

How to...

CREATE MOVEABLE EMBOSSED TYPE

The normal technique for embossing type is a one-and-done operation. Once you set the type, its pixels replace those of the underlying photo, and you cannot move the type without destroying the image. Using the technique described below, you will be able to create embossed type that you can move anywhere in your photo *after* you have already set the type, and the embossing effect will follow automatically.



STEP 1: Preliminaries

Make sure the foreground/background colors are set to the default black/white. If not, click on the default colors icon at the bottom of the Toolbox.



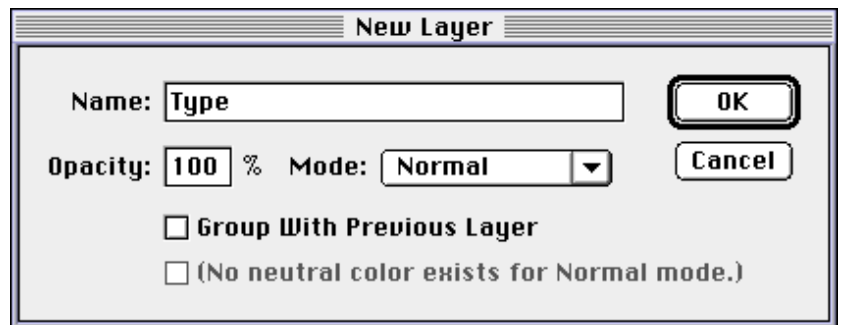
Default colors icon

STEP 1: Preliminaries, *continued*

- B: Open the photo to which you want to apply embossed type.
- C: If it is not already open, open the Layers Palette (pull down the Window menu to Show Layers).

STEP 2: Setting the type

- A: Create a new layer by pulling down the pulldown menu in the Layers Palette to create a new layer. In the dialog box that follows, accept the default settings as shown below (100% Opacity and Normal mode).



- B: Set your type (which will create a new Text layer). Pull down the pulldown menu in the Layers Palette to Merge Down.
- C: Pull down the Filter menu to Blur ► Gaussian Blur. In the dialog box that follows using a relatively small number for the radius (we used 2 pixels, although you could experiment with other values).



Step 2C



Because we are working in the Text layer, only the text should blur. If the entire image blurs, then you are in the wrong layer. Undo (Command-Z), click on the Text layer in the Layers Palette, and repeat this step.

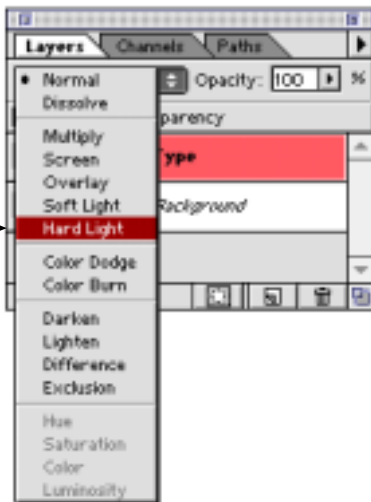
STEP 3: Embossing the Type

- A: Pull down the Filter menu to Stylize ► Emboss. Again you can experiment with the settings to get the kind of embossing you want (we used 135°, 3 pixels, and 400%). Click OK.



- B: Select Hard Light from the Mode menu in the upper left of the Layers Palette.

Select Hard Light from the Mode menu.



If you are pleased with the position of your type at this point, you are finished. However, if you would like to experiment to see what it might look like in a different position or orientation, simply use the Move tool.

Step 3B

