

Derek Doar's Photography and Photoshop



PHOTOSHOP TUTORIAL 2

HOW TO SELECTIVELY, APPLY A FILTER EFFECT TO AN IMAGE

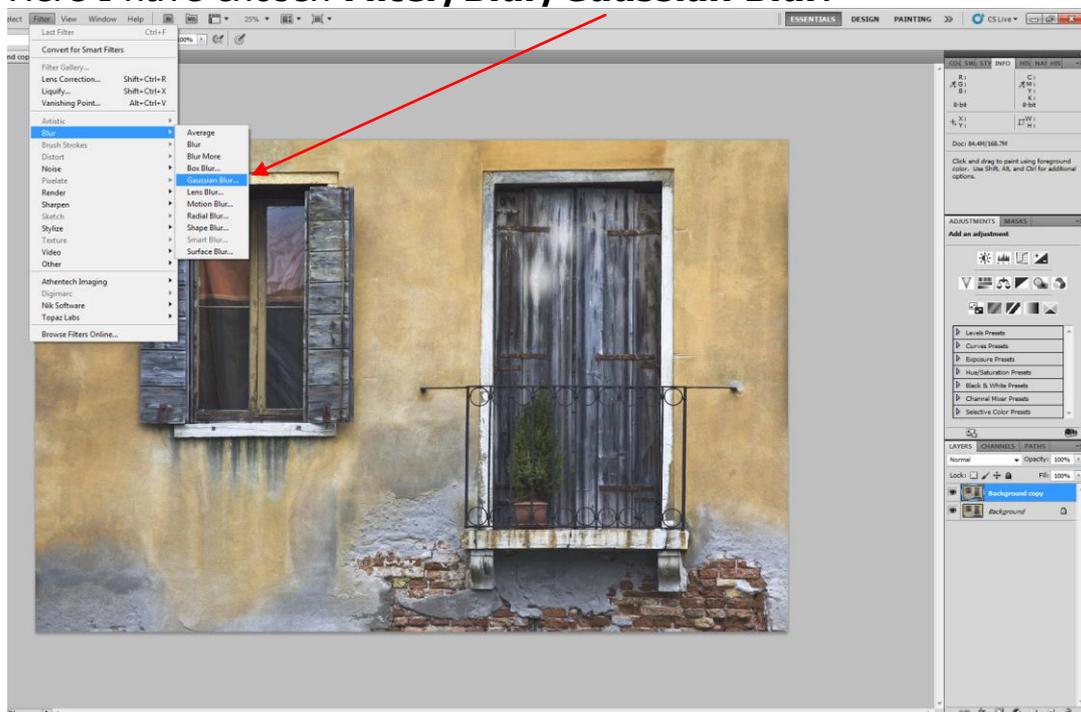
In this tutorial we will be applying filters to an image with the help of a layer mask, so the first step is to understand how a layer mask works.

1. Load an image and make a background copy of the background layer by dragging the Background Layer down over the Create a new layer icon or go to **Layer/Duplicate Layer**.

(This is so that you retain your original layer as an untouched layer.)



2. Add any filter effect to a layer (Including sharpening). Here I have chosen **Filter/Blur/Gaussian Blur**.



3. Here is the full Gaussian Blur filter effect on the Background Copy layer.



4. With the Gaussian Blurred layer selected (Background Copy layer) click on the **Add layer mask icon** to add a white Layer mask. Note that when the Layer mask is white and the full effect of the added filter is seen.

