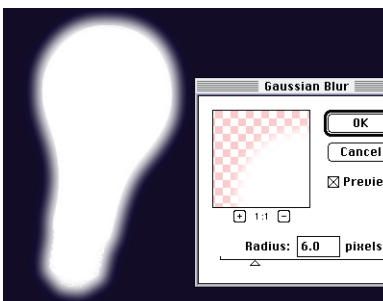Click OK to apply the fill.

Step 3

Before   After

Step 3

Spread the white silhouette.

Choose Other → Minimum from the Filter menu.

The Minimum filter will spread our white shape outward from the edges. (A Radius of 6 pixels was used in this example.)
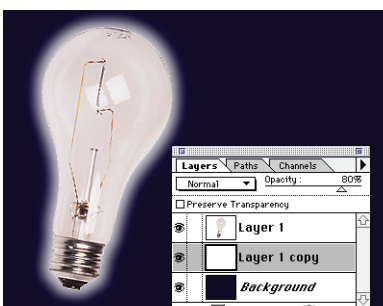
Step 4

Step 4

Blur the white duplicate.

Choose Blur → Gaussian Blur from the Filter menu.

The blur filter will create our glow's soft edge. Blur to taste. This example uses a blur radius of 6 pixels.

Step 5

Move the copied layer behind the original one.

The glow should be directly behind our object. This is different from the shadow which was offset slightly.

A: **Drag the copied layer below the original one.**
In the Layers palette, click and drag the copied layer below the original object.
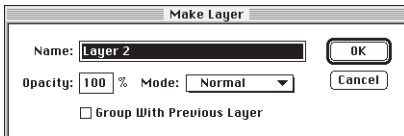**Note:** See the example on the previous page.

B: **Use Opacity to control the glow's brightness.**
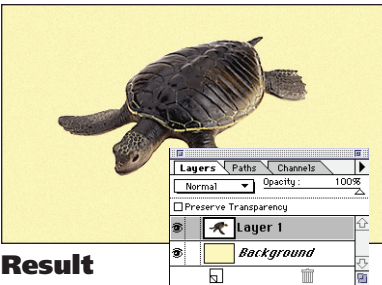Make sure the glow's layer is selected and use the Opacity slider to control how bright the glow appears.

Step 5

Photoshop Techniques

To use these techniques, the object you want to work with must be isolated on its own layer. Use these steps to copy an object from one file onto a new layer in another document.

Step 1A-B

Step 1

Outline and copy an object from one photo.

A: Use the selection tools to outline your object.
Photoshop has a number of tools you can use to select objects. In this example we used the Lasso tool to select the outline of our turtle's shape.

B: Choose Copy from the Edit menu.
The selected object is copied to memory for later use.

Step 2B

Step 2

Paste the object onto a layer in another photo.

A: Open a second Photoshop file.
In this case, we have opened the background used on Page 1.

B: Choose Paste Layer… from the Edit menu.
Photoshop will present you will a Layer Options dialog box.

Name your layer and click OK. The object you selected in the previous step should now be isolated on its own layer.

Result

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Photoshop Techniques

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