



Classic Photoshop Effects

The oldies but goodies that never seem to go out of style

■ BY DAVE CROSS

Exaggerate It!

This technique is all about exaggeration: making something much larger than it originally appeared to give it extra emphasis—and to change the impact of the image. Part of what makes this technique so interesting is how easy it is, so let's try a few techniques.

Note that this technique only works if you have a high-resolution version of the original image and you can "afford" to lower the resolution in the final image.

STEP ONE: Open your image, duplicate it (Image>Duplicate), and in the Image Size dialog (Image>Image Size), reduce the size. Depending on the document, you can either lower the resolution or the physical dimensions.

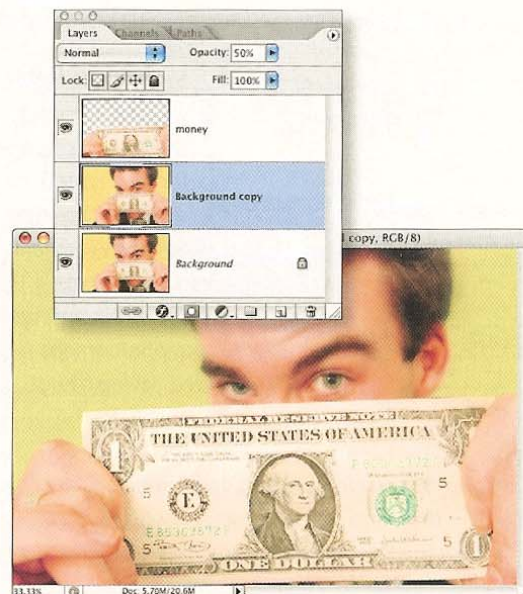
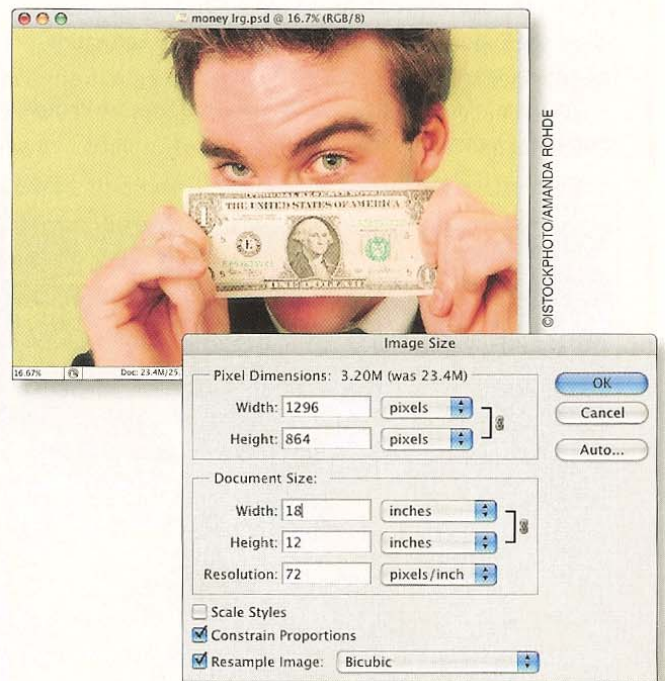
STEP TWO: In the original high-resolution document, select the object you want to exaggerate. In our example, we're going to make it look like the money is being held much closer to the camera so we'll select those areas of the image.

Use the Move tool (V) to drag-and-drop the selection into the lower-resolution document.

STEP THREE: Use Free Transform (Edit>Free Transform) to scale down the copied pixels and rotate them, if necessary. Make sure to cover up the original object (hands and money in this case). Press Return to commit the transform.

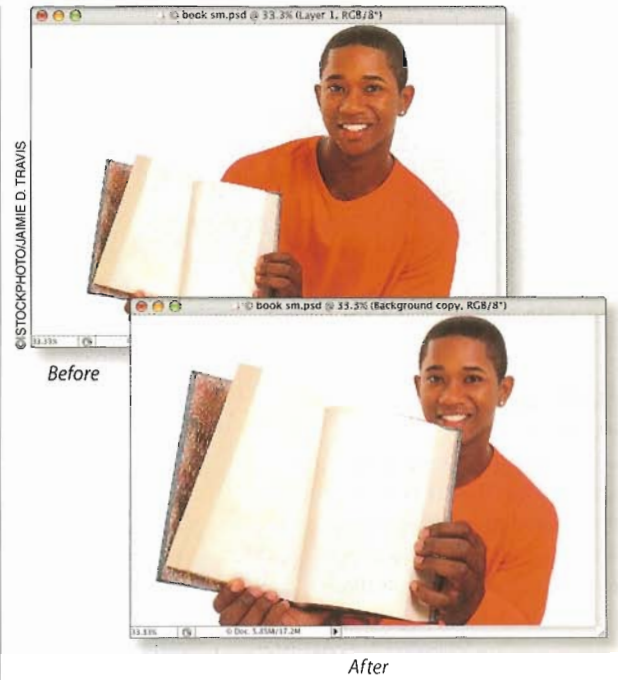
STEP FOUR: Duplicate the Background layer (Command-J [PC: Control-J]), then choose Filter>Blur>Gaussian Blur. In the dialog, enter a Radius of 8–15 pixels (depending on the resolution), and click OK when you're satisfied with the preview.

Finally, lower the Opacity of this blurry layer to create a soft focus, depth-of-field effect. And here's the final effect.



In both of these next examples, we use the duplicated, blurry, lowered-opacity copy to make the person look slightly out of focus.

For this first example, we copied the hands and book from the high-resolution version to the lower-resolution copy. We did have to do a bit of cloning over the original hands and book to make things look right.



In our second example, the high-resolution hand was selected and dragged into the lower-resolution version and then rotated slightly to fit.



Lest you think this technique is only for people holding objects, here's an example where we selected and copied one of the two people in the photo to completely change the dynamics of this image. Before they were a team, back-to-back, working together; now the woman appears to be more important and the man looks just a little put out, wouldn't you say?

It's easy as long as you have a high- and lower-resolution version of the same image. All you have to do is make a selection, drag-and-drop the selection, and use the Free Transform. So go ahead, exaggrate! ■