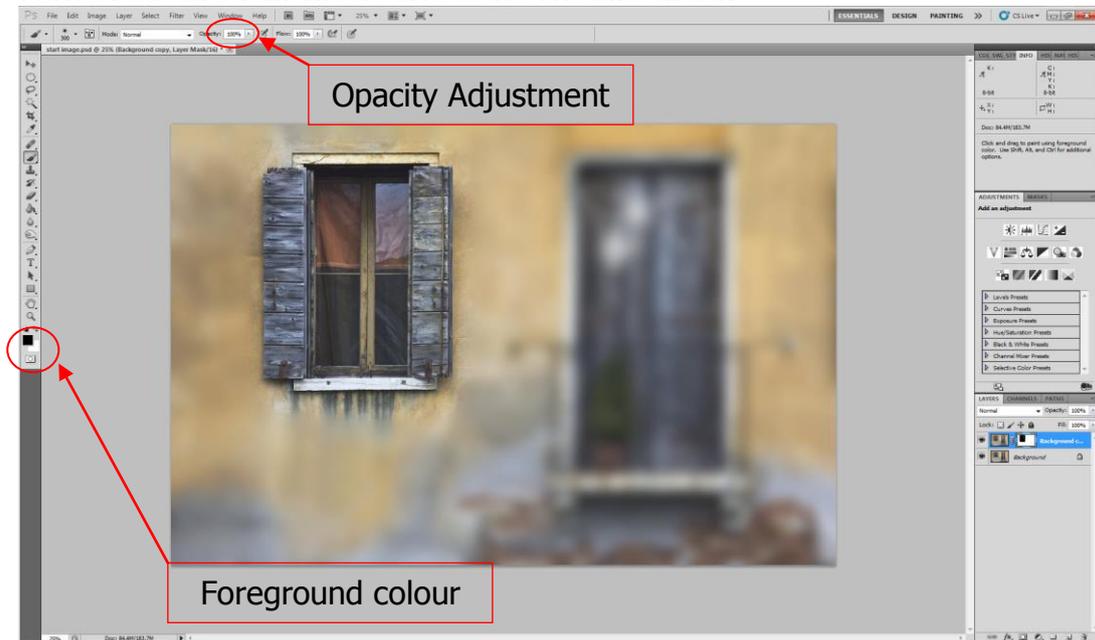


5. Change the foreground colour to black, select the brush tool with 100% opacity.

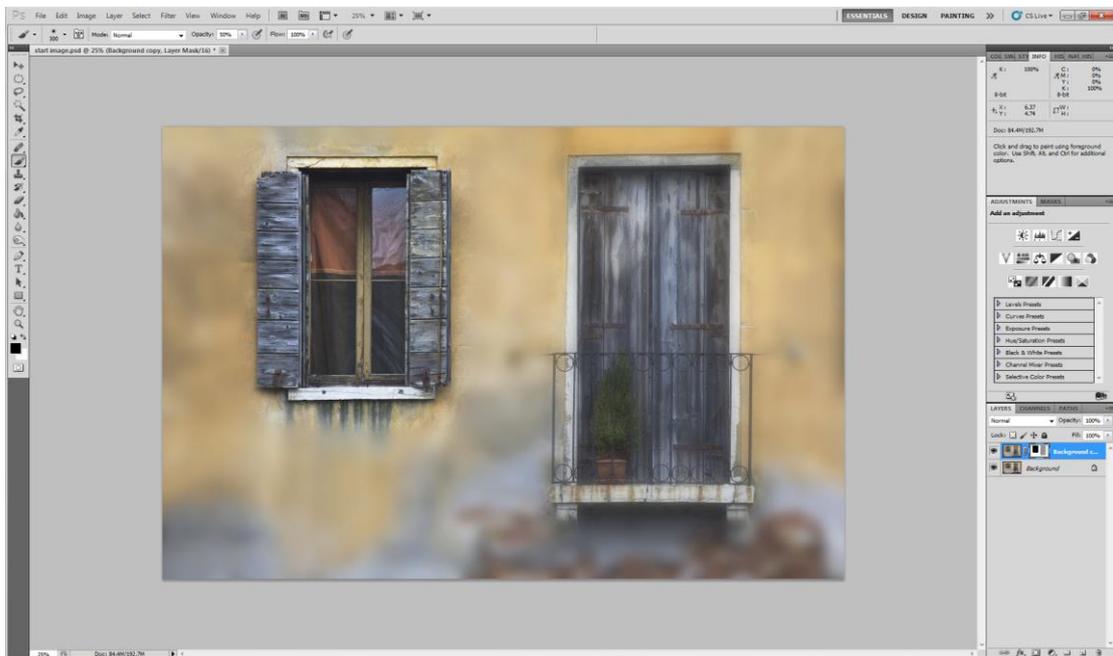
Click on the white Layer mask, and then paint on the image.

Please note: you must click always on the Layer mask before painting on the image, otherwise you will paint directly onto the image instead of onto the layer mask.

