

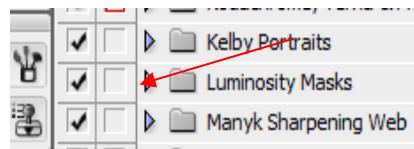
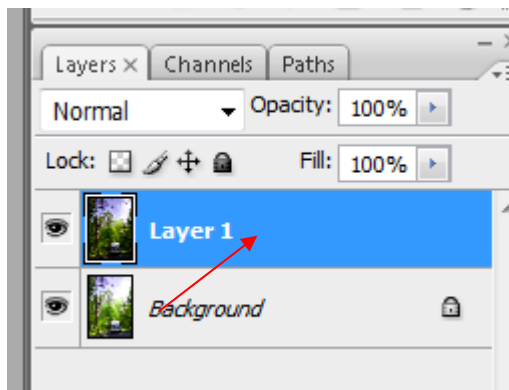
# Blending: Using Two Exposures

## Preliminaries

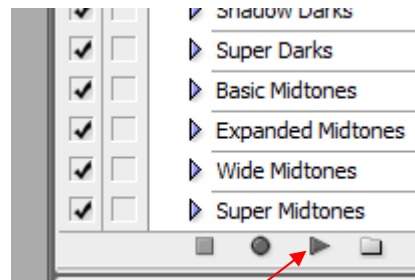
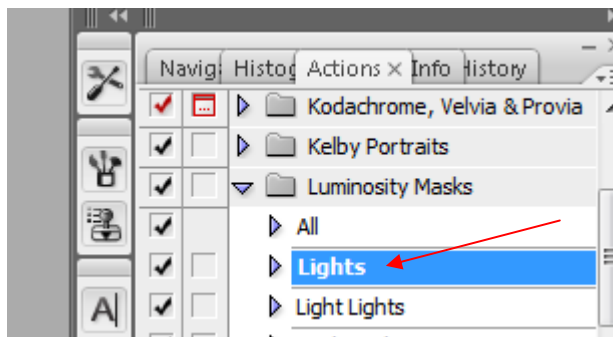
Load the Photoshop Action *Luminosity\_Masks.atn* if you have not done so. Open images *Cumb\_Gap\_highlight\_detail.jpg* and *Cumb\_Gap\_shadow\_detail.jpg*. These are conversions from two RAW images taken of the scene, approximately 2 stops apart. Notice the better sky exposure in one image (at the expense of blocked shadows, especially in the woods), and the better forest exposure in the other image (at the expense of blown highlights, especially in the sky and on the RV).

## Combining the Images

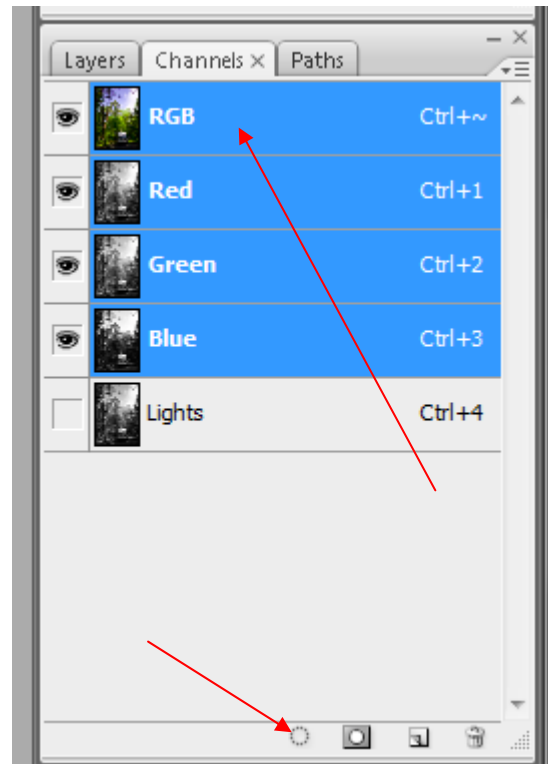
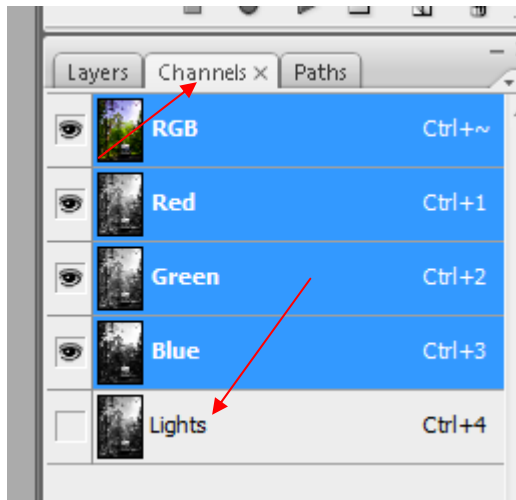
Click on the Move tool, hold the **Shift** key, and drag the darker image (*Cumb\_Gap\_highlight\_detail.jpg*) and drop it on the lighter image (*Cumb\_Gap\_shadow\_detail.jpg*). Click *Cumb\_Gap\_shadow\_detail.jpg* and in the *Layers* palette, click *Layer 1*. Switch to the *Actions* palette, and click the small arrowhead beside *Luminosity Masks*.



