

pse ADOBE® PHOTOSHOP® ELEMENTS

Open up the windows to the soul

By Matt Kloskowski

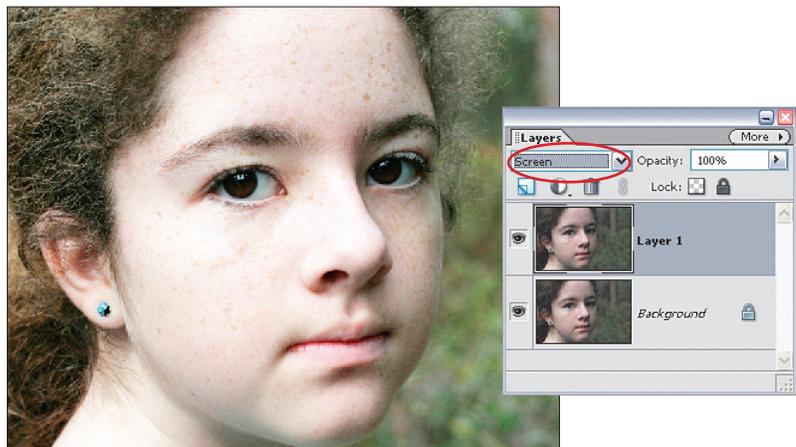
When a person with darker eyes is photographed, sometimes their eyes come out looking black. We can't have people showing up in our albums with two black eyes, so we'll take a look at a nice way to splash some color back into the irises.

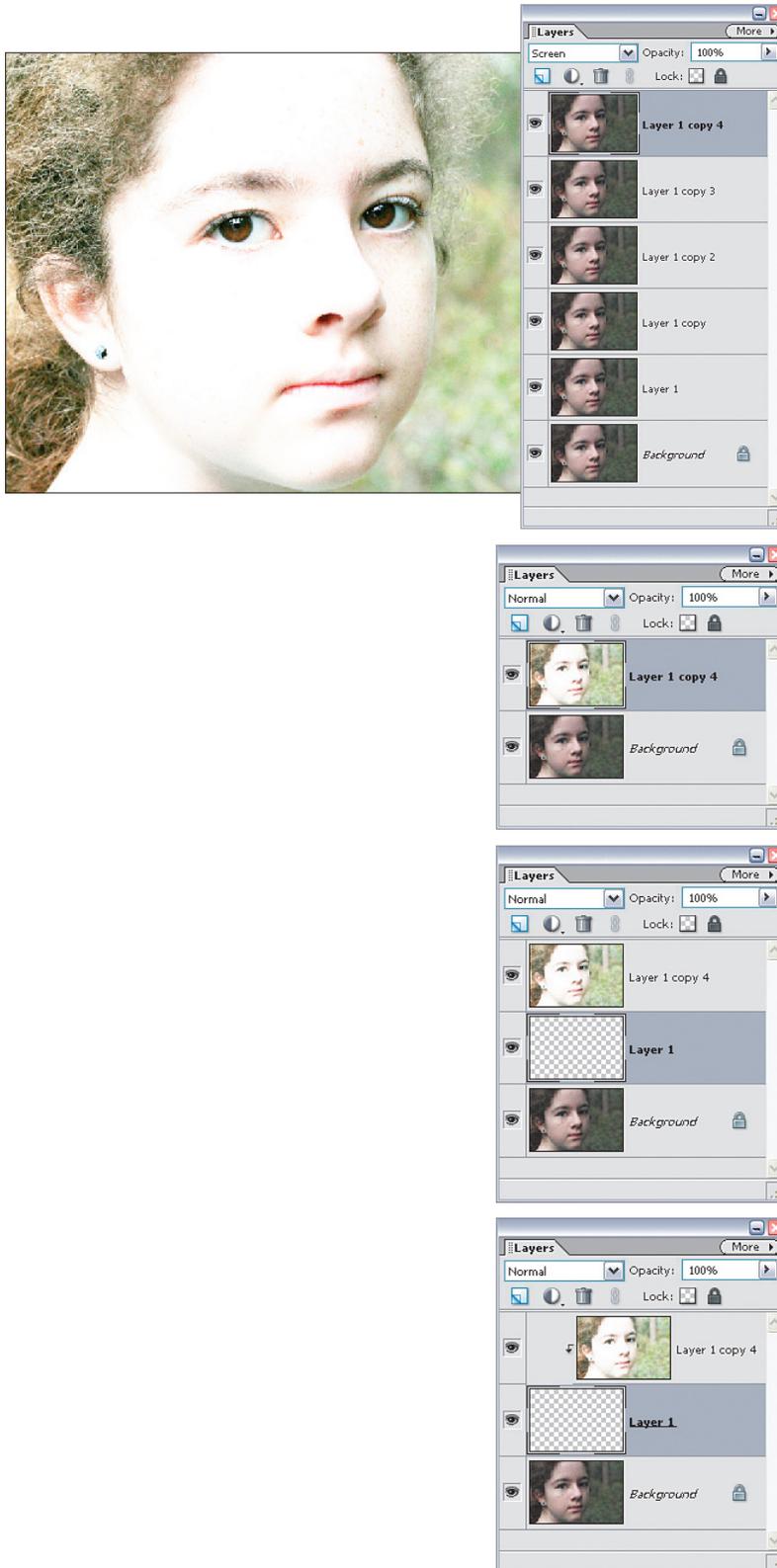
STEP ONE: Open a photo of a person who has dark eyes. Dark brown eyes are typically the best candidates for this type of fix. In this example, the photo is pretty well exposed. The main issue is the irises look really dark.