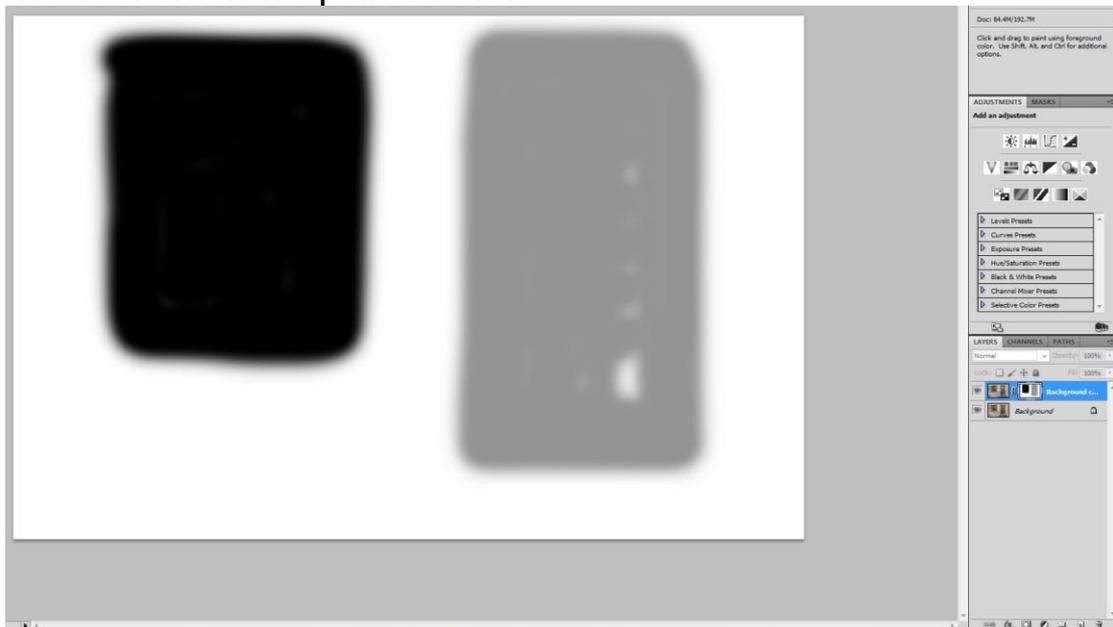
Here I have painted on the window area only. Note that it has only removed the full filter effect from this area.



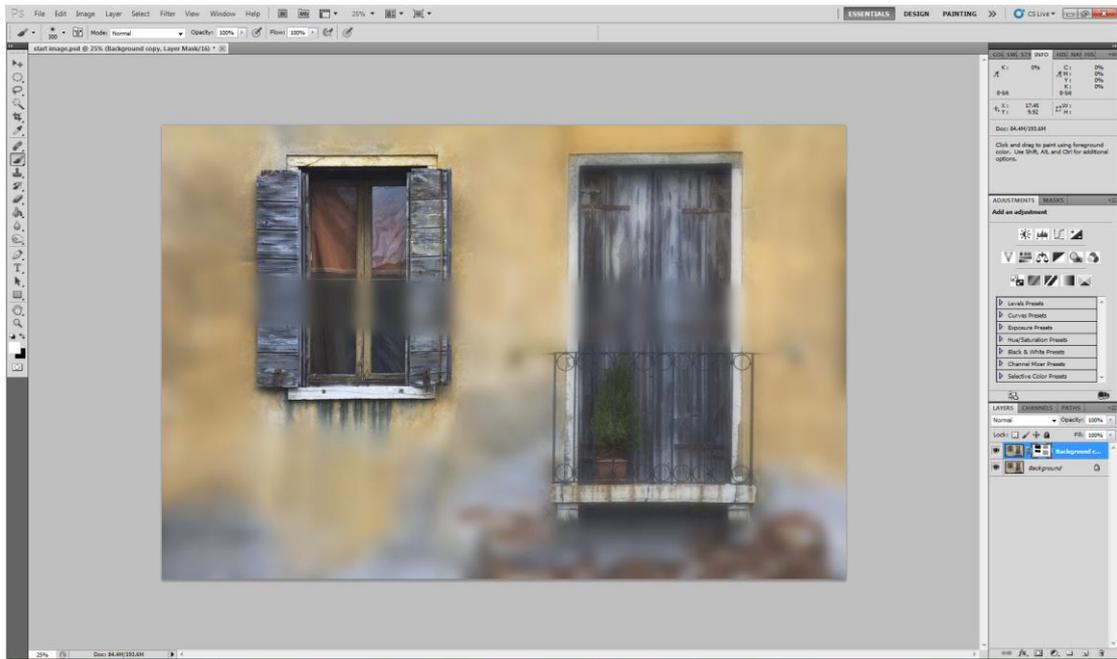
6. If we reduce the brush opacity to 50% and paint on the door, note that it has left part of the filter effect just on the door. So on a white Layer mask, a black brush at 100% removes all the effect and a black brush at a lower % opacity removes part of the effect.



