

BIPC DIGITAL IMAGING STUDY GROUP
ASSIGNMENT 2003-04
SUBJECT: TONING TOOLS AND DUST & SCRATCH REMOVAL

PROBLEM: You have an image that needs selective dodging or burning and you would like to not have to damage the master image. You also have an image that has a significant amount of dust and scratches that you want to remove without having to resort to extensive use of the cloning tool.

CONCEPT: If the dodge and burn tools are used directly on the master image there will be damage to the files and the changes will be lost with the history when the file is closed. By setting up a new layer in your layers palette that is filled with 50% grey you will be able to dodge or burn in an effective fashion.

If your image has a great deal of dust and scratches you can remove them by painstaking use of the clone tool. Instead we will use a filter that is very effective and efficient at scratch and dust removal.

PROCEDURES:

- **Dodging and Burning:**¹

Start with the image that you would like to dodge or burn. Hold down the Alt key while clicking on the new layer icon. A menu will pop up with the option for "Mode." Click and choose "Overlay." Check the box labeled "Fill with Overlay-neutral color (50% grey)" and click OK.

You now have a new layer in your layers palette that is filled with 50% grey. Make sure that the layer is at the top of the layers palette. Choose a soft-edged brush of the appropriate size (perhaps 27). If the foreground layer is set to default black, the effect will be to darken the image. If the foreground layer is set to white, the effect is to lighten the image. The amount of effect is determined by the opacity setting at the top of the screen in the options bar of the brush tool, and a value of about 20% opacity is a good starting point. (Tip: Switching between default black and white can be done with the "X" key).

Check the work you've done to the image by clicking on and off the "eyeball" symbol next to the layer. Save your optimized image as a PSD file so that it and all the corrections can be recalled at anytime in the future.

- **Dust and Scratch Removal:**

Make a selection of the area in which you want to remove dust and scratches. Select the base or background image.

Go to Filter > Noise > Dust and Scratches... Set two sliders (Radius and Threshold) to 0. Move the Radius slider up until the dust and scratches have just disappeared. Move the Threshold slider up until the detail in the selection returns. Be amazed!

ASSIGNMENT: Use the procedures above to dodge/burn an image, and to take a "dirty" image and filter out the dust and scratches.

AUTHOR: Ken Hales
June 18, 2003

¹ "From Capture to Print," George Lepp, Epson Print Academy, 2003