

## The Orton Effect Artistic Filter

This filter for Photoshop CS-x and Elements is an attempt to simulate a film technique by Michael Orton. He came up with this style in the early 1990's using slide film and taking multiple exposures. He would sandwich two or more slides together to get an ethereal effect that creates a dreamlike image. Photoshop Elements Technique newsletter created a digital approach to mimic Orton's process. It is published in their January/February 2009 issue, url in resources below.

The steps to create this effect are:

1. If you have an image with active layers, you must flatten the image or create a Stamp Visible layer with the shortcut Ctrl-Shift-Alt + E.
2. Create a Duplicate layer twice, shortcut Ctrl + J.
3. Select the top layer and change the Blend Mode to Screen and reduce the opacity to about 75%. You can select whatever percentage you like.
4. With the top layer selected choose Layer>Merge Down or Ctrl-E.
5. Create a new Duplicate Layer and name the top layer Blur Layer
6. Name the merged layer Sharp Layer.
7. Turn off the Blur layer visibility icon
8. Click on the Sharp layer and Unsharp Mask filter or Enhance>Adjust Sharpness in Elements and select a percentage of 400% and a radius of 0.5 pixels.
9. Click on the Blur layer and turn on it's visibility icon and change the Blend Mode to Multiply. From the Filter menu choose Blur>Gaussian Blur and apply a strong blur, 25 pixels is good for higher resolution photos-10 to 20 pixel range is better.
10. Some users omit the sharpening layer.

I created an action to automate this process and will make it available. Elements cannot create an action, but an action created in Photoshop CS-x and it will work. It must be copied into the Elements program file. Search Google for instructions for your version of Elements, it is different for the versions and for Windows and Mac.

For Photoshop CS-x copy and paste the Action into the Preset folder in the Photoshop program file. To make it active go to the Action panel and right click and select load actions in the drop down window. The Orton action will be on the Club's desktop computer on the Desktop, copy to memory stick.

Resources:

[http://www.photoshopelementsuser.com/free-issue/downloads/PET-Orton-effect\(Jan-Feb-2009\).pdf](http://www.photoshopelementsuser.com/free-issue/downloads/PET-Orton-effect(Jan-Feb-2009).pdf) free download

<http://www.naturephotographers.net/articles0106/dw0106-1.html> Darwin Wiggett's article on Michael Orton and background

<http://www.adobe.com/cfusion/exchange/index.cfm?event=extensionDetail&extid=1385519> Free action on Adobe website

<http://www.flickr.com/groups/orton/>

March 16, 2010 Jim Bilbro