

# Give your photo a dreamy look with a diffuse glow

by Amy Palermo

*I'm looking for a photo effect that will cast a dramatic light on my image. Can you offer any suggestions?*

Nothing adds interest to a scene better than dramatic lighting. One great way to accomplish this is by adding a diffuse glow to your image, as shown in **Figure A**.

**Note:** You can use any RGB image for this technique, or if you want to follow along with our example, download the file **diffuseglow.zip** from the URL given at the beginning of this article, extract the file **diffuseglow.psd**, launch Photoshop and open the file. (Images provided by PhotoSpin. Some images modified for educational purposes.)

## To add a diffuse glow to your image:

1. Set the background color to white.
2. Duplicate the Background layer to work on a layer copy and preserve the original.
3. With the Background copy layer selected, choose Filter > Distort > Diffuse Glow to open the Diffuse Glow dialog box.
4. Set the Graininess to 5, the Glow Amount to 5, and Clear Amount

## Application:

Adobe Photoshop CS/CS2/CS3

## Operating Systems:

Macintosh, Microsoft Windows

## Download:

<http://download.elijournals.com/photoshop/200902/diffuseglow.zip>

to 12, as shown in **Figure B**. Click OK. You can see our results in

**Figure A**.

## Fade to black

But you don't have to stop here! Use an adjustment layer and convert your image to black and white for an even more dramatic look!

A

Original



Diffuse Glow



B



## Send me your questions!

Does something about Photoshop have you stumped? I might be able to help! Just email your question to me at [ips\\_editor@elijournals.com](mailto:ips_editor@elijournals.com). I'll reply as quickly as I can and may feature your question in an upcoming Reader Forum!

## To convert your image to black and white:

1. Click on the Create New Fill Or Adjustment Layer button located at the base of the Layers palette and select Channel Mixer from the pop-up menu.
2. Select the Monochrome check box.
3. Adjust the Red, Green, and Blue sliders to your liking, keeping the total as close to 100 as possible. We set our values to R: +43, G: +48, B: +13 totaling +104.
4. Click OK. Our results are shown in **Figure C**.

