

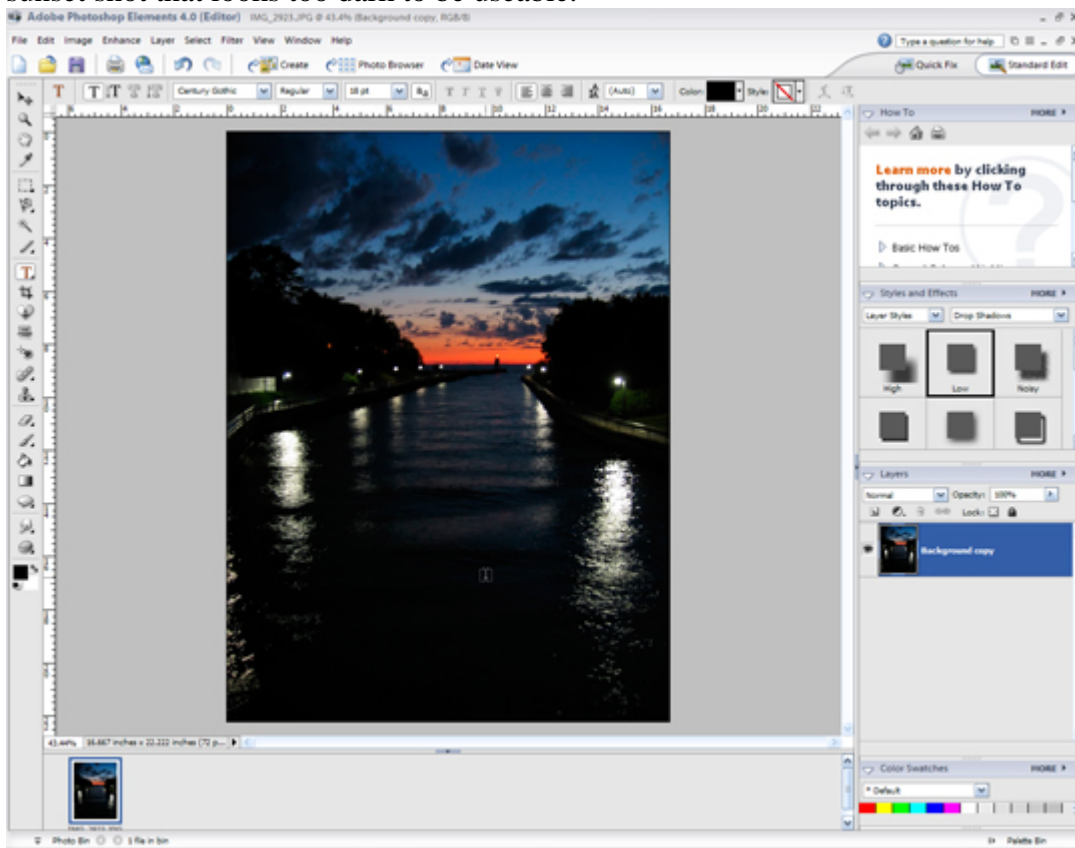
Fixing Underexposed Photos – A Photoshop Elements 4.0 Tutorial