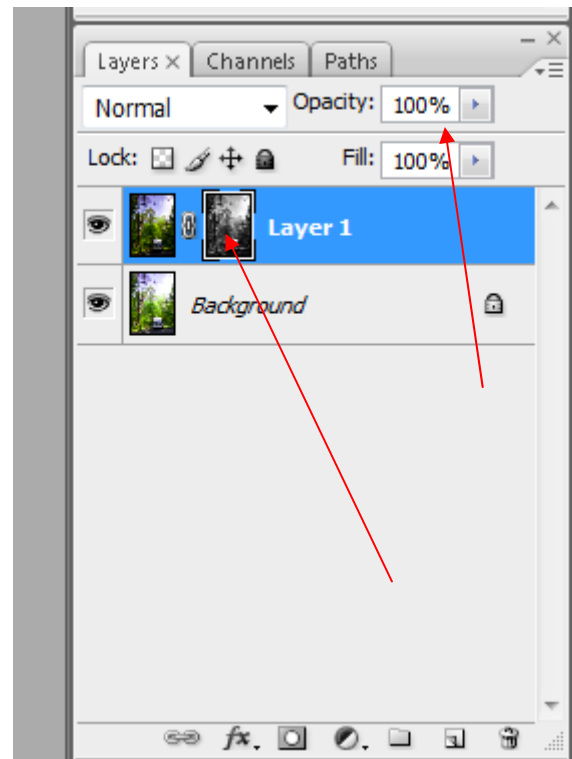
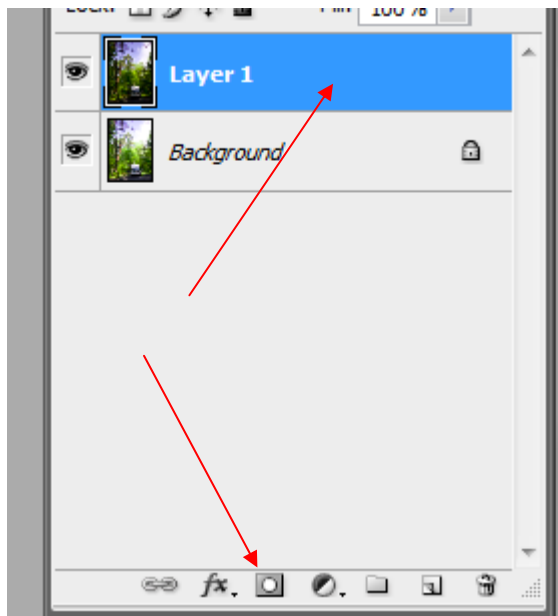
In the drop down list, click *Lights*. Then click the small arrowhead at the bottom of the *Layers* palette.



Click the tab *Channels* to switch from the *Layers* palette to the *Channels* palette. Click the channel *Lights*. Click the *small circle* icon at the bottom of the *Channels* palette. Then click the *RGB* channel at the top of the channel list.



Switch back to the *Layers* palette. Click on *Layer 1*. Click the *small circle in a rectangle* icon at the bottom of the *Layers* palette. Adjust the blending effect by clicking on and then changing the *Opacity* at the top of the *Layers* palette. Save the new blended image.





Left to right, the *Cumb\_Gap\_highlight\_detail.jpg*, *Cumb\_Gap\_shadow\_detail.jpg*, and the blend made by combining them.

Three exposures of the Cumberland Gap in northern Tennessee and southern Kentucky. The exposures are two stops apart and taken in a half second burst to minimize camera movement between exposures, and any change in the position of elements in the image. The RAW exposures were converted into these three .jpg images, top to bottom, *Cumb\_Gap\_2\_Highlights.jpg*, *Cumb\_Gap\_2\_Midtones.jpg*, and *Cumb\_Gap\_2\_Shadows.jpg*.

It would be up to the photographer to decide how these images should be combined. One scenario might be to incorporate the some of the darker parts of the sky from *Cumb\_Gap\_2\_Highlights.jpg* with the midtones in *Cumb\_Gap\_2\_Midtones.jpg*, and use only the darkest shadow areas of *Cumb\_Gap\_2\_Shadows.jpg* in the finished blend (bottom left).

