

# Creating a Vignette (Basic Method)

By Jerry Koons

---

*The following tutorial outlines a quick and effective method for creating a vignette that can be a very effective technique for many images and perhaps especially for portraits of people. This method can be used in both the Elements program and Photoshop although better methods exist for Photoshop.*

*Several methods can be used to create a vignette and this one is a basic technique. The only true disadvantage of the basic method is the inability to see the effect until after the feathering commitment of vignetting has been made.*

*An advanced method, which uses a layer mask, does allow visual confirmation prior to the commitment. This advanced tutorial will be available in advanced workshops.*

## **Step One**

Open the desired image in the Adobe Elements 4 program and make all corrections or adjustments as required, preferably using adjustment layers.

## **Step Two**

Double-click on the *Background Layer* text to open the *New Layer* dialog box and click OK to accept the default name of *Layer 0*.

## **Step Three**

- a) Double-click on the *Create New Layer icon* to create a new blank layer.
- b) Click, hold and drag this layer below the renamed *Layer 0*.
- c) Fill this layer with your desired color.

## **Step Four**

Click on the *Layer 0* thumbnail to make it the active layer.

## **Step Five**

Create a suitable selection using one of the selection tools.

**NOTE:** The selection can normally be moved to the desired location, if necessary, by using the click and drag method. Keep the cursor inside of the selection and look for the cursor to turn into an arrow. **HINT:** The *Oval Marquee tool* is a very useful tool for creating vignettes.

## **Step Six**

On the upper toolbar, click on *Select > Inverse* and the marching ants selection will become active on everything except the original selection, which is exactly what we want.

# Creating a Vignette (Basic Method)

By Jerry Koons

---

## **Step Seven**

- a) Hold down the *Ctrl* key (*Control*) **and** the *Alt* key and tap the *D* key to open the *Feather Selection dialog box*.
- b) Type in the desired feathering radius amount and click OK. I suggest a radius amount of 40 to 55 for most vignettes.

## **Step Eight**

Press the *Delete* key to create the vignette. Note that the background color is the one you selected previously.

**NOTE:** If the feathering is either excessive or insufficient, simply go back two steps in the *Undo History* to the *Select Inverse* and repeat Step Seven using a different radius amount and also repeat Step Eight.

## **Step Nine**

Press the *Ctrl* and *D* keys to deselect the selection. Deselect can also be accomplished by clicking on *Select > Deselect* on the upper toolbar.

Congratulations. You have created a vignette.