

■ BY SCOTT KELBY AND FELIX NELSON

Two Wedding Effects

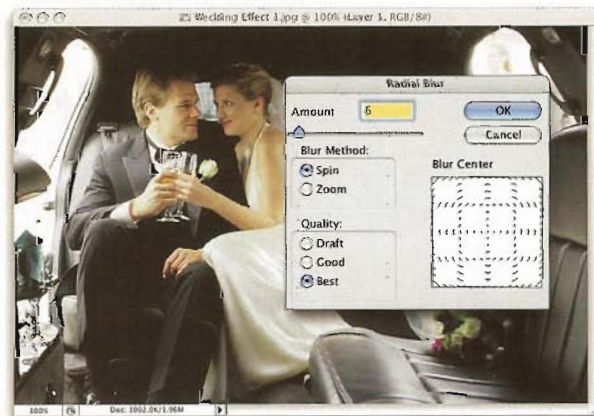
Within the past few weeks, I've seen these effects in the portfolios of some high-end wedding photographers. Both effects use a very simple filter technique, but luckily, effects don't have to be complicated to score big with your clients. Best of all, they let you take a regular shot—one that might not even make it into the wedding album—and quickly add enough visual interest to make it a winner.

STEP ONE: Open the photo to which you want to apply the effect. (This effect works great on photos that weren't going to "make the cut" for the final wedding album.) Once you've opened the photo, press Command-J (PC: Control-J) to duplicate the Background layer (as shown).



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STEP TWO: Go under the Filter menu, under Blur, and choose Radial Blur. When the Radial Blur dialog appears, enter 6 for Amount, choose Spin for Blur Method, and Best for Quality.



STEP THREE: When you click OK, it applies a large radial (circular) blur to your entire layer. To restrict the blur to where we want it, the first step is to click on the Add Layer Mask icon (circled) at the bottom of the Layers palette.



STEP FOUR: Now that the layer mask has been applied, grab the Brush tool (B) and press **D** then **X** to set your Foreground color to black. Control-click (PC: Right-click) in the document to bring up the Brush Picker, choose a medium-sized, soft-edged brush, and begin painting over the bride and groom. Paint over both of them and their clothes but avoid everything else so it seems as if the world may be moving around them—for them, time stands still. (Hey, it's a wedding—work with me, will ya?) What's nice about this effect is that it's still obvious they're in a limo but it really puts the focus squarely on them, avoiding any distractions around them.



SECOND TECHNIQUE

Now onto the second effect, using the same Radial Blur filter, but with totally different settings to get an entirely different effect.

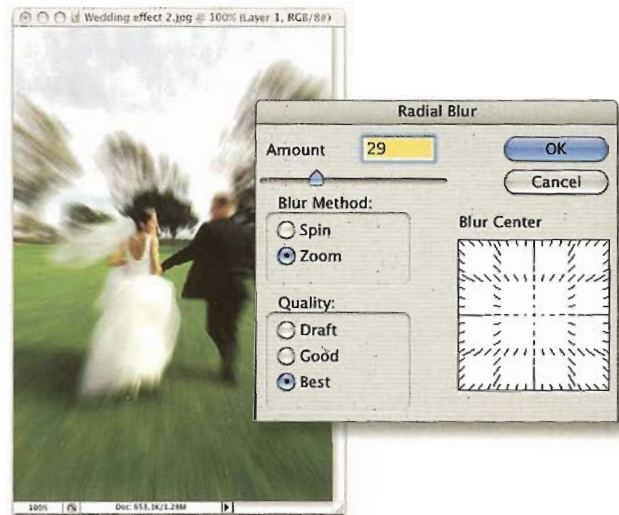
STEP ONE: When you're shooting the wedding, be sure to get a shot of the bride and groom holding hands as they walk away. It looks better if they're "hurrying" away (as if they can't wait to get to the honeymoon). As before, start by duplicating the Background layer, so press Command-J (PC: Control-J) to do just that.



STEP TWO: Go under the Filter menu, under Blur, and choose Radial Blur, but this time set the Amount to around 30 and choose Zoom for the Blur Method (instead of Spin, which we used in the previous tutorial). You can leave the Quality setting at Best and then click OK to apply a huge zoom blur to your image. Now click the Add Layer Mask icon at the bottom of the Layers palette. Make sure your Foreground color is still set to black (pressing the letter D then X sets your Foreground color to black).

STEP THREE: For the final step, get the Brush tool and select a soft-edged brush, but this time choose a really, really huge brush size (one that's big enough to cover both the bride and groom in one click—like the one shown here). Position this huge brush directly over the bride and groom, and click a couple of times to knock a soft-edged hole out of the zoom blur layer and reveal the clear, non-blurry original layer beneath. Lower the Opacity of this blurry layer just a bit so the effect isn't overwhelming.

A before and after of this effect are shown below. Yes, it's simple, and yes, it's effective. And, just because it's simple to do doesn't mean clients don't love it. ■



Before



After