

BRIGHTENING TEETH and EYES

©2008 Jennifer White/ScrappersWorkshop.com All Rights Reserved. Do not reproduce in any media without express written permission.

There are several different ways to do this well – the technique you use might differ for every photo. I'll show you three ways here:

Dodge Tool

This is probably my favorite way, as I find it to be fast and gives good results.



1. Choose your dodge tool – it is the last tool in the tool bar, may be hidden by the sponge or the burn tool.
2. choose a soft brush that will fit within the confines of the spaces you wish to whiten
3. set Range to Midtones
4. set exposure to NOT MORE THAN 50%. I frequently work at 20% or less. You will get a better look and a less noticeable edge if you go over the same space several times at a lower opacity.
5. Click and 'scrub' (run over in small circular motion) on the areas you wish to lighten. Very small areas like the corners of some eyes, you will not need to move the mouse at all, just click.



Be careful not to go too far and create unnatural whites. This is the danger of this method, if you overdo it, you have to Ctrl+z back to where you like it.

Notice how the overbright white in the right hand photo really draws your attention. You don't want to get them so bright that is

creates its own focal point in the picture!

ERASE Tool

This is one of the simplest methods to use, and the easiest to check and see if you missed anything.



1. Duplicate the background layer (TWICE, if you don't want to work on your original layer)

Click on the layer just below the top layer to make it active.

Turn OFF the top layer – you should now be looking at the second layer down.

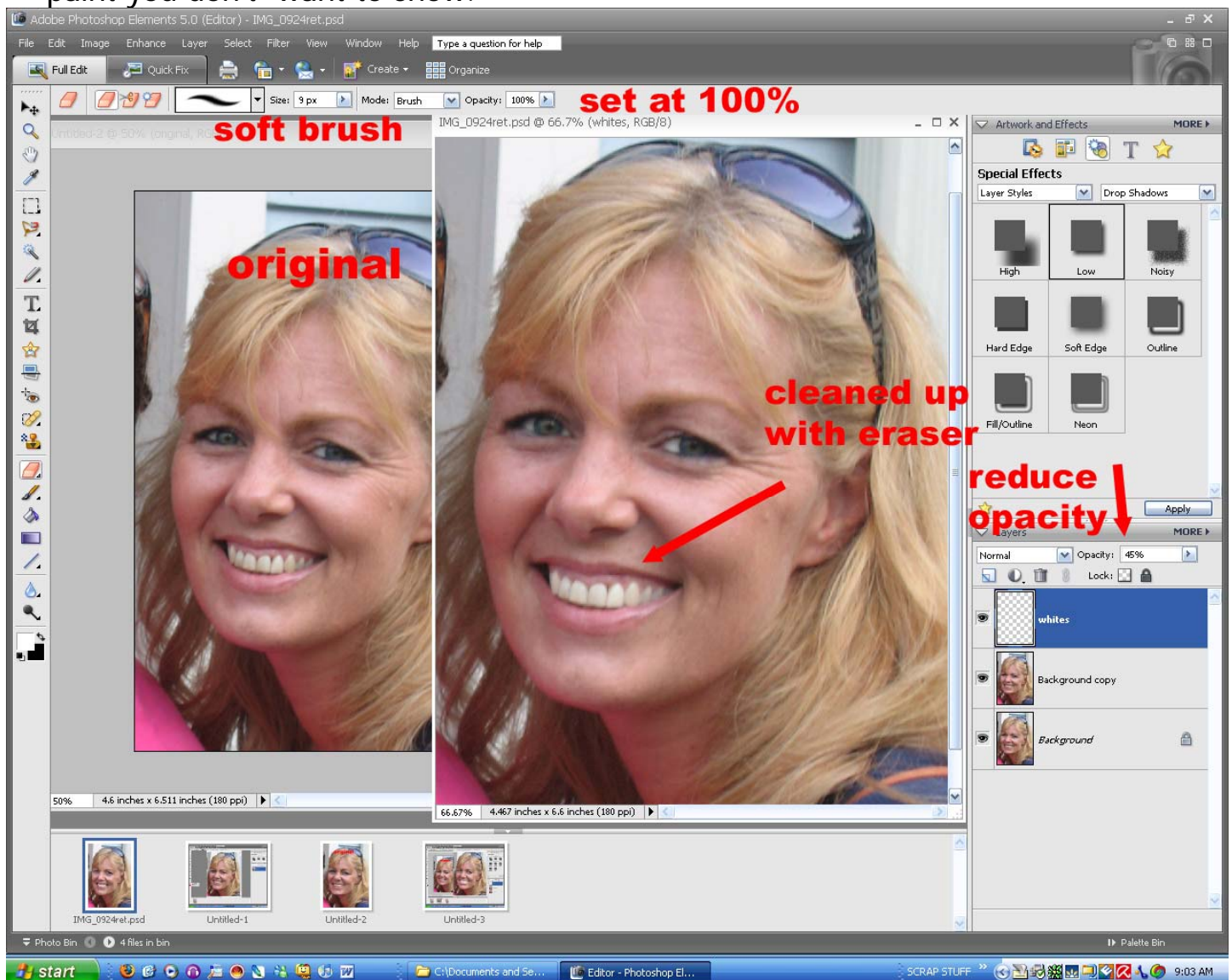
2. Go to Enhance > Adjust Lighting > Brightness Contrast and adjust until the teeth and eyes are the degree of whiteness you want.
3. Turn back ON the top layer, select it, and choose the Eraser tool.
4. Using a soft brush and a low opacity (25%) erase the top layer where you want the brighter copy to show through. You can check your work by turning off the bottom layer and looking for the 'holes' you erased. This is helpful when doing more than one head, to be sure you got eyes and teeth for everybody.
5. Merge layers
6. SAVE UNDER NEW NAME to avoid overwriting original photo!

