

The Drop Shadow (the “hard way”, not using Layer Effects)

One of the most common things to do to an isolated object within an image is make it cast a “drop shadow”. This can be accomplished with a few strait forward steps.

Step 1:

OPEN - NEW {Command + N}
(6 X 6 inches, 72 dpi, white background)

Step 2:

Create NEW LAYER
(Name “Shadow”, 35% Opacity)

Step 3:

Create NEW LAYER
(Name “Object”, 100% Opacity)

Step 4:

Create an object in the OBJECT layer with one of the marquee tools and FILL (EDIT - FILL 100% Opacity) while the object is still selected

Step 5:

While the object is still selected go to the CHANNELS pallet (the tab next to the LAYERS pallet) and make a channel of the selection by “clicking” the small button at the bottom of the pallet. It will make a selection channel “Alpha1”
SELECT - DESELECT {Command + D}

Step 6:

Return to LAYERS and “click” on the eye of the Object LAYER, this will make that layer invisible.

Step 7:

Select the Shadow LAYER and go to CHANNELS. Reactivate the selection by dragging the Alpha1 channel to the button at the bottom left (next to the button you used to create the channel). Now PAINTBUCKET TOOL - FILL with Foreground color 35% Opacity) the selection. Be sure to check the LAYER’s opacity is 35%. With the MOVE tool pull the selection slightly down and to the right.

Step 8:

SELECT - DESELECT {Command + D} then
SELECT - ALL {Command + A}
FILTER - BLUR - GAUSSIAN BLUR...
Radius - 12+ pixels then OK and SELECT - DESELECT {Command + D}.

Make the Object LAYER visible again by “clicking” in the square where the eye was and you will see the object with a shadow.