

Use Vignetting to make Photos more interesting

STEP 1



► Open Picture in PhotoPerfect

This picture has been taken outdoors with a DSLR and a 90 mm fixed focal macro objective. This snapshot was captured in RAW and converted to JPEG with all parameters set to 0.

The object and lighting are very boring and dull.

So we will try to make it more interesting using different features of PhotoPerfect.

In this tutorial we 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 go through 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 vignetting tool

As a first step we use the "Reduce vignetting" tool to cover the distracted and boring outer area.

Select "Reduce vignetting" from "Effects" in the main menu. Decrease the value of brightness to -3.65 (1) and press the "Accept" button (2) to apply your changes.

Now the outer area appears darker, and at the same time the overall subjective contrast of the picture is much stronger.

STEP 3



► Enhance the lighting and color

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

Increase the value of "Brightness" to 160 (2) and the value of saturation to 61 (3). Press the "Accept" button (4) to apply your changes.

STEP 4



► Boost contrast

Switch to "S-contrast gradient" (1). Re-position gradient with the arrow head pointing to the opposite direction (2)

Increase the value of s-contrast to 0.37 (3) and the value of saturation to 57 (4). Press the "Accept" button (5) to apply your changes.

By doing so we increase the contrast of the upper left corner, creating more tension in the picture.

STEP 5



► Diversify the light source

Switch again to "Brightness gradient" (1) and position the arrow head downwards as shown in the screenshot (2).

Set the brightness value to 92 (3) and the value of saturation to 18 (4) and click on the "Accept" button to apply your changes.

As this picture had been taken with natural light, this step simulates directional lighting from above.

STEP 6



► Sharpen up

As last step, we switch to "Sharpness gradient" (1) and reposition the arrow head upwards (2).

Next increase the sharpness value to 207 (3) and click on "Execute" to finalize the result (4).

STEP 7



► Much more interesting, isn't it?

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