

Create Some Dramatic Flair with Filters (Photoshop Elements)

Digi Scrap Tutorial by Nannette Dalton on June 5, 2012

I have always loved the artwork of Thomas Kinkade because of the way he can capture and add light to a painting. As digital scrapbookers, we have in our tool box some great filters that can allow us to also add a dash of light for a dramatic effect, something I could never do as a paper scrapbooker.

I found the lens flare filter and was playing around a bit with it to see what it could do, but was disappointed that it was not something I could edit (change the opacity, erase, and so on). The filter also put the flare in the center of my image by default, and I found it really difficult to move it around.

After a while, I discovered there is a way to turn a lens flare into an element that can be manipulated. I love the look it gives my pages, and I am constantly trying to find different ways to add it to my layouts. Let's look at how to create it and how to use it on a layout.

Step One: Open and Prepare Your Layout

- Begin with a nearly finished scrapbook page.
- Press the letter D to reset the Color Chips to the Default of black and white.

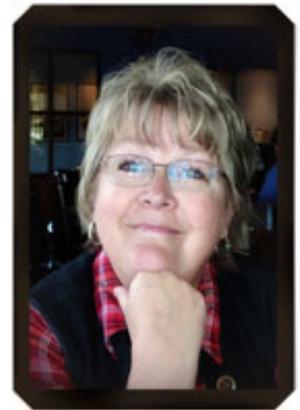


Step Two: Create a New Layer and Fill with Black

- In the Layers panel, make sure the top layer is the active layer.
- Click on the Create a New Layer icon.



- In the Tool Bar, get the Paint Bucket tool.

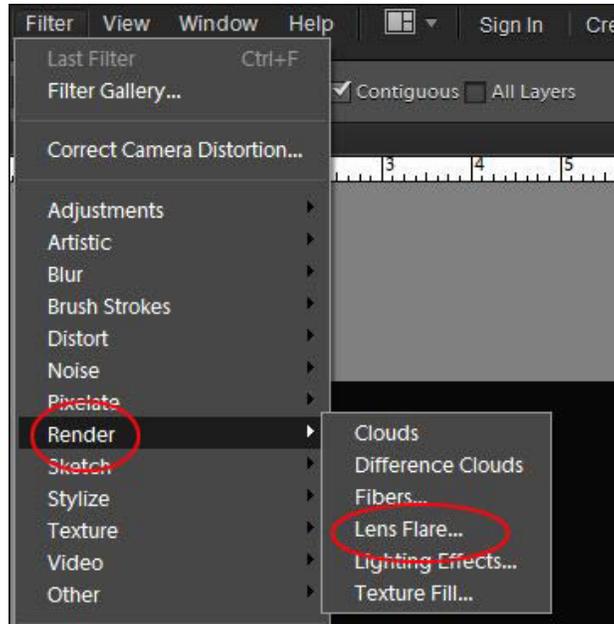


- Click on your layout to turn it to black.

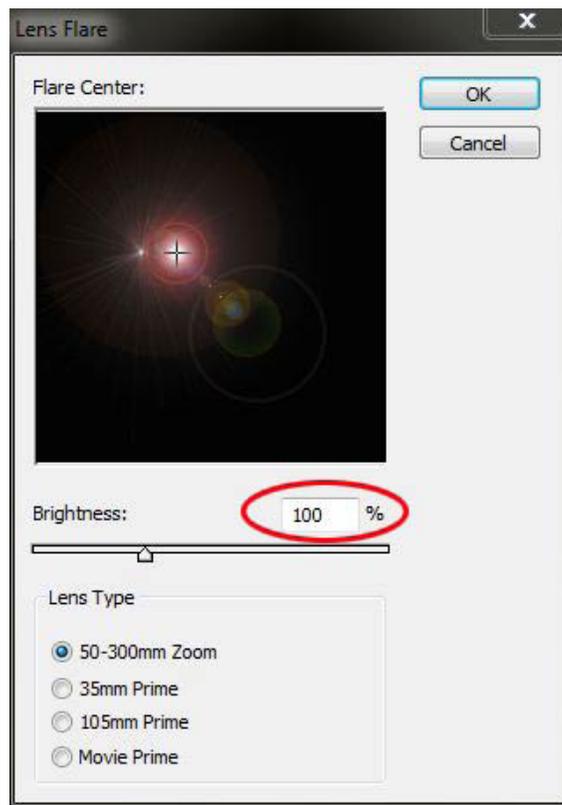
Don't worry. I know this looks a little scary, but the black will all disappear.

Step Three: Apply the Lens Flare Filter

- In the Menu Bar, choose Filter > Render > Lens Flare.

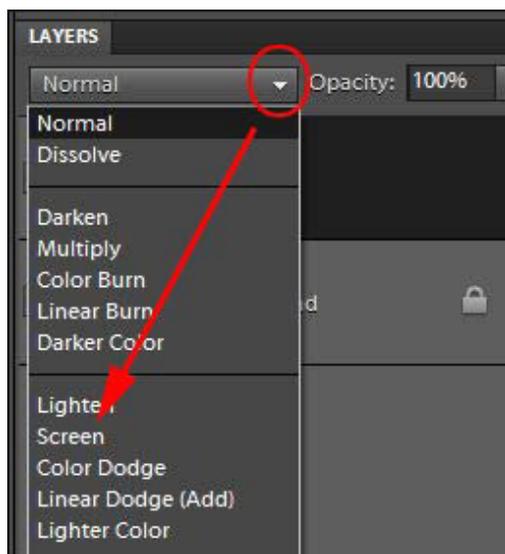


- In the dialog box, set the Brightness to 100%, choose the 50-300 mm Zoom, and click OK.
- Note: I used the 50-300mm Zoom option on my layout, but any of them will work. Use what works best with your layout.



Step Four: Change the Blending Mode

- In the Layers panel, change the Blending Mode to Screen.



You now can edit your lens flare by changing the opacity, moving it around, changing the size, erasing, and so on.

Here is how my layout turned out.

I also used the Lens Flare Filter on this Word Art to give it a little more shine. (Told you I want to use it everywhere!)

Have fun with this dramatic little tool and show us what you did with it in the [Digi Scrap Tutorial of the Week Gallery](#).

Credits: Digi Scrap Tutorial: Create Some Dramatic Flair (Photoshop Elements) by Nannette Dalton
Layout: "Eyes" by Nannette Dalton
Kits: "Art Play Palette Family" by Anna Aspnes, previously available to [Premier](#) members during March 2012
Striped overlays by Anna Aspnes
Fonts: Chopin Script and American Typewriter
Sketch created with Akvis Sketch filter PlugIn
Software: Photoshop Elements 10

