

## Sharpening

### First, do you really want to do it?

- **JPEG images are often pre-sharpened** in the camera! Sharpening will over-emphasize edges and noise. It would be a good idea to turn off the sharpening or minimize it, unless the lens is poor.
- **Better cameras sometimes use less in-camera sharpening.** Thus Canon images don't look as sharp as Nikon's sometimes. But they probably are as sharp in RAW.
- **Don't sharpen until the last edit is done.** You don't want to sharpen those facial blemishes before you try removing them.
- **View the image at 100% when sharpening.** Otherwise the monitor will be blurring it anyway.
- Sharpening can really bring out **image noise**.
- Which kind of image should you generally sharpen more, buildings or faces? **Not faces.**

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### Unsharpen Mask needsContSharpen.jpg

**Amount** Sets the amount of sharpening. (!)  
A higher value increases the contrast between edge pixels, giving the appearance of greater sharpness. 80-100 is low. Use for natural objects  
Less is needed for larger pixel images

**Radius** Determines the number of pixels surrounding the edge pixels affected by the sharpening. The more radius, the farther the effect.

- 1 is for intricate high contrast images
- 2 is a lot. for low-contrast with big simple objects

**Threshold** 0 all pixels will/can be modified  
10-30 not much in low contrast areas

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### Smart Sharpen

**Popular.** Fewer halos created.  
Can save the settings and reuse  
Corrections tailored for Gaussian, lens,  
and motion types of blurs.  
More control options

**Lens Blur** may be better in many cases. It detects the edges and detail in an image, and provides finer sharpening of detail and reduced sharpening halos.

### Shadows and Highlights Tabs

If the dark or light sharpening halos appear too strong you can fade the effect with these controls.

**Fade Amount** Adjusts the amount of sharpening in the highlights or shadows.

**Tonal Width** Smaller values restrict the adjustments to only the darker regions for shadow correction and only the lighter regions for highlight correction.

**Radius** Controls the size of the area around each pixel that is used to determine whether a pixel is in the shadows or highlights. Moving the slider to the left specifies a smaller area, and moving it to the right specifies a larger area.

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### Sharpening With High Pass ("wet flower")

- 1) Duplicate the layer
- 2) Choose **Filter > Other > High Pass**  
This is an edge detector filter.
- 3) Adjust as needed
- 4) Use **Blend > Overlay**  
Which ignores a flat gray!
- 5) Adjust the **opacity** for the correct amount.

#### Advantages

- Gives you more hands-on control.
  - Can change the amount later like an adjustment layer.
  - Completely non-destructive.
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### Sharpening Tips

*If the Unsharp Mask is doing OK on a face except that too many little wrinkles were standing out, which control would you turn down first? **Threshold. Turn it up and the smallest details will be ignored.***

*Which Edit > Fade blending mode should you use to make certain that only contrast and not color will be affected by the Unsharp Mask tool? **Luminosity***

*How does Edit > Fade ... help you?*

***Right after applying an effect, you can reduce the intensity of the effect.***

*Why is it better to apply sharpening to just the L channel in Lab mode?*

***You are adjusting only the luminosity or gray channel. Colors stay true.***