How to…
CREATE PHOTO EDGES

Using the technique described below, you will be able to produce special edges on your scanned photographs (such as the examples shown on page 3). The secret to quick and easy success is using Photoshop’s Quick Mask feature in conjunction with certain Filters.

STEP 1: Quick Mask Settings

Photoshop’s Quick Mask mode button is found at the bottom of the Toolbox (below).

When you double click on the Quick Mask mode icon the following dialog box appears.

Enter the settings shown above (choose Selected Areas under Color Indicates and set the Opacity to 100%), and then click on OK.
STEP 2: Making a Selection

A: After opening your photo, use either the Rectangular or Elliptical Marquee tool to select the portion of the photo that you want to put a special edge around. (NOTE: Make sure you are in the Normal mode before doing this.)

B: Since you may want to experiment with different filters, you might want to save your selection by pulling down the Select menu to Save Selection.

C: Click on the Quick Mask mode icon. Photoshop automatically replaces the selected area with a colored overlay (the color is the one you chose in the Quick Mask Options dialog box).

STEP 3: Applying Filters

While you are in the Quick Mask mode, any filters you apply will only affect the masked overlay. The photograph itself will not be affected until later.

Pull down the Filter menu to the Stylize submenu and select Diffuse (set on Normal). Apply the Diffuse filter several more times (we applied it 10 times here).

• HINT: To reapply the same filter, simply press Command-F on the keyboard.
STEP 4: Viewing Your New Selection

A: Click on the Normal mode icon and the selection border will have changed to reflect the changes you made with the filters. The edge should now have a somewhat jagged, uneven appearance.

B: Pull down the Select menu to Inverse to select the background.

C: Press the Delete key to remove the background.

D: Pull down the Select menu to Deselect, and you are finished.

E: At this point, depending on how much of the original photograph you selected, you may want to crop the photo using the Cropping tool.

STEP 5: Experimenting with Other Filters

A: Click on the original photograph. Make certain that you are in the Normal mode.

B: Select none to remove the marquee (Command-D or Deselect on the Select menu).

C: Pull down the Select menu to Load Selection to re-establish the original selection. This only works if you saved the selection in Step 2C.

D: Click on the Quick Mask mode icon.

E: Repeat Steps 3 and 4 with different filters.