PHOTO Elements TECHNIQUES

Add Sun Beams to your Images

Erin Peloquin

Add interest to your images with sunbeams.

Photoshop Elements 13 was used in this video.

1. Open an image using the **File>Open** command.
2. Right-click on the Background layer and select **Duplicate Layer**, name it Flare and click **OK**.
3. Go to the **Filter menu** and select **Render>Lens Flare**.
4. In the **Lens Flare dialog** set the preferences as desired and click **OK**.
5. If needed, remove light bubbles by adding a layer mask to the Flare layer and using a soft round brush to paint with black on the areas you want to conceal.

6. Grab the **Gradient tool** and select the **Black to White** gradient from the **Gradient Picker** and check **Reverse**.
7. Press-and-hold the **Shift key** as you draw your gradient.
8. Click on the **Create a new layer icon** to add a new blank layer.
9. Grab the **Brush tool** and in the Tool Options bar select a **Spatter brush** from the **Brush Picker**.
10. With the Brush tool click once to start your diagonal line then hold the **Shift** key and click again where you'd like the line to end.
11. Repeat step 10 varying the length of the lines.
12. Change the **Blend Mode** of the layer to **Soft Light**.
13. Go to the **Filter menu** and select **Blur>Radial Blur**.
14. In the **Radial Blur dialog** set the **Amount** pretty high (I used 100), select the **Zoom Blur Method** and set the **Quality** to **Good**.
15. Duplicate the filter by going to the **Filter menu** and selecting **Radial Blur**.
16. Click on the **Create new fill or adjustment layer icon** and select **Solid Color**.
17. In the **Color Picker** select a light yellow color.
18. Clip the Color Fill 1 layer to the layer below by going to the **Layer menu** and selecting **Create Clipping Mask**.
19. Duplicate the Color Fill layer by right-clicking on the layer in the Layers panel and selecting **Duplicate Layer**.
20. Drag the Color Fill 1 copy layer down so that it's above the Flare layer and clip it to the Flare layer by going to the **Layers menu** and selecting **Create Clipping Mask.**
21. Reduce the **Opacity** of the fill layers to taste.