by Genevieve Sass

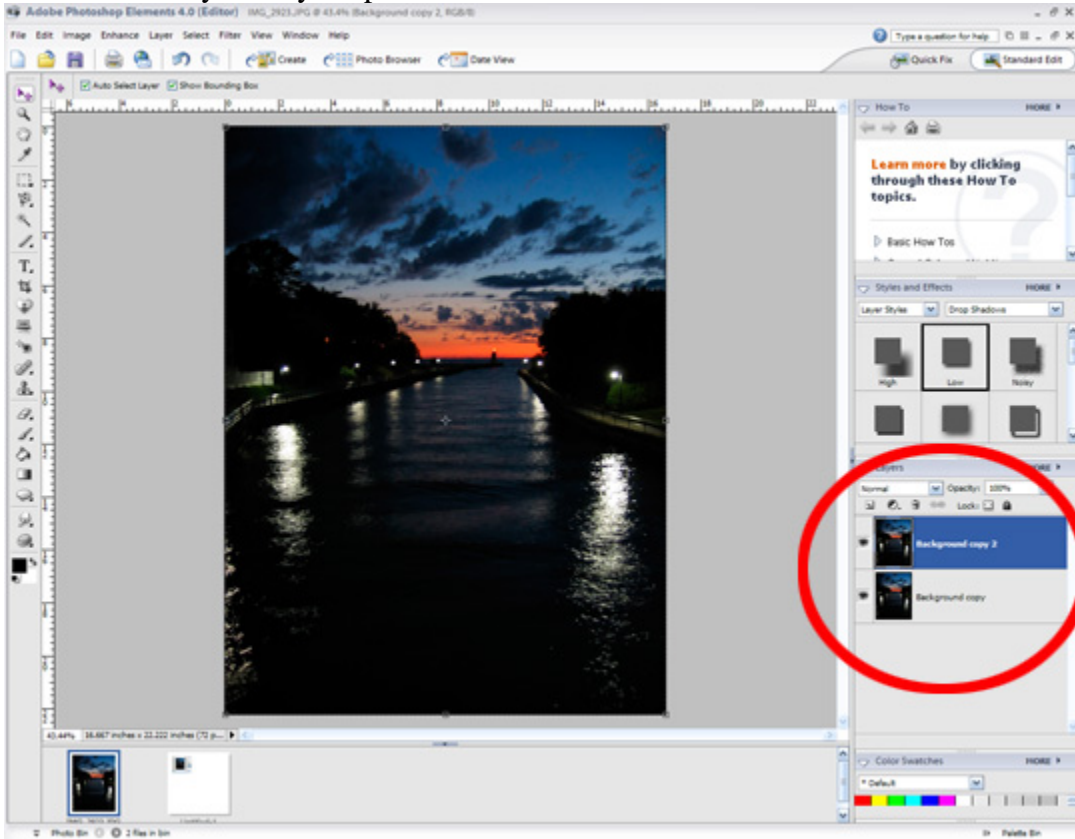
If you have any questions, please contact me at sweetgenevieve@gmail.com.

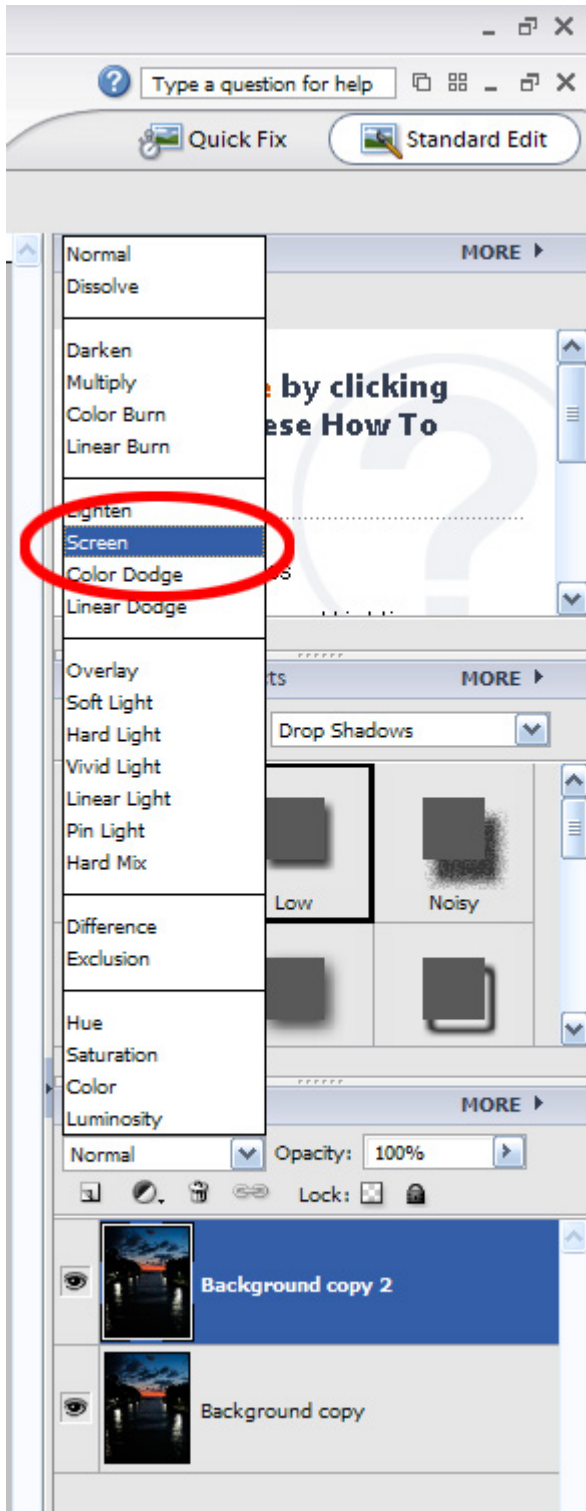
Photoshop Elements is great because of its quick-fix options. The Enhance menu on the toolbar offers “Auto Smart Fix,” “Auto Levels,” “Auto Contrast,” “Auto Color Correction,” and “Auto Red Eye Fix.” Playing with these options may fix your “problem” photo. But some problem photos need more fixing than these quick-fixes can provide. In this tutorial you’ll learn how to fix an underexposed photo using layer blend modes.

