

# SCRAPPER'S GUIDE

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## Create a Photo Vignette in Photoshop Elements

Tip of the Week by Jan Walker on March 22, 2010

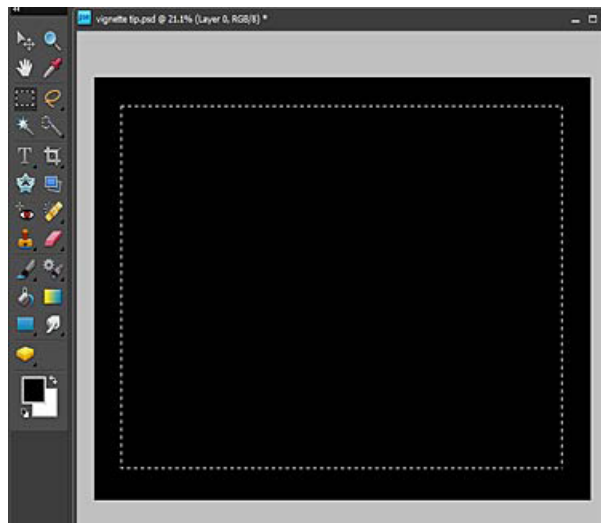
How can you make a good photo even better, and instantly direct the viewer's eye to your subject? It's simple... with subtle vignetting.

Similar to edge burning, vignetting allows you to gradually fade and darken the edges of your image, which automatically brings attention to the center of the image – your subject.



Here's how it's done... don't blink, or you'll miss it!

- 1) Open the image you want to work with in Elements.
- 2) Click on the Create a new layer icon on the Layers panel.
- 3) Press the letter D to get the default colors of black and white for your Color Chips. Press Alt Backspace (Mac: Opt Delete) to fill the new layer with black (the Foreground color).



- 4) With the Rectangular Marquee tool, click and drag an outline inside the edges of your image.

**Variation:** Instead of using the Rectangular Marquee tool, try the Elliptical Marquee tool, and draw an oval selection.

- 5) In the Options bar, choose Select > Modify > Feather. When the dialog box comes up, set your Feather Radius to 180 and click OK. You can vary the radius, depending upon how much "fade" you want.

6) Press Backspace (Mac: Delete) to get rid of the center selection, leaving you with a nicely faded vignette. Press Ctrl D (Mac: Cmd D) to deselect. Adjust the Opacity slider at the top of the Layers panel to achieve a more subtle look. I set my vignette layer to about 58%.



Compare the difference in your image with and without the vignette. You'll find that this simple, subtle effect helps "frame" your subject and adds a polished look to your photo.



### Bonus tip!

Turn off all the layers except your vignette layer, then save that layer as a PNG file. You'll have a ready-made vignette to apply to other photos anytime!



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