

FAUX-IRRED EFFECT

Infrared film is sensitive to the red end of the spectrum beyond what the human eye can perceive. It has a characteristic look that usually includes a glow and pronounced grain. It is possible to mimic this in PhotoShop. Be careful because infrared can be a clichéd look. Use this strategy and then vary the parameters to make something else happen that is beyond the typical.

PICK a PICTURE

open _____ a suitable photograph file
use _____ landscapes or portraits, things that generates heat
save _____ a copy of this file so you will not lose your original

MIX the CHANNELS

mix _____ the individual color channels with the CHANNEL MIXER
create _____ a new ADJUSTMENT LAYER LAYER> NEW> ADJ LAYER
 [CMD] click _____ on the CREATE NEW LAYER button
mix _____ the color channels to a total of 100%
 select _____ CHANNEL MIXER from the pull-down menu
 the CHANNEL MIXER dialog box will open
determine _____ which channel that has the best glow in the highlights
 increase _____ the gain to make this the strong channel
 decrease _____ the gain on the other two channels
 for example: _____ if the green channel has the best highlights...
 adjust _____ the green channel to about +200%
 adjust _____ the blue channel to about -30%
 adjust _____ the red channel to about -70%
 the balance will vary for each different photo!
convert _____ to MONOCHROME with the checkbox in the bottom left

SOFTEN the PICTURE

soften _____ the green channel of the original picture
activate _____ the background layer in the LAYERS palette
activate _____ the green channel in the CHANNELS palette
choose _____ the GAUSSIAN BLUR filter FILTER> BLUR> GAUSSIAN BLUR
 try a setting that will smear the picture (3-5 pixels)
fade _____ the blur FILTER> FADE GAUSSIAN BLUR
 set _____ OPACITY: to about 25%
 set _____ MODE: to SCREEN
 fading with SCREEN mode will produce a glow look
 fading in LIGHTEN mode will produce a soft-focus look
 fading with DARKEN mode will produce a diffusion look

ADD NOISE

add _____ some grain to simulate the texture of infrared film
activate _____ the background layer in the LAYERS palette
choose _____ the add noise filter FILTERS> NOISE>ADD NOISE
 use _____ GAUSSIAN NOISE just enough to be apparent
 then back off just a touch try 5 - 10%

COLORIZE the PICTURE

colorize _____ the image
 use _____ curves (adj layer), duotone, adjust variations, etc...