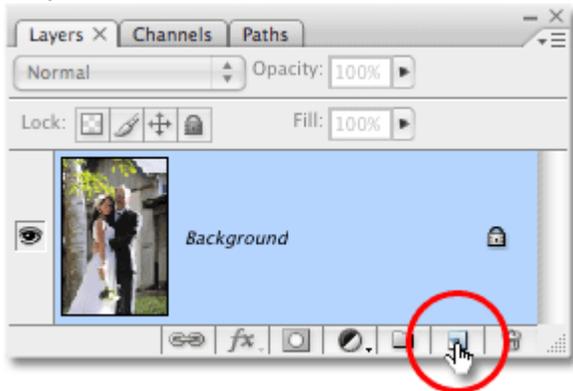


Lecture- Darkroom Techniques Dodge and Burn

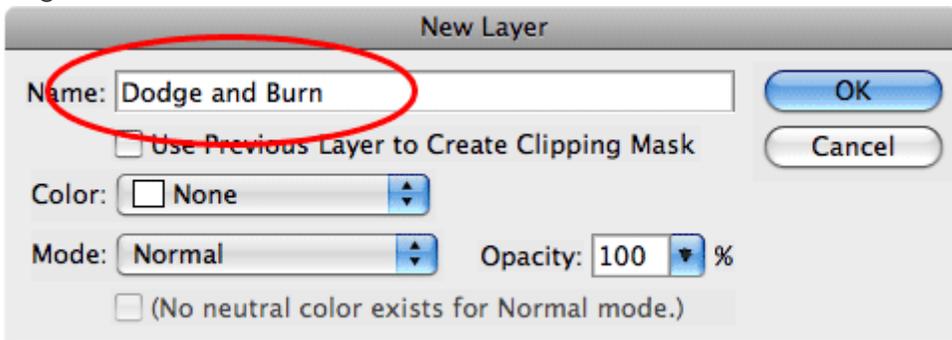
Step 1: Add A New Layer

Open the image you need to work on in Photoshop, then hold down your **Alt** (Win) / **Option** (Mac) key and click on the **New Layer** icon at the bottom of the Layers palette:



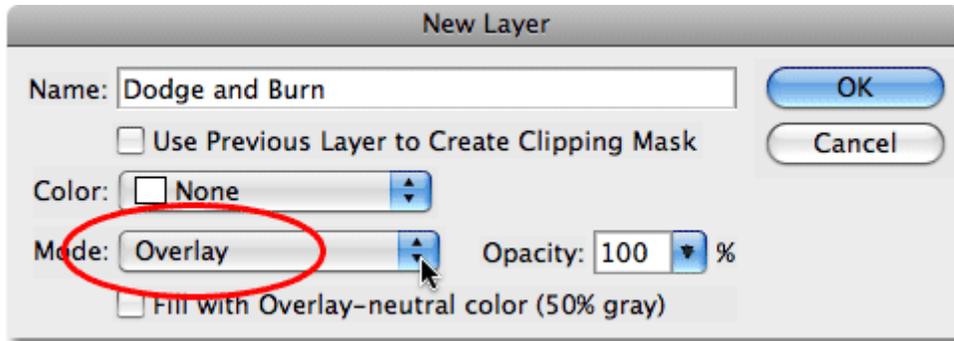
Hold down "Alt" (Win) / "Option" (Mac) and click on the New Layer icon.

Normally, this adds a new blank layer above the currently selected layer, but by holding down the Alt/Option key as we click on the New Layer icon, we tell Photoshop to pop open the New Layer dialog box for us before the layer is added. This gives us a chance to name the layer, and it also allows us to change a couple of important options. First, since I'll be using this layer to dodge and burn different areas of the photo, I'm going to name the layer "Dodge and Burn". You don't have to name the layer if you don't want to, but naming layers is a very good habit to get into:



Name the new layer "Dodge and Burn" (optional).

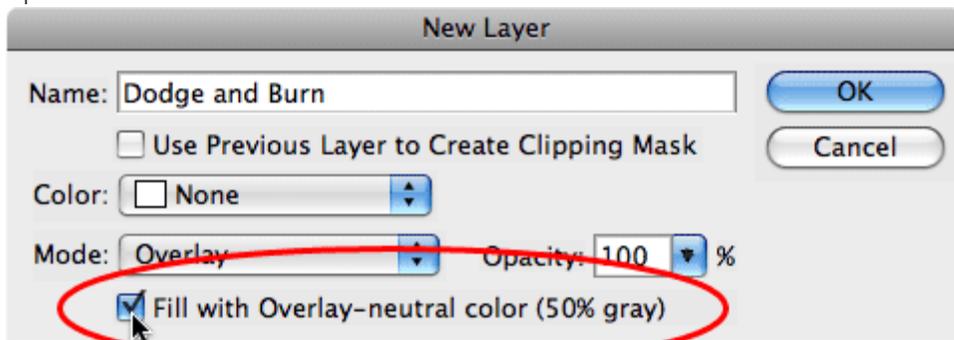
The real reason why we brought up the New Layer dialog box is for the option at the very bottom, **Mode**. "Mode" is short for **Layer Blend Mode**, and by default, it's set to Normal. Change the blend mode to **Overlay**:



Set the blend mode of the new layer to **Overlay**.