PAINT BRUSH Tool

This is how we were taught to do it in the Corel Painter class I took, and there are some distinct advantages to this technique. I think I would only use it if I were working on a photo that was a tight close-up of the face, where the eyes were a prominent feature.



1. Copy your background layer.
2. Create a new layer ABOVE that layer- name it WHITES.
3. Hit D to set your default colors, and X to change the foreground to white.
4. Select the Brush tool – use a small, soft brush, low opacity (around 20%)
5. Paint over the teeth and eye areas that need whitening. Don't paint so much you cover them UP, just till they look good – and then a little more. You can make them whiter than you want them, we'll tone them down later. Don't worry about 'overspray', we'll clean that up later, too. As for the eyes, aim the center of your brush toward the bottom lid, so that the paint will fade out toward the top of the eyeball. This will keep them looking round and not flat.
6. Select the Eraser tool – small soft brush, 100% opacity – and erase all the white paint you don't want to show.



7. Reduce the opacity of the WHITES layer until you like the look.

The advantage of this technique is you can adjust it, add or erase paint from it, or delete the layer and start over!

MORE EYES

To really make the eyes pop, there are a couple more things you can do. You can add catchlights, and add some reflected light to the iris.

CATCHLIGHTS – these are the bright white reflections of the light source in your picture. You can usually see them, if only faintly, but brightening them makes the eyes sparkle!

1. Make a new layer, and label it catchlights.
2. Using a soft small brush, with white as your foreground color, paint over the existing catchlights to strengthen them, or add in catchlights where they are missing. Be sure to put them in the same place on each eye!
3. Reduce the opacity of the layer until they look natural. A good way to do this is to take the opacity to 0, then slide it back up till you like it.