First open up the underexposed photo you’d like to fix. In this example, I’m using a sunset shot that looks too dark to be useable.



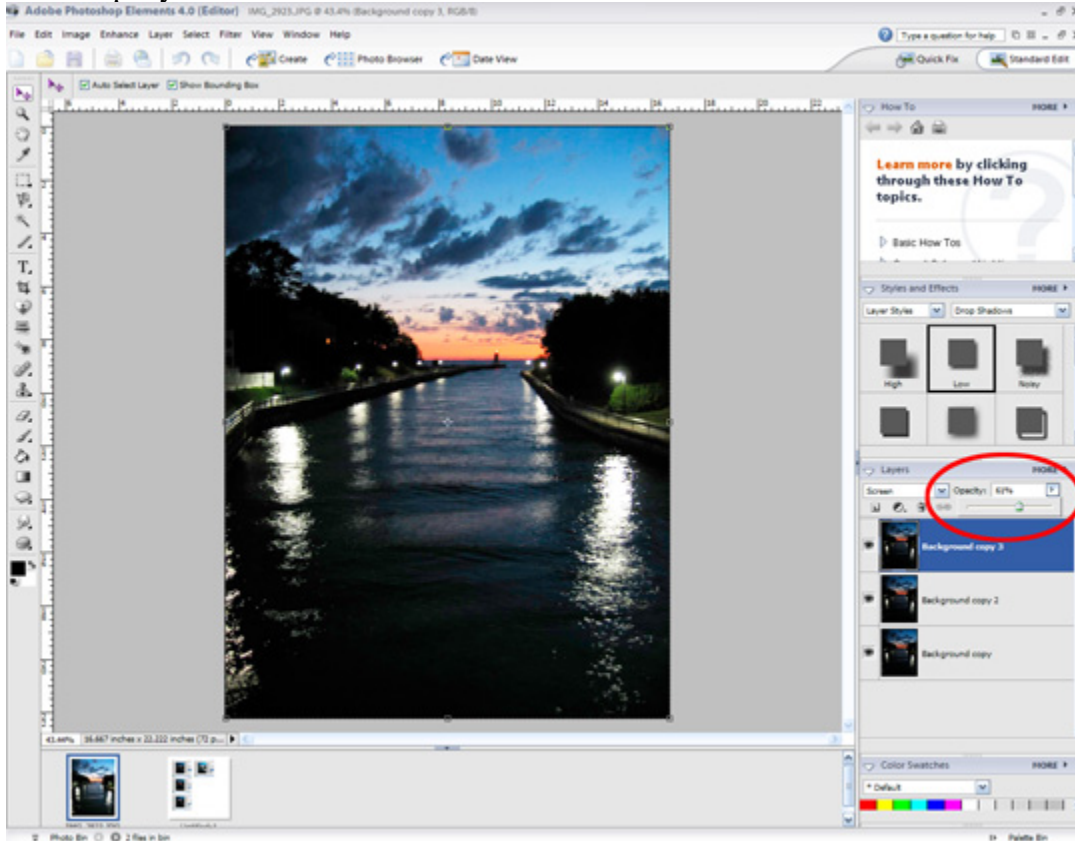
In the layer pallet, right click on your Background layer and click “Duplicate Layer.” When the Duplicate Layer dialogue box pops up, just click OK. You should now have two identical layers of your photo.





Making sure the top layer is active (it will be highlighted in blue in your layer pallet), click the drop-down blending mode menu (at the top of your layer pallet, it is to the left of the Opacity bar, the box that says “Normal”). From that menu, choose “Screen”.

You should notice that your photo has lightened a bit. If it is still too dark, right-click on your Background Copy(the top layer) in your layer pallet and duplicate that layer again. Make sure that the blending mode for that layer is set to screen, and this should lighten your photo even more. If it is now too light, you can fine-tune it, by adjusting the opacity of the top layer.



Once you have it the way you want it, right-click on any of the layers in the layer pallet, and select “Flatten Image.” Now your corrected photo is ready to be saved, and used on a layout!