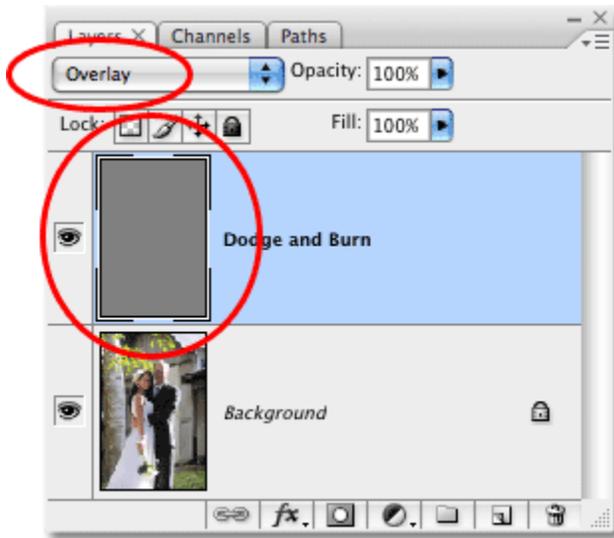
The Overlay blend mode is part of the Contrast group of blend modes and is often used to quickly boost the overall contrast in an image. Any areas on the layer that are lighter than 50% gray (meaning the shade of gray directly between black and white) are used to lighten the image, while areas darker than 50% gray darken the image. Any areas that are exactly 50% gray are completely ignored by Photoshop, and when I say "ignored", I mean they actually become transparent. In fact, we're about to see this in action.

With the blend mode now set to Overlay in the dialog box, you'll see a new option directly below it, **Fill with Overlay-neutral color (50% gray)**. Click inside the checkbox to select this option:



Click inside the checkbox to select the "Fill with Overlay-neutral color (50% gray) option.

This option tells Photoshop to fill our new layer with 50% gray. Click OK when you're done to exit out of the dialog box. If we look in our Layers palette now, we can see that we have a new layer named "Dodge and Burn" sitting above the photo on the Background layer. The layer is set to the Overlay blend mode for us, and if we look in the layer's **preview thumbnail** to the left of the layer's name, we can see that it has in fact been filled with gray:



The new "Dodge and Burn" layer appears in the Layers palette.

I said a moment ago that when a layer is set to the Overlay blend mode, any areas of the layer that are 50% gray become transparent, and if we look at our image in the document window, even though the "Dodge and Burn" layer is filled with solid gray, which would normally mean that our document window is filled with gray, all we see is our original photo. The gray on the "Dodge and Burn" layer is completely transparent:

The solid gray on the "Dodge and Burn" layer appears transparent in the document window.

Step 2: Select The Brush Tool

We're going to lighten and darken different areas of the image simply by painting over them with either black or white. Areas we paint over with white will be lightened, while areas we paint over with black will be darkened. Again, this is because we'll be painting on a layer that's set to the Overlay blend mode. Before we can paint over anything, though, we need to grab the **Brush Tool**, so either select the Brush Tool from the Tools palette or press the letter **B** on your keyboard to access it with the shortcut:



Select the Brush Tool.

Step 3: Set Your Foreground Color To White

I'm going to begin by lightening the couple, which means I'll need to paint over them with white, which means I need to set my **Foreground color** to white, since the Brush Tool paints with whatever color the Foreground color is currently set to. If you're following along with your image, press the letter **D** on your keyboard which resets the Foreground and Background colors to their defaults. This makes black the Foreground color and white the Background color. To swap them so white becomes the Foreground color, press the letter **X** on your keyboard. If we look at the Foreground and Background color swatches near the bottom of the Tools palette, we can see that white is now the Foreground color (the left swatch):



The Foreground color swatch in the Tools palette.

Step 4: Lower The Opacity Of The Brush To Between 10 - 20%

The best way to work with this technique is to gradually build up the amount of lightening and darkening that's being applied, since even a subtle amount can sometimes be enough. To do that, we'll need to work with a low opacity brush. Make sure you have the Brush Tool selected, then go up to the **Options Bar** at the top of the screen and lower the **Opacity** option down to somewhere between **10-20%**. I'm going to set mine to 10%. This way, each time I paint over the same area, I'll increase the amount of lightening or darkening in 10% increments, giving me lots of room to work with:



Lower the brush opacity in the Options Bar.

