

(An example extracted from part of Chapter 1-13, "The Use of Filters")

The order you apply filters can make a big difference. As you progress through the stepwise progression of creative enhancement of an image you are making changes on top of changes. Alterations in a preceding step will influence the results in the current step. If a series of modifications are relatively minor it may not make much difference in which order you do them. However, the order you make more major changes is important. The illustrations below make this point.



Fig.10 Detail of Original Image

I wanted to enhance a photo I took of a local train station to give it a “painterly” look. After a series of more basic modifications to things including parallax correction, cropping, white balance, contrast, removal of some distracting elements in the foreground, sharpening, etc, it was time to begin the more creative aspect of the process. I wanted the look of a fairly coarse paint brush. The first of two such filters applied as a layer was an effect I named “heavy oil brush” as a saved version of an excellent 3rd party filter called *Paint Engine*. I’ll call this “filter A”. I flattened this layer and copying that as a new layer, I progressed to the second painterly filter I wanted to try. This was a standard *Photoshop* filter called *Dry Brush*. I’ll call this “filter B”. I chose fairly dramatic settings for this filter and applied it. I was not happy with this sequence of filters and tried them in the opposite order. Personally, I like that version much better. The brush-like quality of filter A was totally over-ridden by filter B which had a more blocky effect. Reversing this order first blocked up the colors and then applied a brush effect to it.



Fig.11 Filter B over Filter A



Fig.12 Filter A over Filter B