Photoshop CS5: Using Filters

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Visual effects can be added to an image using filters. Photoshop filters are plug-ins that work with the Photoshop software to create the effects. You can find many filters that are pre-installed such as Blur, Sharpen, Distort. These filters can be used to touch up an image, create a totally different look to an image and many other creative ways to enhance an image.

**Blur Filter**

In this exercise we are going to take an image with a busy background and blur out everything but the focal point.

**Step 1**

- Open the image you want to apply the filter to.
- Click the Elliptical Marquee Tool.
- Draw an ellipse around the area you want to keep in its original state. (“Marching Ants” will appear around your selection)

**Step 2**

Right now you have the area you want to keep selected in order for us to “blur” the background we need to select the inverse. Use the following steps to do so

- Go to the Select Tab

![Select Tab](image)

- Click on Inverse

![Inverse Selection](image)
Now you will see “Marching Ants around you selection as well as the outside edge of your image.

**Step 3**
- Go to the **Filters Tab**
- Choose **Blur** and from the expanded blur options choose **Gaussian Blur**

![Filters Tab and Gaussian Blur](image)

**Step 4**
You will now have a Gaussian Blur option box that appears and allows you a small preview to help you adjust the Radius (amount of blur)
- Use the slider below Radius to adjust the amount of blur you want.
- Make sure the Preview option is check so you can see what affect is being applied

**Finished Image**

![Before and After Images](image)
Artist Filters

Artistic filters allow you to apply a “painted effect” to your images. In this example we show how to take a crisp image and turn into something that has an old feel by using the artistic filter.

Step 1
- Open your image
- Click on the Filter Tab
- Choose Artistic
- Choose Watercolor

Step 2
A window will open with a preview of your image and options you can use to change the brush detail, shadow intensity and texture.
- Click on the “−” (minus button) at the bottom of the preview window allowing you a better view of your image.
Step 3
After you have adjusted the Brush Detail, Shadow Intensity, and Texture (all optional) you can **Click OK**

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Texture Filters
Using the Texture Filters in Photoshop allows you to add a canvas effect to your images. In this example we will use the texture filter.

Step 1
- Open your image.
Step 2

- Go to the **Filters Tab**
- Choose **Texture** then select **Texturizer**

Step 3

- From the Texturizer window you can adjust the **Type of Texture, Scaling and Relief**
- The options you choose will be visible in the preview window.
- You can also choose the position of the **Light** (Top, Bottom, Right, etc.)
- Once your image is filtered as you want click **OK**
You can explore many of the other Filter options in Photoshop just as we have the ones covered in these examples. Filters can be used in so many ways, you can use them in ways from clearing up blemishes, to blurring and sharpening image details. Filters help you achieve these task quickly with out consuming a lot of time. Filters can also enhance the lighting of a image with creative stylized looks. Have fun with Filters!
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