CAMP News

APRIL 2010

April 14 Doubleheader

As Ed Sullivan used to say, "We've got a great show lined up for you tonight." Or more particularly, at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday night, in the music room of Windsor Elementary School.

You may have seen the anagram *MMRPG:* massive multiplayer role-playing game. One of the most popular is World of Warcraft, and Mike Knight will be on hand to show us what he and ten million other people find so compelling about it.

You may have also heard about Apple's new *MNHID:* massively new hysteria-inducing device, otherwise known as the **iPad.** Early adopter Roger York answered the call, and will be bringing his new acquisition to the meeting for us to hover over and maybe even try out a little bit. So come and see what the fuss is all about!

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Creating Vignettes in Adobe Photoshop Elements 8

by Jeff Frankel, Newsletter Editor

A vignette is a darkened or lightened border that is added to emphasize the main subject of a photo. Many photo editing programs or plug-ins automate the creation of vignettes. PSE8 is not among them. However, the capability is there, and with just a little practice you'll be churning out vignettes at a furious rate!

The sample image on the next page is taken from *Adobe Photoshop Elements 8 Classroom in a Book* (Adobe Press 2010). *("PSE8 CIB")* We'll focus attention on the castle by adding a feathered, dreamy white vignette to the photo. It's time to roll up our shirtsleeves and get to work!

❶

Starting point

❷

Create a new Solid Color Adjustment Layer. This appears as "Color Fill 1" in the Layers palette for the image. Color the new layer white. Your image will at once be completely covered in white by the new layer, but don't despair.

❸

With the white solid color adjustment layer active, drag out a rectangular marquee with a high feather value, say in the 80-100 pixel range. Leave an appropriate border outside the marquee. You can toggle the visibility of the adjustment layer to help you size and place the marquee. When you're done with this step, you'll see the marching ants on a solid field of white. Still not much to look at yet…

❹

Using the paint bucket tool, fill the selected marquee with black. Wham! There's your vignette. Delete the selection and you're done.
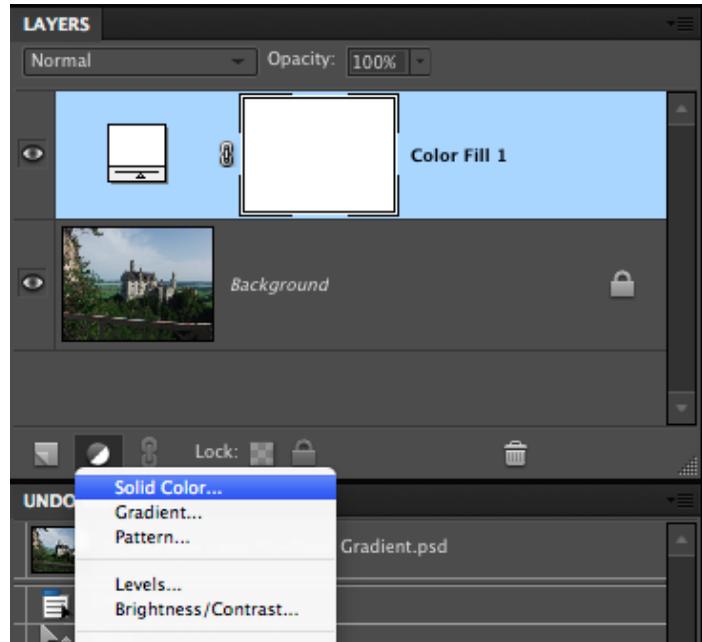
So how did this work? The black fill of the selection didn't actually paint the color fill layer black. Rather, it acted as a mask that hid the solid white of the color fill layer, allowing the image from the background layer beneath to show through. This is indicated by the mostly black layer mask icon for the Color Fill layer shown below. You can think of the mask as blasting a hole through the color fill layer to reveal the castle scene beneath. The only part of the color fill layer to show is the white border that wasn't

masked. The high feather value of the selection produces the smooth transition between the unmasked white border of the color fill layer above and the castle scene on the background layer beneath.

There are many variations to this technique. For example, to made a traditional opaque white snapshot border, fill the rectangular selection in Step ❸ above with no feathering.

