

Fix Flash Falloff

Built-in flashes sure are handy, up to about eight feet. Many times the setting is usually larger than little flashes can cover. So, the people in the front of the scene get overexposed and the folks in the back fade to black. Thanks to some nifty tools in Photoshop, you can try to correct this uneven lightning.

Preliminaries

Download one of *Flash_Falloff_01.jpg*, *Flash_Falloff_02.jpg* or *Flash_Falloff_03.jpg*.

Steps

Step One:

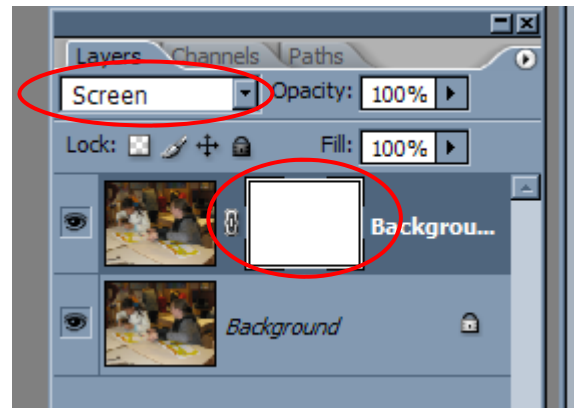
Open the photo you have chosen. Click on Layer, choose Duplicate Layer (ensure that As: Background copy is present in the dialogue box) and click OK.



From left to right: *Flash_Falloff_01.jpg*, *Flash_Falloff_02.jpg* or *Flash_Falloff_03.jpg*.

Step Two:

Click the Background Copy layer to select it. Change the Layer Blend Mode to "Screen" (click the down arrow beside the word "Normal" and choose "Screen" from the drop down list). Check the dark areas in the background of the photo. They should now be brighter.



Step Three:

Click on Layer, choose Layer Mask, and then choose Reveal All.

Step Four:

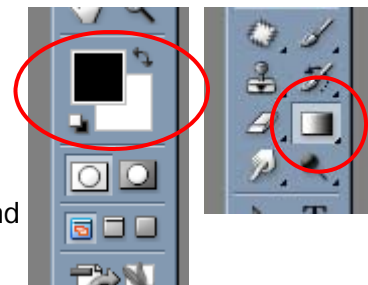
Click the Layer Mask by clicking on it.

Step Five:

Choose the Gradient Tool from the Toolbox.

Step Six:

Make sure black is selected as the foreground colour and white as the background colour. You can set this by pressing D on the keyboard (selects black and white) and then pressing X (if black and white are reversed).



Step Seven:

Use your Gradient tool to draw a gradient straight up the image, from the brighter guys to the darker ones. Try to follow the flash falloff itself. You can begin your gradient off the image or in the middle of the image, wherever it works best. You can also redraw it until it's just right. It's just right when you have a dark mask over the bright area, fading evenly to white over the dark area. The image should now look much more evenly illuminated.



Step Eight:

If you are satisfied with your Flash Falloff correction, click Layer, then choose Flatten image.

TIP:

If the image background is still too dark, you can repeat this process:

Click on background layer to select it. Click on Layer, choose Duplicate Layer. Change the Layer Blend Mode of the new layer to "Screen". Click on Layer, choose Layer Mask, and then choose Reveal All. Hold the ALT key and drag the partly shaded mask from the top layer down to the blank mask. Answer yes to the dialogue box "Replace Layer Mask?"

If this makes the photo too bright, then reduce the opacity of this new layer to correct this.

