

## Creating Edge Effects using Masks by R. Berdan

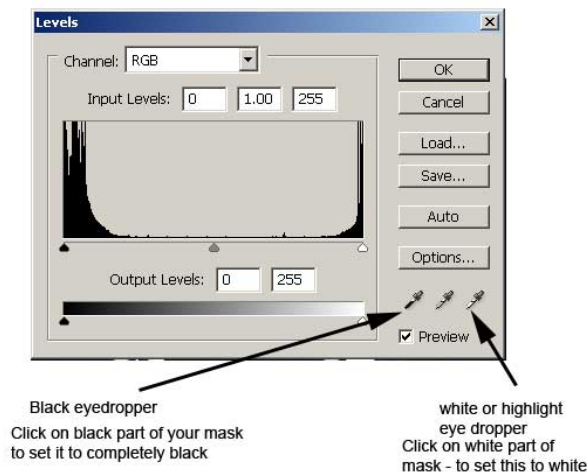
An effective method for making some images more interesting is apply a variety of edge effects. One simple way this can be done in photoshop is to create a high contrast Black and white mask, drag it on top of an image then select blend mode – lighten on the top layer. The black and white masks are easy to make you can simply paint with a black brush on a white background, you could scan an image and convert it to a high contrast mask using the levels command. Here are several example of how you might achieve this.



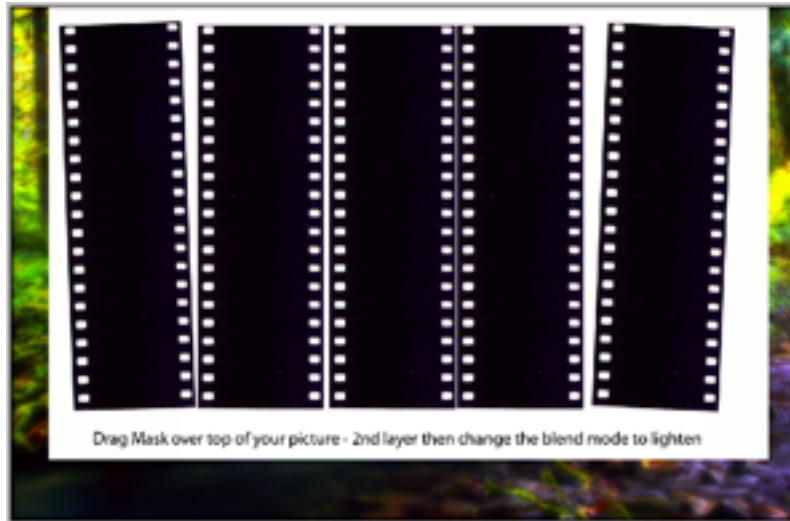
Drag Mask over top of your picture - 2nd layer then change the blend mode to lighten

Here is an example of making a mask by scanning strips of unexposed film – then on the right an image after dragging the mask over the image and setting the blend mode to lighten. We try several different examples – I will provide you with some masks and then show you how to make your own custom masks.

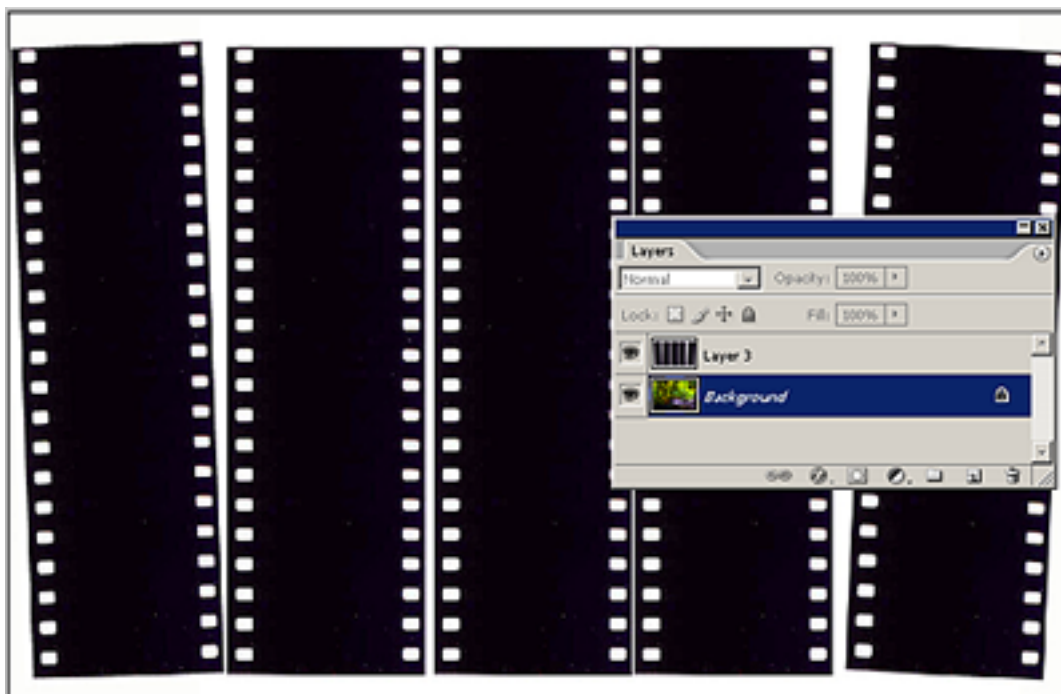
1. First open and image that you wish to apply (e.g. Goldstream\_orton.tif). Determine the image size (1108 x 720 pixels at 72 dpi). Your mask will need to be the same size. If your mask is larger or a little smaller or the proportions are a slightly different you can resize it after you drag it over your image using the Ctrl\_T or transform tool.
2. Open the filmstrips\_ mask.jpg file or make one yourself using a flat bed scanner. If you scan the image you can make it black and white by converting it to Black and white then back to RGB mode. You can maximize the contrast of the max by selecting levels, use the black eyedropper to click on the film and the highlight or white eye dropper to select the white background. If the image is already high contrast Black and white you can skip this step.



3. Select the move tool and drag the high contrast mask over top of the image you want to use it on.



4. To resize the mask select Ctrl-T to activate the transform tool, and resize the overlaying image so completely covers the underlying image.



The mask should be on layer 2 and completely cover your underlying image

5. The final step is to select the top layer, change the blend mode from normal to lighten – and you will see the image below appear through the overlaying mask.



This is what the final image will look like.

**Exercise #1:** Repeat the steps above but using the supplied Polaroid mask and drag it over an image.

**Exercise #2:** Create your own custom mask using a black paint brush or scan something like a leaf and apply this mask to one of your images.



Left Polaroid type mask and on the right a mask created by painting black with a broad stroke paintbrush tool. You can create any shape mask or cutout and place it over your images to make them look more interesting.