

# 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.

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.

