

# How to: Painting with Light

Darker blacks, brighter highlights and richer colors

Why? To bring out highlights and shadows to brighten and pop the image. paint with a color to bring out the color

download the action -created by Chip Springer  
<http://www.atncentral.com/download.htm>

(this site has many cool actions to explore)

Chip's action creates two layers, Use both layers to bring out this dynamic effect. Grab a SOFT white brush (2-15% opacity) to paint Light on the Color Dodge layer. Grab a SOFT black brush (2-15% opacity) to add shadows and bring out the drama with the Color Burn Shadow layer. You may need to use higher opacity brushes on some pictures. If using a Wacom tablet, you may also want to adjust flow control.

I have found 3-6% opacity works great for the brush. Build up the effect by brushing over the area multiple times.

## things to try

when starting an image, paint the entire image with the black brush at 10% on the white shadow layer next use the white brush to pop the black light layer.

After working a while, run the action again and build up the effect on a seperate set of layers.

## Build the layers yourself

-Create an action

-Create a new layer (name: light)  
-Fill with black  
-Blend mode = Color Dodge

- Create a new layer (name: shadow)  
- Fill with white  
- Blend mode = Color Burn