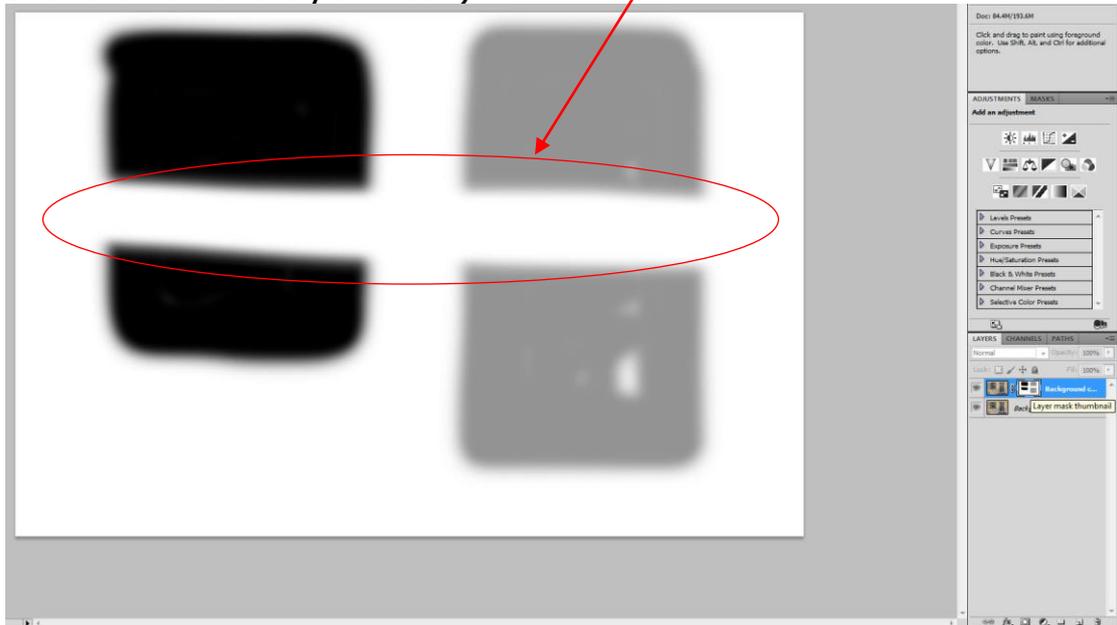
7. We can inspect the Layer mask to see what we have done to it by holding down the **Alt key** and clicking on the layer mask. We see the Black brush at 100% on the window and the black brush at 50% on the door. We can even see that we missed a little part of the door when we painted on it



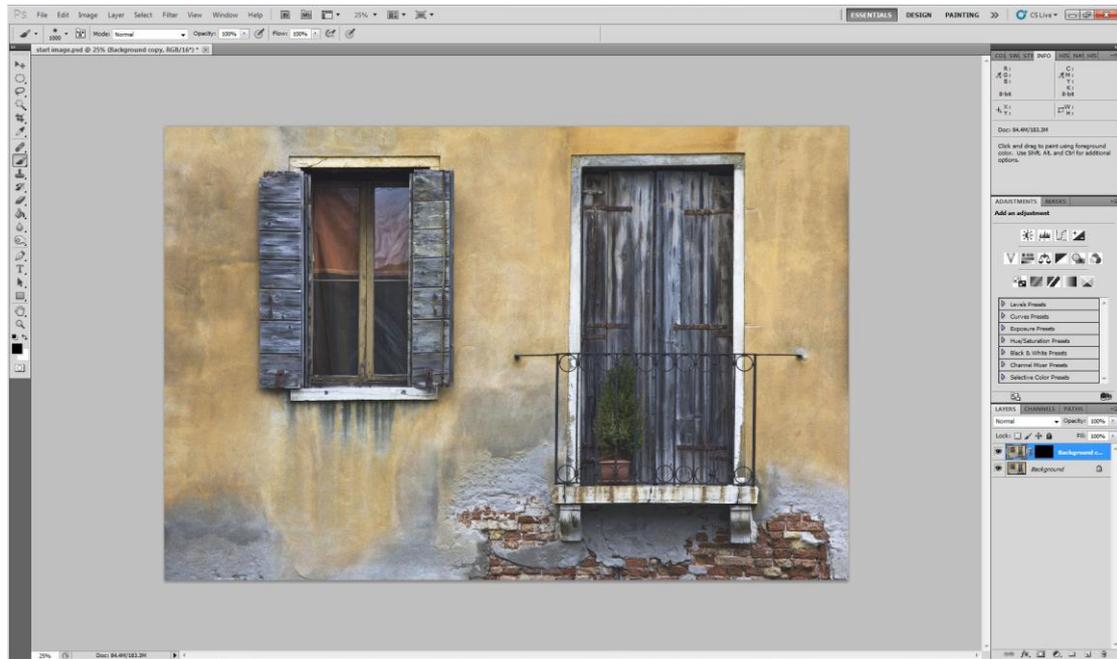
8. We can put the full filter effect back on the image by painting on the image in white at 100%. Here I have painted in white, a band across the door and window. It has brought a band of the effect back to the image.