Step 5: Paint Over Areas That Need To Be Lightened

With your Brush Tool selected, white as your Foreground color and the opacity of your brush lowered, simply paint over any areas in your photo that need to be lightened. The effect will be subtle at first due to the low brush opacity, but if you need more lightening in certain areas, just paint over them a few times to build up the effect, making sure to release your mouse button in between paint strokes. You can change the size of your brush by pressing the **left bracket key** to make the brush smaller or the **right bracket key** to make it larger. You'll want to use a soft edge brush, and you can make the brush edges softer by holding down the **Shift** key

and pressing the **left bracket key** a few times. Holding **Shift** and pressing the **right bracket key** will make the edges harder.

Paint with white over any areas in the photo that need to be brighter.

Step 6: Set Your Foreground Color To Black

When you're done with the areas that needed to be lightened, press the letter **X** on your keyboard to swap your Foreground and Background colors so **black** becomes your Foreground color:



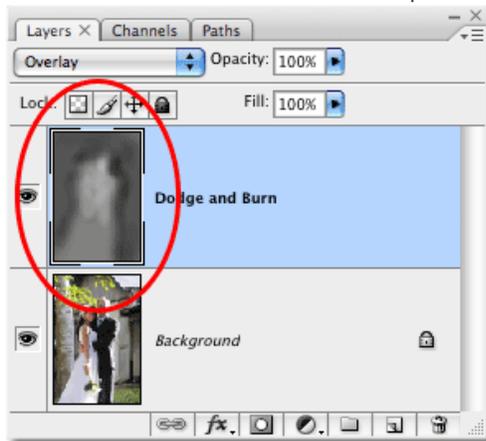
The color swatches in the Tools palette showing black as the Foreground color.

Step 7: Paint Over Areas That Need To Be Darkened

With your Foreground color now set to black, paint over any areas in the photo that need to be darkened. Again, each time you paint over the same area, you'll increase the amount of darkening that's applied. In my case, I want to make everything behind the couple darker, so I'm going to use a larger brush and paint around the couple a few times to darken the background:

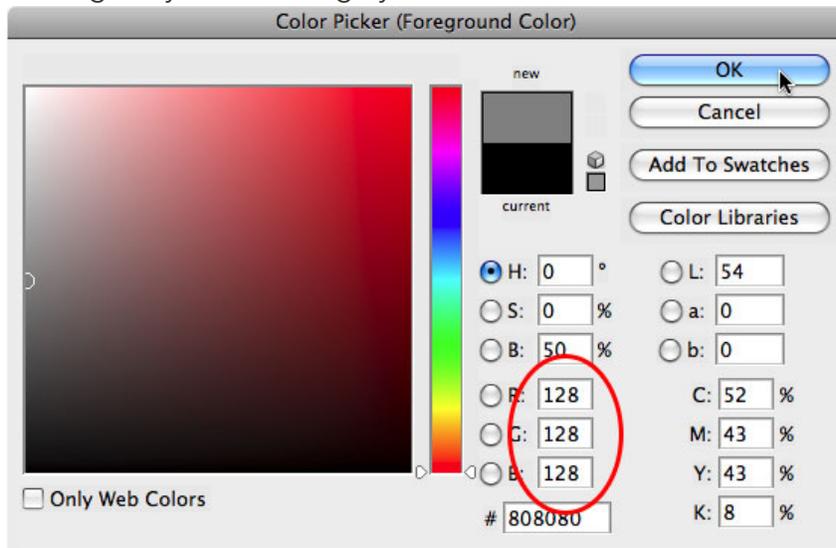
Painting with black over the background to darken it.

If we look at the preview thumbnail for the "Dodge and Burn" layer in the Layers palette, we can see all the areas where we painted with white or black:



The preview thumbnail shows where we painted on the layer.

If you accidentally paint over areas you didn't mean to and want to set those areas back to 50% gray, simply click on the Foreground color swatch in the Tools palette, which will bring up Photoshop's **Color Picker**. Enter a value of **128** for the **R**, **G** and **B** options in the Color Picker, which gives you the 50% gray color:



Enter a value of 128 for the R, G and B values in the Color Picker to select the 50% gray color. Click OK to exit out of the Color Picker, then simply paint over those areas in the image to set them back to the original 50% gray.

And with that, we're done! We've successfully adjusted the exposure levels in different areas of the photo by manually painting over them with black or white, giving us results very similar to what we could have achieved with Photoshop's Dodge and Burn tools, without touching a single pixel in our original image!