Or, in a photo with a dark background, a dramatic effect can be achieved by creating a black color fill layer in step ❷ above, rather than white. See the comparison images at right, based on another sample photo from *PSE8 CIB*. In the Layers panel below, note the differences from the castle photo Layers panel. The layer icon for the Color Fill layer is black, not white. The color of the fill determines the color of the vignette. Also, the mask in the portrait image was purposely drawn high to allow more of the subject's hair to show through. ☼
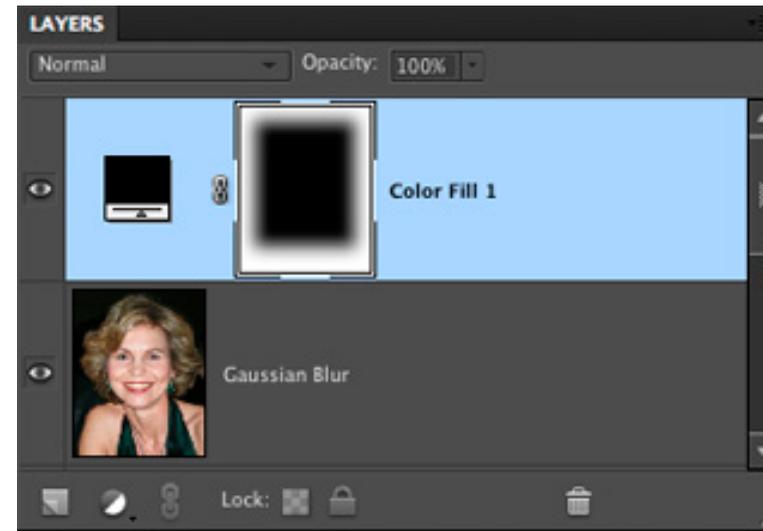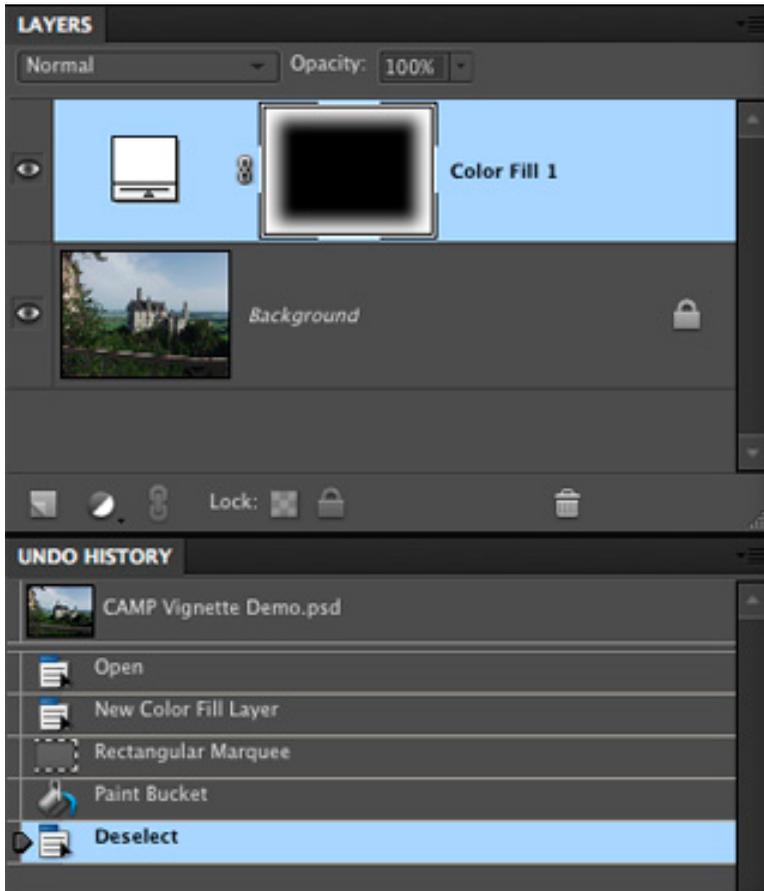
Without vignette

Vignette applied