- Let us look at the effect on the Layer mask (Hold down the **Alt** key and click on the layer mask)



Let us paint all over the layer mask in black with the brush opacity set at 100%. (Do not forget to click on the Layer mask)
 We now see that if you have a completely black layer mask it masks **ALL** of the added filter effects.



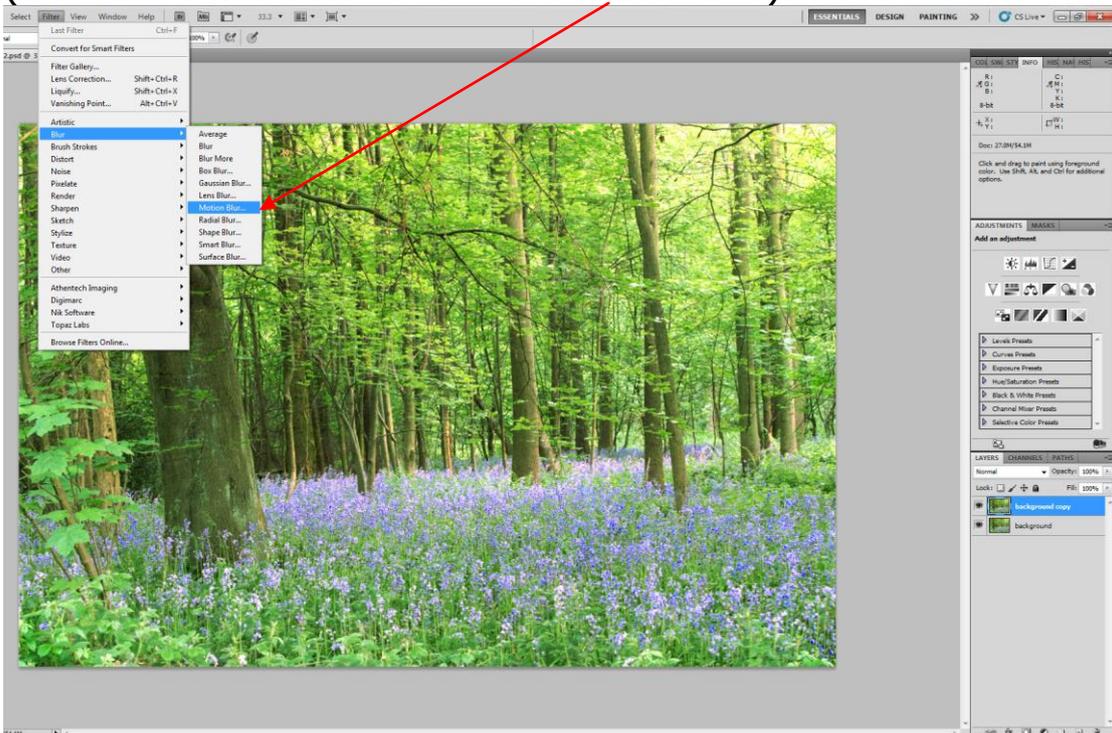
10. On some images adding an effect then adding a black Layer mask is a better starting point if you want to add an effect to a small area. In this case you would apply your chosen filter then add a black Layer mask (hold down the Alt key and click on the Layer mask) You would then select a white as the foreground colour, click on the Layer mask and paint in white to bring back the effect. I have chosen a different image to show this. **Here is the start image.**



