

# P H O T O S H O P G R A Y L A Y E R D O D G E & B U R N

The Gray Layer method of dodging and burning is a quick and easy way of selectively lightening and darkening areas within an image. It has the advantage of being 'nondestructive', unlike the dodge and burn tools within Photoshop, so if a mistake is made it is very easy to correct.

However, it does not offer the control that the dodge and burn tools provide so it is still worth using these when a high level control is required.

The Gray Layer method relies on using the **Overlay** blending mode and the **Brush** tool.

- Create a **New Layer** and place it on top of the layer stack. Rename it **D&B**.
- Go to **Edit > Fill > Use > 50% Gray** - click Okay. Don't worry that the image has disappeared under the gray.
- Once this has been done, change the **Blending Mode** to **Overlay**. The image will now reappear.
- Press **D** on the keyboard to set the **Foreground** and **Background** colours to **Black** and **White**.
- Select the **Brush** tool and set the **Opacity** to **2%** and the **Hardness** to **25%**. Then adjust the **Size** accordingly.

To lighten areas in the image (Dodge), just brush over them with the **Foreground** colour set to **White**.

To darken areas in the image (Burn), just brush over them with the **Foreground** colour set to **Black**.

To correct if you make a mistake - brush over the area with the opposite colour.