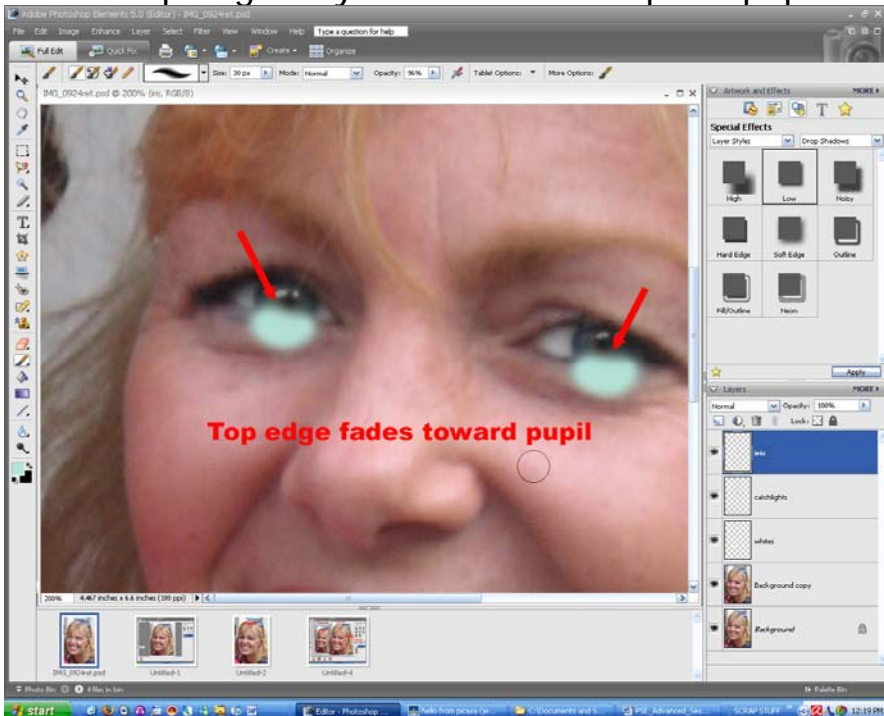
Catchlights at 100% opacity... and catchlights at 37% opacity!

IRIS LIGHTS – these happen when light reflects onto the iris of the eye. They will always be OPPOSITE the catchlight.

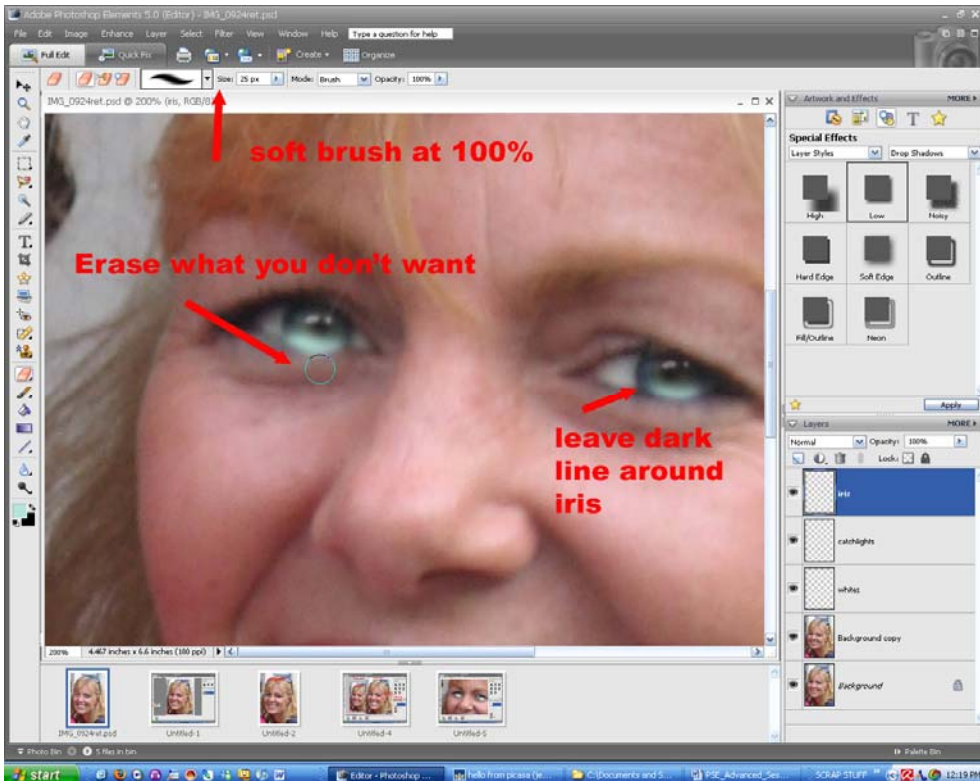
1. Make a new layer, and label it IRIS.
2. Select the brush tool, and a small, soft brush. The larger the brush, the softer the edge is, so pick a brush that is just a little smaller than the diameter of the entire iris.
3. Click on your foreground swatch. Move your cursor over the iris, and click to sample the color from the iris. In the colorpicker window, click somewhere

