

WHITE LAYER 'MISTY' EFFECT

This is the method employed by Irene Froy to achieve the misty look she uses to such good effect on some of her pictures.

Like all such treatments, it's very much a matter of personal preference whether you like it or not. I suggest also that if you want to give it a try then it's important to choose a suitable picture which (hopefully!) will benefit from it. As always, there's only one way to find out, so why not try it and see if you like the results.

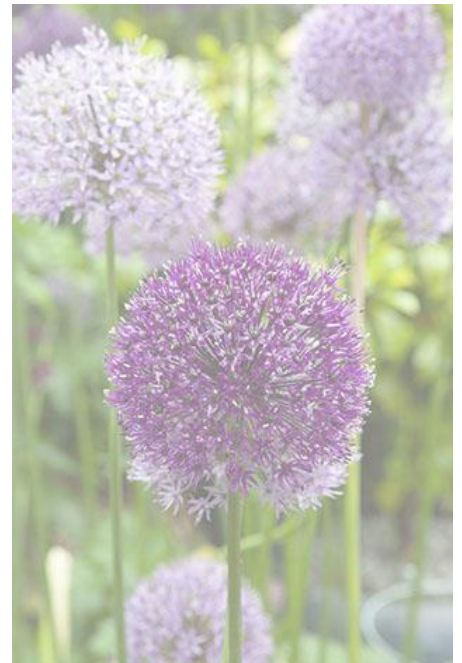
The method is very similar to that used for the 'day into night' treatment described in last month's Newsletter, except it's even easier. Again, it works equally well in Photoshop or Elements.

- 1 Open the picture and carry out any other work on it if needed. It makes life easier if the 'Layers' palette is visible.
- 2 Open a 'Solid Color' layer above the Background layer. By default, it will open as a black layer, and a dialogue box called 'Color Picker (Solid Color)' will open beside it. The simplest way to convert it to white is to find the little box beside the # symbol at the bottom of the dialogue box containing the numbers 000000 highlighted in blue. Simply type in ffffff and the colour will change to white (note: other methods of making this change are available if you prefer). Click on 'OK' in the dialogue box.
- 3 Now adjust the Opacity of the white layer. Above the layer find the Opacity box and click on the downward arrow to reveal the slider. Move the slider all the way to the left, which will cancel out the effect of the white layer completely. Then move it slowly to the right and the white misty effect will slowly become visible; keep moving it until you think it's gone a bit too far, and then ease it back a little until you think it's 'just right'.
- 4 A worthwhile refinement in this case is to bring back the colour in the near head a little so it stands out from the background. To do this use the Brush tool, make sure it's fully soft, and adjust the size until it's a little smaller than the flower head. Adjust the brush opacity to about 15%, make sure the foreground colour is black, and brush over the flower head. If the colour is still too pale brush over it again – the effect is cumulative, so keep brushing until the colour is as you want it.



Left - the original picture.

Right - overall white layer applied, opacity reduced to about 50%



Left - colour of the head brought back a little by brushing over that part of the picture.