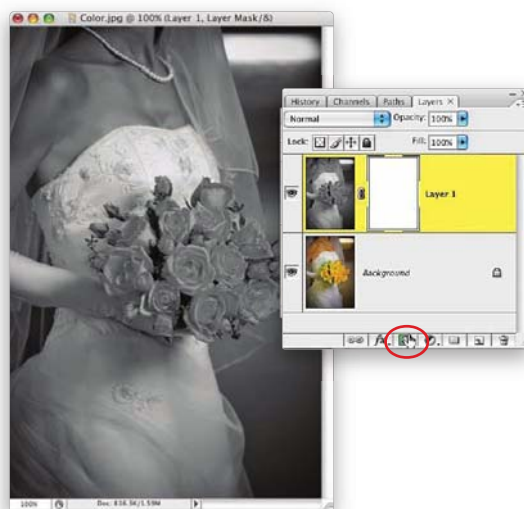




This is an incredibly popular effect with pro wedding photographers (in fact, I can't remember the last time I saw a wedding album without this effect in it). Basically, you're going to make a copy of the photo, remove all the color, and then just bring back color right where you want it (this is usually done on the bridal bouquet—I know, it's kind of an obvious choice). Anyway, although I'm showing it here in the context of a wedding, it's perfect for travel photography, product shots, and any instance where you want to lead the viewer using color.

Drawing the Viewer's Eye with Color



Step One:

Open the photo where you want to lead the viewer's eye with the use of color. As I mentioned in the intro above, the classic use of this technique in wedding photography is to make the photo black and white, and bring back the color in the bouquet. So, start by pressing Command-J (PC: Ctrl-J), which duplicates the Background layer.

Step Two:

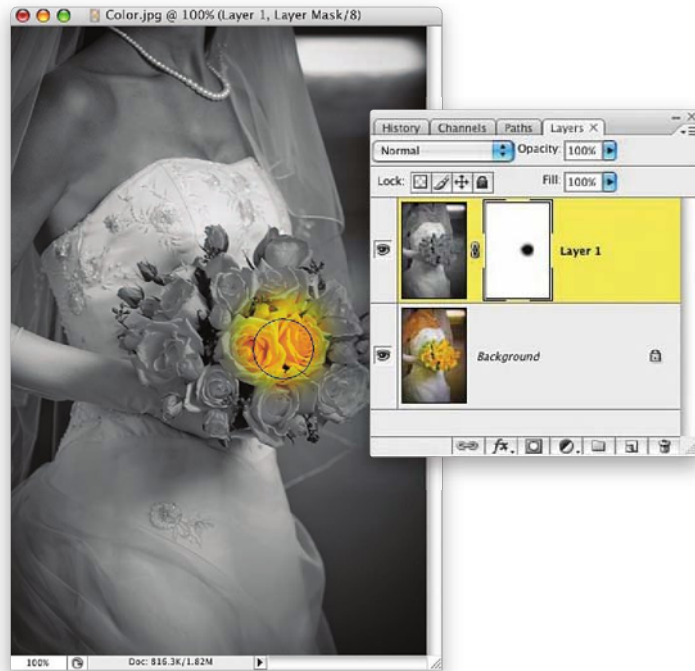
Next, to remove the color from this duplicate layer, press Command-Shift-U (PC: Ctrl-Shift-U), which is the shortcut for Desaturate (if you're charging by the hour, go under the Image menu, under Adjustments, and choose Desaturate). Once the layer is in black and white, click on the Add Layer Mask icon at the bottom of the Layers panel (as shown here).

Continued



Step Three:

Get the Brush tool (B), choose a medium-sized, soft-edged brush, make sure your Foreground color is set to black, and begin painting over the flowers. As you do, it reveals the flowers in color from the Background layer (as shown here).



Step Four:

The rest is easy (if not a little tedious). You just continue painting over the flowers until the full color is revealed. As you get near the edges of the flowers, you'll have to use a smaller brush (use the Left and Right Bracket keys on your keyboard [to the right of the letter P] to change brush sizes). Also, if you make a mistake, just press X to switch your Foreground color to white and paint over your mistake, and as you paint, it will return to black and white. Once your mistake is fixed, press X again to switch your Foreground color back to black, and continue painting until the flowers are fully painted in color (as seen here). That's it!