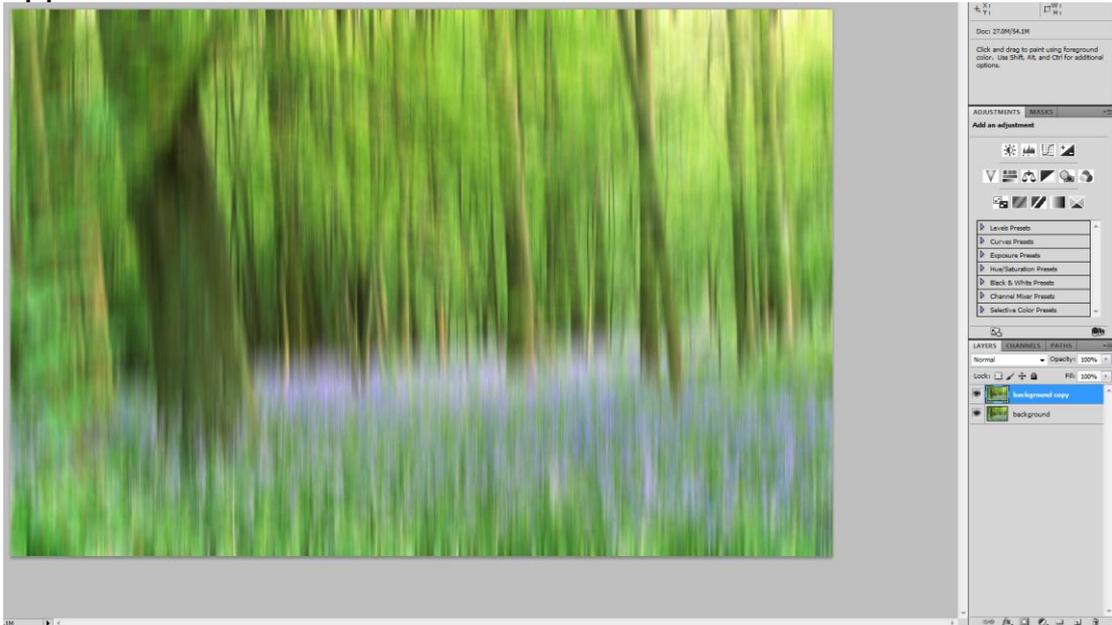
11. We now need to make a background copy layer by selecting **Layer/Duplicate Layer**.
(This is so that you retain your original image as an untouched layer).
We now have our background copy layer.



