

Sharpening action to enhance mud and/or water droplets.

*By Lance Gitter*

Using Photoshop:

1. Open image
2. Copy layer (ctrl J)
3. Change blend mode on layer copy 1 to vivid light
4. Invert layer (ctrl I)
5. Apply gaussian blur 3 pixel filter
6. Merge these two layers into a combined new layer (ctrl+alt+shift+E)
7. Delete "layer1"
8. On new merged layer change blend mode to either overlay (stronger) or soft light (weaker) and adjust opacity to taste
9. Press "D" to set default foreground and background colors
10. Add black layer mask (can use alt+create layer mask to create black filled mask in one step)
11. Choose a soft edged brush and brush the areas (on the mask) where extreme sharpening is required.

To create this method as an "action"

1. Open the actions palette, click the arrow in the upper right box and choose "create a new action."
2. Give the new action a name such as "3D sharpening".
3. Press record and do all of the steps above and press the "stop" button after you select the brush.

To run this action on an image, press run when this action is selected.

Alternate over sharpening techniques could be:

1. Use of high pass filter, found on the filters menu, other, high pass
2. Method of use:
3. Duplicate background layer
4. Apply high pass filter at 10 pixels
5. Change blend mode to overlay

For a very gritty look, try the "David Hill technique" (Google this term and download the action).

One suggested site is: <http://diyphotography.net/creating-that-dave-hill-look>