

Sharpening Techniques

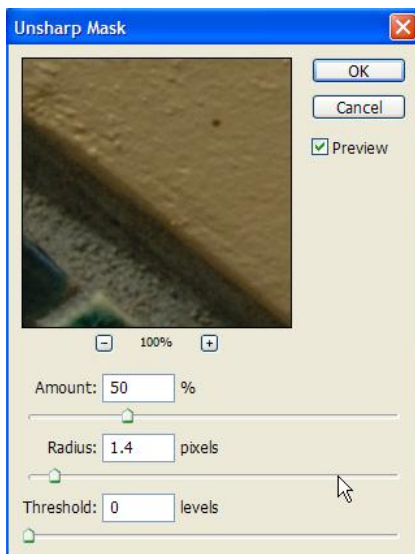
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General Guidelines

1. Sharpening will not improve image focus, only edge contrast.
2. Sharpen for the final output media.
3. Sharpen Last.
4. Sharpen at 100% image size
5. Take advantage of vendor Photoshop plug-ins

Unsharp Mask Dialogue

Amount controls how much the image will be sharpened or how much edge contrast will be added to the image. If this setting is too high the halos from the mask will be visible in the final image.

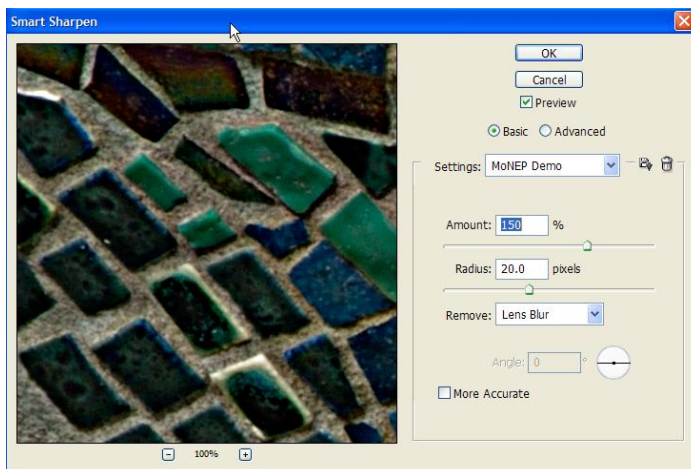


Radius controls the width of the halos produced by the mask. The higher the radius the more visible the sharpening effect will be. Set too low the effect will not be perceptible.

Threshold discards or ignores pixels for sharpening. The number represents brightness levels. It controls the brightness level between neighboring pixels that must exist before a change in tone is considered to be an edge.

Rule-of-thumb: Setting these values is dependent on the content and quality of the original image. Start the process with an amount of about 100 and a radius in the range of 1.0 to 1.5. For an image with fine details lower the radius to .05 or lower. For images with low amounts of detail it can be raised between 2.0 and 4.0. The threshold can usually stay at zero.

Smart Sharpen Dialogue



More Accurate tends to over sharpen or accentuate noise. It also requires a lot of resources. This option is best used for images with very low noise levels.

Remove applies different sharpening algorithms for the sharpening process. Lens Blur detects the edges and detail in an image and provides finer sharpening detail and is the best option for photographic images.