12. Apply your chosen filter effect to the background copy layer.
(This time I have chosen the Motion Blur filter).

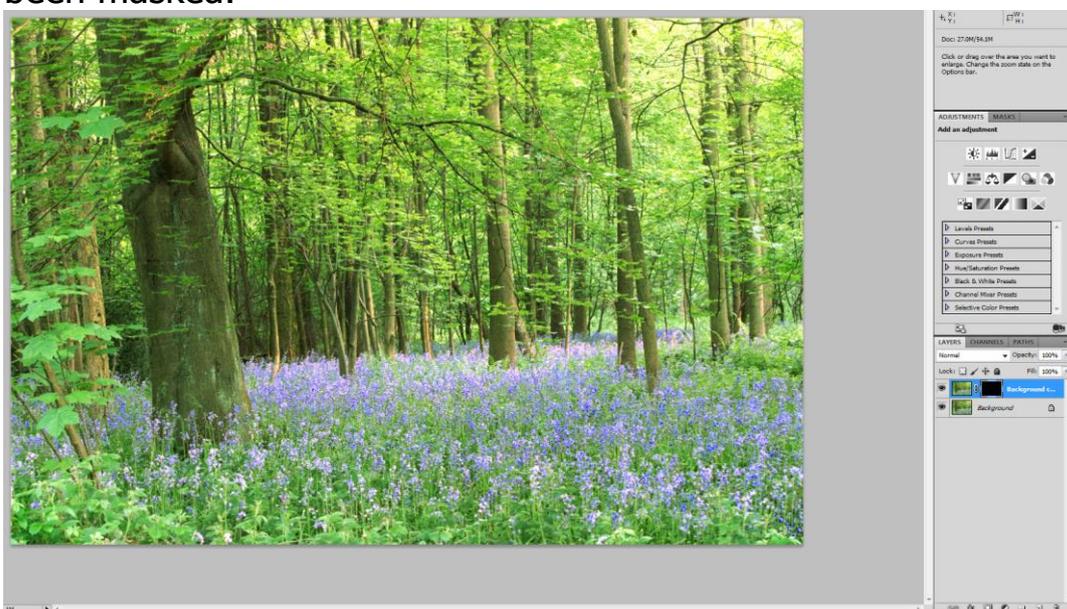


13. We now have our Background copy layer with the motion blur filter applied to it.

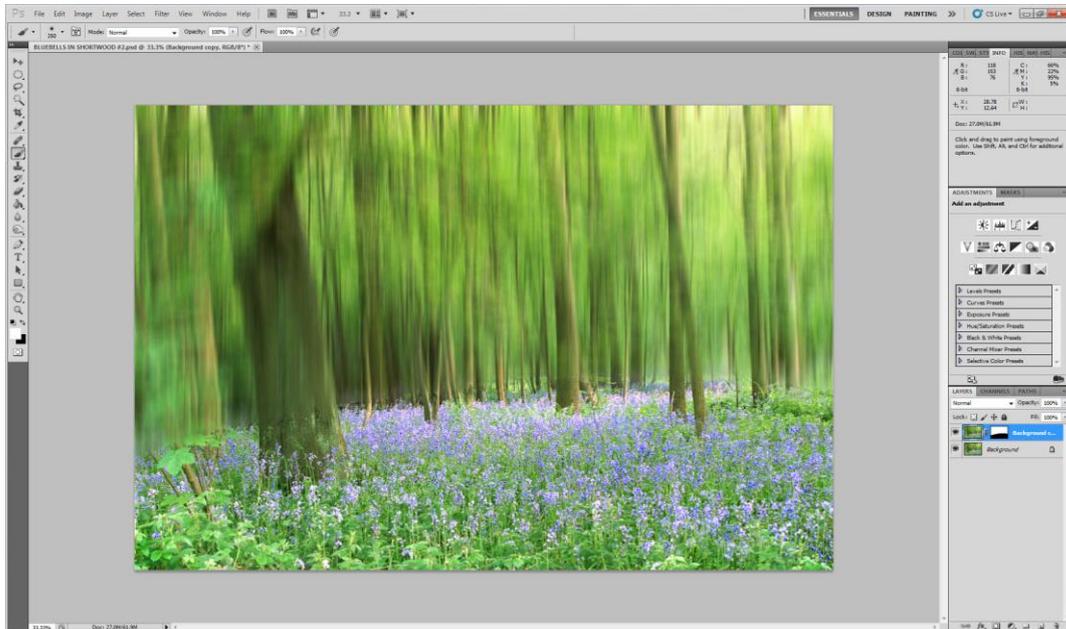


14. We now need to add a Black Layer Mask which will mask the effect of the filter. This is done by Holding down the **Alt key** and left clicking the mouse on the **Add layer mask icon** at the bottom of the Layers Palette.

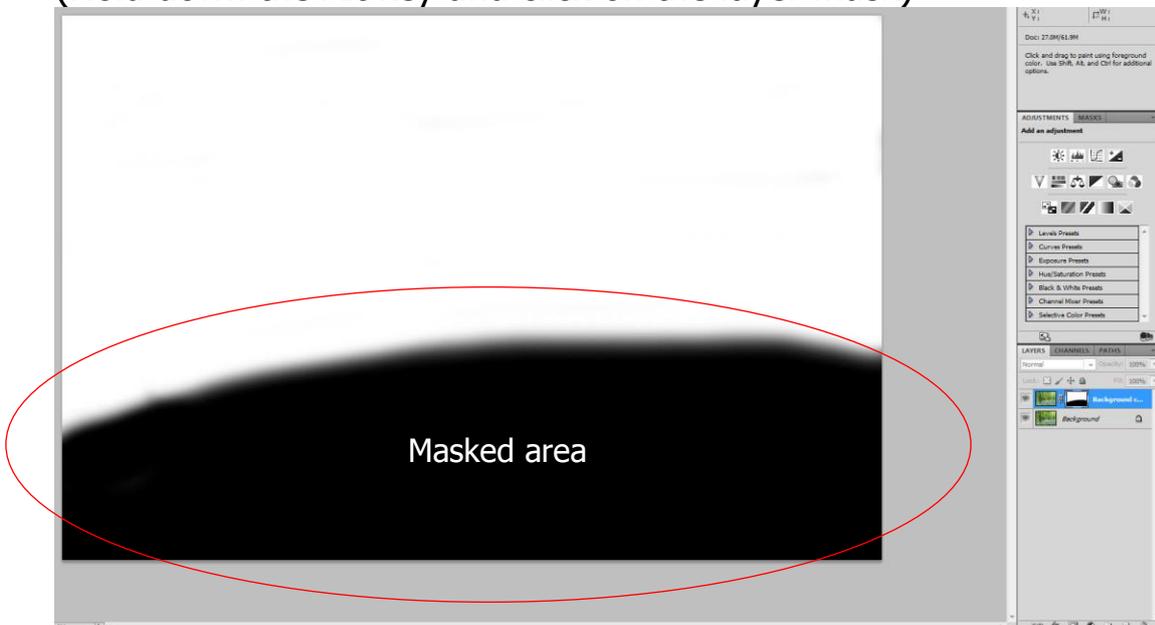
Because the Layer mask is totally black, **all** the applied filter has been masked.



