

# PHOTO Elements TECHNIQUES

## Extreme Contrast

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Use a Threshold Adjustment layer to turn your image into a high contrast black & white silhouette with a colored or patterned background.

Photoshop Elements 14 was used in this video.

1. Open the image you want to use in **Expert** mode, **File>Open**.
2. Duplicate the Background layer by pressing **Ctrl-J** (Mac: **Command-J**). If your document contains multiple layers merge them with the Merge Visible command, **Shift-Alt-Ctrl-E** (Mac: **Shift-Option-Command-E**)
3. Rename the new layer **Details**.
4. Click on the **Create a new fill or adjustment layer icon**, select **Threshold**, and adjust the **Threshold slider** as needed.

5. Press **O** to activate the **Burn and Dodge tools**, and in the Tool Options bar select the **Dodge tool**, set the **Exposure** to around **50%**, and adjust the brush size as needed.
6. Paint over the areas of your image that you'd like to lighten.
7. Switch to the **Burn tool** and paint over the areas you'd like to darken.
8. In your Layers panel click on the top most layer and then click on the **Create a new fill or adjustment layer icon** and select one of the top three choices (in the first example **Gradient** was used).
9. Change the **Blend Mode** of the layer to one from the 2<sup>nd</sup> grouping (in the first example **Darker Color** was used).
10. In the Layers panel, double-click on the **Gradient fill icon** to open the Gradient Fill dialog.
11. Click on the **Gradient Preset Picker** and select **Pastels**, then select the **Brown, Tan, Beige gradient**.
12. Set the **Style** to **Radial**, check **Reverse**, and click **OK**.