©ISTOCKPHOTO/LISA YOUNG

STEP TWO: Duplicate the background layer by pressing Ctrl-J (Mac: Command-J). Then click once on the top layer to select the duplicate, and change the blend mode at the top left of the Layers palette to Screen. This will lighten the entire photo.





STEP THREE: Now duplicate the top layer again. You'll see the whole photo becomes even lighter. In fact, everything should be looking pretty bad at this point, and you're probably asking yourself, "Why am I still reading this boloney?" Trust me, it gets better. Now repeat this step a few more times—until you see some nice color in the eyes. (Ignore the rest of the washout; you're only concerned about the color of the irises.) We duplicated ours five times.

STEP FOUR: Let's consolidate all the duplicate layers into one by merging them together. To select all of the copied layers, click once on the top duplicate, then Shift-click on the first copy you created. Now press Ctrl-E (Mac: Command-E) to merge them.

STEP FIVE: Now we're going to "paint in" the lighter irises from the top layer with the Brush tool using a little Elements trick. First, click once on the Background layer to select it. Then click the Create a New Layer button at the top of the Layers palette to create a new blank layer in between the two photo layers.

STEP SIX: Click once on the top duplicate layer, and go to Layer>Group with Previous. You'll notice the layer has been bumped to the right in the Layers palette, and a bent arrow has appeared to the left. Your lighter layer is also completely hidden, leaving only the original photo visible.

STEP SEVEN: Zoom in on the eyes, and select the Brush tool (B). Choose a soft-edged brush from the Brush Picker (we used a Soft Mechanical brush from the Basic Brushes category), and resize your brush until it's a little larger than the pupil. *Tip:* You can use the Left and Right Bracket keys ([]) to make your brush smaller or larger, respectively. Now click once on the empty layer you added in Step Five, press D to set your Foreground color to black, and start painting over the iris—steering clear of the pupil and outside edge of the iris. As you do this, you'll see the color come back into the iris from the layer above. That's because painting with black will mask (or cover) whatever is in the layer beneath.



STEP EIGHT: If you find your irises are now emanating a creepy, neon glow, dial down the lightness by adjusting the Opacity of your middle layer in the Layers palette. You can also use the Eraser tool (E) to erase areas where you may have bumped up against the pupils or outside edges of the irises, again adjusting its diameter with the Bracket keys. I also whitened the eyes using the same technique here but with a twist. *To view my video tutorial—where I demonstrate this entire technique, as well as the finishing touch to whiten the eyes—visit the subscriber area of www.photoshop-elementsuser.com. See you there. n ☞*



Before



After

Matt Kloskowski is Education and Curriculum Developer for the National Association of Photoshop Professionals. He has authored or co-authored several books on Photoshop and Illustrator. His latest book is The Photoshop CS2 Speed Clinic from Peachpit Press. Matt also teaches an advanced Photoshop course for www.sessions.edu.

Reprinted from Photoshop Elements Techniques newsletter.

Visit us at www.elementsuser.com for more helpful tips, tricks, tutorials and videos, as well as information on subscribing to the Photoshop Elements Techniques newsletter and Web site.

© PhotoOne Media