15. To bring back the filter I need to change the foreground to white, select the brush tool at 100% opacity, click on the black Layer mask to make it active, and then paint in white on the image where I want the chosen filter effect to be. In this image I want the trees to receive the full effect of the motion blur Filter.



16. We can check the Layer mask to ensure that we haven't missed a bit (Hold down the Alt key and click on the layer mask)



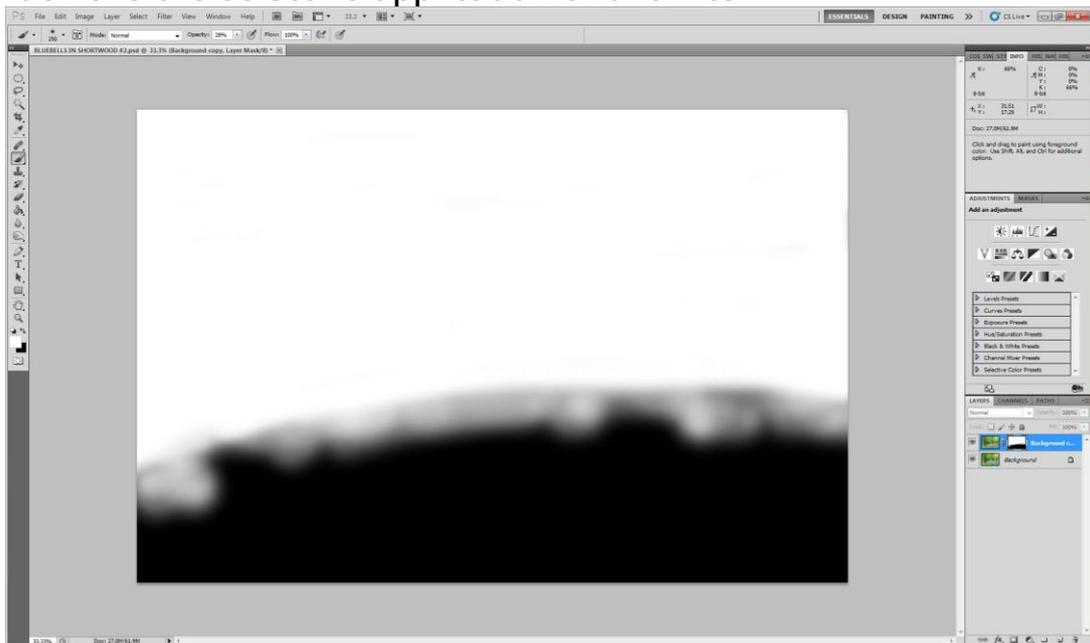
17. I want to fade the effect into the bluebells, so I have reduced the opacity of the brush to 28% so that I only paint in part of the effect

thus making the change between the full effect and partial effect appear to be gradual. (don't forget to click on the Layer mask before you start painting otherwise you will be painting in white directly onto the image and as you should not onto the Layer mask)

Here is the final image.



18. If we look at the Layer mask now you will see the final masking done to achieve the selective application of this filter.



Notes:

(a) Clicking on the Add layer mask icon will add the normal white layer mask as a starting point with all of your chosen filter effect showing.

(b) Holding down the Alt key and then clicking on the Add layer mask icon will add a black layer mask as a starting point with all of your chosen filter effect fully masked.

(c) When painting on any layer mask, Black masks an applied effect and white reveals an applied effect.

(d) If you alter the opacity of the brush, you will mask or reveal the applied filter effect to a greater or lesser degree.

(e) Do not forget to click directly onto the Layer mask before attempting to apply changes to the mask.

(otherwise you may be painting in black or white on the actual image)

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