

Going from Photo to Sketch

Reason we do it:

This is a great way to set a mood for a section, to create a special photo treatment to use as a dominant or to rescue a photo that's just so-so but you HAVE to use it because of the subjects. It truly sets a mood.

Method:

- Step 1: Open the photo you want to use and duplicate the background layer by typing Command (Control/PC) J. Click the eyeball next to the background layer to make it invisible.
- Step 2: We need to convert the top layer to black and white. The best way to do this for the outcome we need (being able to control the contrast) is to use the Channel Mixer. Choose Image>Adjustments>Channel Mixer.
- Step 3: Click the Monochrome Button (Figure A) and adjust the sliders until you get strong contrast.
- Step 4: Now to create the sketch, choose Filter>Stylize>Find Edges. Don't freak out, we aren't done yet.
- Step 5: Before you do anything else, IMMEDIATELY choose Edit>Fade Find Edges. I say immediately because if you do anything else first, that menu command will gray out.
- Step 6: In the Fade dialog box, choose Linear Dodge as the Mode and reduce the Opacity to 50%. You can play around there with the different blending modes to see other possibilities for the photo. Click OK when you have it the way you like it. (Figure B)
- Step 7: Let's give it a soft edge. Choose the Marquee tool (type M) and make a rectangular selection that gives you an even border all the way around the photo. Then Right Click and choose Feather. When the dialog box opens, type 10. (Figure C)
- Step 8: We want to get rid of the outside to give it a border. To do that, click the Layer Mask icon at the bottom of the Layers panel. The area outside your marquee selection will disappear.
- Step 9: Hold down the Command (Control/PC) and click the New Layer icon at the bottom of the Layers panel. This will add a blank layer below the current layer.
- Step 10: Make sure your background color is white and type Command (Control/PC) Backspace to fill the layer with white.
- Step 11: If the sketch is too dark, you can choose the top layer and reduce the opacity of it to make it a little lighter.