STRAIGHT UP from where the sample is, to get a lighter value of the same color. You want it QUITE a BIT lighter!

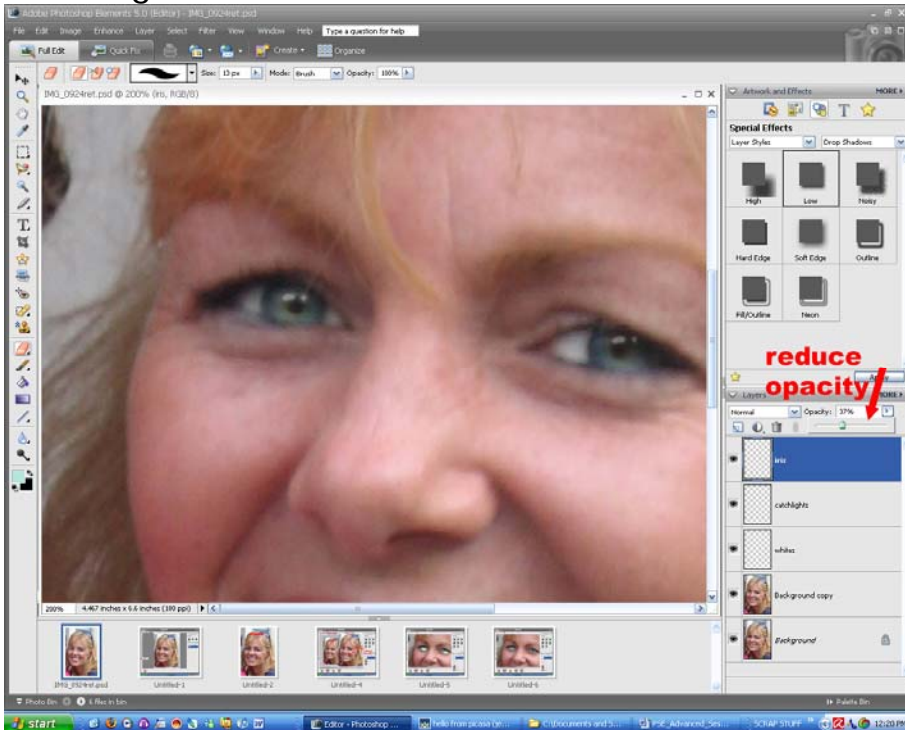
4. Paint a crescent of color on the iris opposite the catchlight. YOU WILL HAVE TO PAINT OFF THE EYE, because you want the color to fade toward the pupil. Watch that top edge so you do not cover up the pupil. It should look like this:



5. Select the Eraser, and with a soft, small brush, erase the parts of the color you don't want to see. Take care to reveal a dark ring around the iris, for a more natural look.



6. Change the eraser to a HARD brush, about the size of the pupil, and click once on



each pupil to insure a clean edge on the black center of the eye.

7. Change the layer opacity by moving the slider to 0 then bringing it back up until you get the look you want.

8. Zoom back out and check the final effect!



All that was done on this photo were the teeth and eyes, but look how she just seems to GLOW more!

The advantage of this method, is that if at any time I decide that one effect is too over or under done, I can go back to the .psd file and change the opacity of the layers for a different look!!