

SCRAPPER'S GUIDE

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Adding Impact to Action Shots (Photoshop)

Tip of the Week by Jan Walker on October 25, 2011

Want to give your photos a sense of movement, speed, and force? Here's a simple way to make an ordinary photo really come to life! In just three simple steps, you can amp up the action and create some powerful visual impact.

This technique works best with photos where the action is either coming right at you or mostly straight on.



Step 1: Choose Your Photo

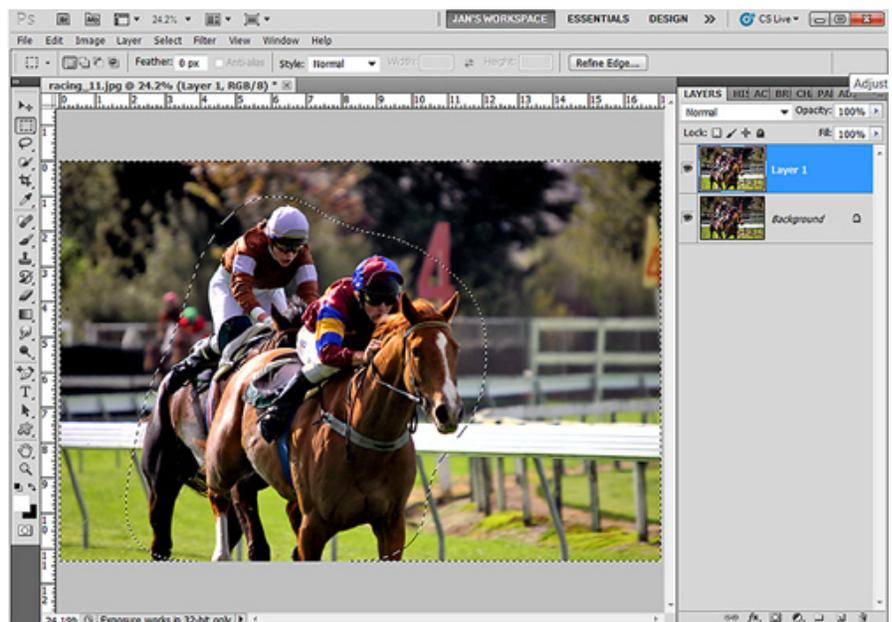
Photos that feature some sort of movement or actions are the best choice... riding, jumping, dancing, running, etc. Here are two examples of images that will work very well with this technique. The first image is great because the subject is very close up and at eye level or lower. The second image is great because of the intensity portrayed in the photo — the faces and the body language of the riders.



- Duplicate your original image by pressing Ctrl J (Mac: Cmd J).

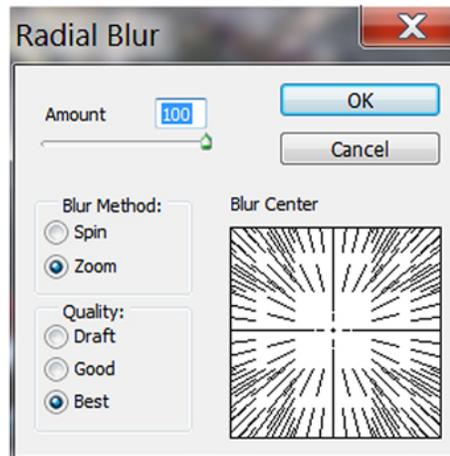
Step 2: Identify the Epicenter

- Get the Lasso tool and draw a fairly loose outline around the subject of your image, wherever you want the center of the action to be.
 - In the Menu Bar, choose Select > Modify > Feather.
 - Set the Feather Radius to 150. Click OK.
 - Then go back to Select > Inverse.



Step 3: Bring On the Blur

- In the Menu Bar, select Filter > Blur > Radial Blur.
- Set the blur Amount to 100 (or a little less, depending upon how much impact you want to see).
- Set the Blur Method to Zoom.
- Set the Quality to Best. Click OK.



It will take a moment for your blur effect to render... and bam! Instant impact.



- Press Ctrl D (Mac: Cmd D) to get rid of the marching ants around your selection, and be sure to save your image as a JPG with a new name.

Now let's look at the before and after of the other image. Same steps, and another great look of power and motion.



So that's how you add action and impact using Photoshop! Don't forget to share your creations in our [Tip of the Week Gallery!](#)

Credits:

Tip of the Week: Adding Impact to Action Shots, by Jan Walker

Photos: Morguefile.com

Software: Adobe Photoshop CS5



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