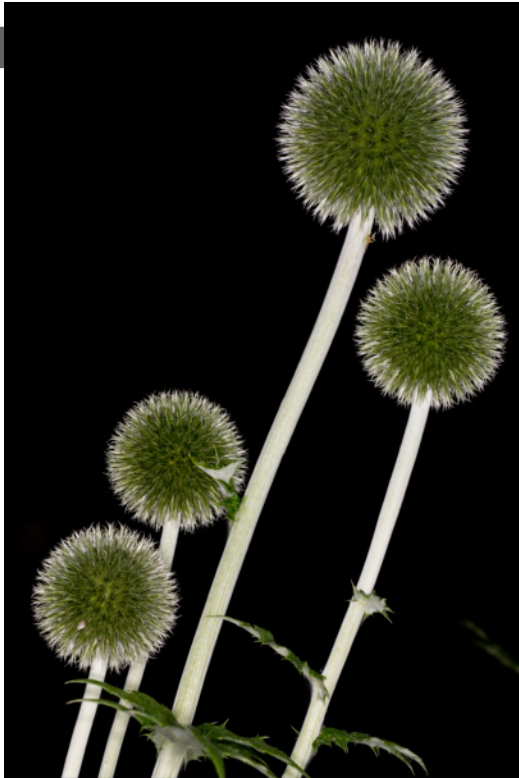


## Add Depth to the Lighting

STEP 1



### ► Open Picture in PhotoPerfect

This picture of several globe thistles was taken outdoors using a professional DSLR and a 90 mm fixed focal macro objective and a ring flash. It was captured in RAW and converted to JPEG with all parameters set to 0.

The main objects had been illuminated by the ring flash, while the background has been strongly underexposed, so that the globe thistles are beautifully separated from a black background. However as only one light source has been used, the lighting is very flat.

So we will try to improve this by simulating more directional lighting using PhotoPerfect.

In this tutorial we will make rather heavy use of PhotoPerfect's Brightness gradient and S-contrast gradient functions. If you are not familiar with these very powerful tools it might be a good idea to read the [brightness gradient introductory tutorial](#) first. It just takes 2-3 minutes and teaches you the essential idea behind the functions using a gradient.

STEP 2



### ► Use the brightness gradient

First we use the "Brightness gradient" to brighten up the image and let the globe thistles stand out even more from the background.

Select "Brightness gradient" from "Effects" in the main menu. Re-position the gradient as shown in the example with the arrowhead pointing slightly downwards to the bottom right corner (1).

Increase the value of brightness to 256 (2) and press the "Accept" button (3) to apply your changes. Repeat this step once more with the "brightness" value set to 100.

STEP 3

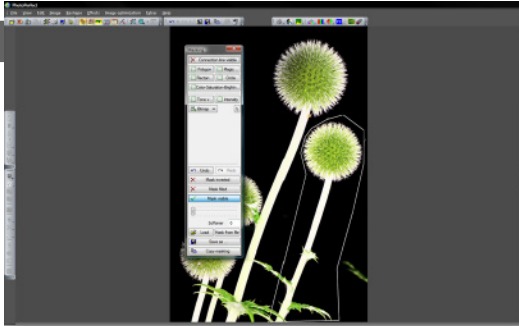


### ► Darken the left side of the globe thistles

Again we use "Brightness gradient". Re-position the gradient as shown in the example with the arrowhead pointing to the opposite direction - slightly to the upper left corner (1).

Decrease the value of brightness to -79 (2) and press the "Execute" button (3) to apply your changes.

## STEP 4



### ► Using the masking tool

As the most right thistle could not be darkened separately, select polygon from the "Image -> Masking" menu to mask it. After that repeat the last step for the masked area.

## STEP 5



### ► Sharpen up the image

Select "Sharpness gradient" from the "Effects" menu and position the arrowheads downwards as shown in the screenshot (1).

Set the sharpness value to 114 (2) and click on the "Execute" button to apply your changes.

## STEP 6



### ► Final result

We have added a frame to the final result using PhotoPerfect's "MasterFramerDeLuxe". Click [here for a tutorial](#) on how to do this.

Now the lighting looks very 3 dimensional, as if the thistles had been additionally lighted from the right as well. Not too bad – isn't it?