

PHOTOSHOP UNSHARP MASK FILTER

The Unsharp Mask Filter works by increasing the contrast between areas of different contrast. As this occurs along the edges within the image it will give the illusion of making the image look sharper.

Don't think that using the Unsharp Mask Filter will make an unsharp image sharp – it won't. Even with the power of Photoshop it is still impossible to do this. What you can do however is to use this to add extra definition to your images.

For the Unsharp Mask Filter to work, it must be applied directly to the **Background** layer or the layer containing the image information. Therefore make sure that this layer is selected before applying it.

You will find the Unsharp Mask Filter by following the path:

Filter > Sharpen > Unsharp Mask

You will get a dialogue box which will give you the following options:

Amount Radius Threshold

Recommended settings are:

Amount: Between 40 – 180

Radius: Between 0.8 – 1.5

Threshold: Left at 0

It is worth remembering that images produced from scanning normally require more sharpening than images direct from a digital camera.

It is better to exercise a certain amount of caution when sharpening. Therefore, it will always be better to slightly under sharpen than over sharpen. If you do over sharpen you will get a "halo" effect round the pixels and lose the subtle graduations within the image.

