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Blur background photo

Photo editing lessons today — blurry background. Start by taking a quick look at these two images. The first one's good, but the second? That's a decent profile picture! Blurry backgrounds can be a powerful tool in your photo editing arsenal. Blurred backgrounds reduce distractions and focus on the subject of your photos. Also, it gives your pictures a professional look without (having to) have to use a professional camera. PicMonkey offers many different opaque effects, but for a start, we'll show you how to blur the background using the Soften effect. These steps explain how to add blur using PicMonkey in your desktop browser, but you'll also find the pocket-sized soften version in the PicMonkey mobile app and the steps are about the same. So select your device, and give these steps a vortex. Ever heard of wax on, wax off? With Soften, it's fuzzy, delete.1. Open the image in the PicMonkey.2.editor. Click the Effects tab (stick icon) on the left to see a list of effects. Click the Soften effect to obscure the entire photo.3. You can remove blur from the part of the photo you want to keep clear using the paintbrush in the Draw palette.4. Adjust the Softness slider until you're happy with the fuzzy amount. Moving the slider to the right increases blur, and moves it to the left by reducing blur. If it's still not blurry enough for you, click Apply, and then repeat the process again.5. Your work is automatically saved to the Hub. If you want to save the file to your computer, click Download. Now your photo is done and ready to share! Maybe you just want a super fast blurry background, without having to remove the effects from your subject. In this case, Focal Soften (and its cousin, Blur, on the PicMonkey mobile app) is what you need. Just move the focus target to the area you want to focus on and adjust the slider. This is it! Custom art in seconds. Want more fun obscuring your photos? Of course you do! You'll find some other opaque effects on the Effects tab, in addition to Soften and Focal Soften. Put them to work and create unique, interesting, and obscure photos. Want dramatic and arty results for portraits? Then try the Focal Black photo effect & White, it will give you a beautiful BW contrast/color. Adjust the Focus size slider to surround the subject you want to highlight—everything inside the circle will be black and white and focused, while everything outside the circle will be blurry. Swap effects by checking the Backward effects box. Let's say you want to really really put a spotlight on the subject of your photos, so much so that they look like glowing angels from heaven (which are all Golden Retrievers, tbh), then try the Radiance or Spotlight photo effects in the Light Effects section. You can as you wish with a ray of light, or tighten it for a smoother look. Want more fuzzy tips and tricks? Check out: 7 Photo Blur Blur to Edit Photos Into Artwork Sign up now for free 7-day use of Fotor Pro! You are now free to enjoy: All premium content All features advanced Ad-free editing experience Massive storage in Fotor Cloud Much more features and new content upcoming Opaque Effect List is best to highlight and focus your images by blurring their backgrounds. Photor photor blur tool can help you achieve this effect with just a few clicks! You can choose normal mode to blur circularly or linearly, or use BRUSH mode to brush any part you want to blur. Kimberly is a professional photographer with many years of experience. Macro, landscape, plant and animal photography is his favorite. Why Do You Want Blurry Backgrounds? Photos with soft, opaque backgrounds are perfect for making subjects stand out. Blurry backgrounds don't compete for viewers' attention and can make photos seem more professional. Portrait photos, macro photos (flowers, insects, and food), low-light photos, and photos where you want to focus on just one detail all benefit from having a blurred background. What Affects Background Blur? The following aspects mainly affect the blurring of background clutter.Aperture - Determined by f-value or f-stop. Larger apertures have a smaller f value and allow more light to reach the camera sensor. When using large apertures, shutter speeds should be faster to prevent photos from being over-exposed. The lower the f-grade, the softer the background blur. Distance from your subject – Moving closer to and focusing closely on your subject and ensuring the background is away from your subject makes it easier to reach a blurred background. Focal length – Short focal length has a wide viewing angle that keeps the details focused in both the foreground and the background. Zooming in on the subject narrows the viewing angle and makes the focal length longer, resulting in more background blur. To blur the background, use a good focal length lens or variable focal length lens and zoom in on your subject. Sensor size -The small sensor has a short focal length and a wide viewing angle. Cameras with larger sensors can achieve longer focal lengths, and then better background blur. Bokeh and Blur Quality Types of backgrounds determine how well the background can be blurred. Bokeh occurs when the light part of the background is round and softened, usually visible against the background of trees or foliage. Good bokeh — good quality blur — enhances and highlights the subject, with interesting light and dark patterns. Bad bokeh—annoying blur—occurs when exposure balance is or if there are too many light highlights in the dark background. Bokeh can also be used to create artistic and opaque light photos on dark backgrounds. Highlight shapes can be changed using creative bokeh attachments on SLR cameras. Bokeh behind the old cockatoo. Canon Powershot S3 IS, in automatic mode. Kimberly Fergusson Fergusson to Use Depth of Field to Blur The Background of a Photo Using a wide aperture and moving closer to or zooming in on your subject means you have shallow depth of field. This is also known as shallow focus or selective focus. Neither the background nor the foreground outside the depth of the field will be out of focus. When you have shallow depth of field, the farther you move from the focal point, the softer and more blurred the background (and foreground) will become. DSLR lenses let you modify settings to reach the depth of field you want, in manual and semi-automatic mode. Macro and close-up settings on DSLR cameras and on high-end point-and-shoot cameras automatically use shallow depth of field. Point-and-shoot cameras keep their distance in focus. It is more difficult to reach shallow depth of field with a camera that has no macro settings or the ability to modify aperture and shutter speed, but can be done! The super macro settings on Canon's Powershot S3 IS make the background very blurry – perfect! Kimberly Fergusson (nifwlseirff)2 Ways To Blur The Background Using Your Camera SettingsYou can achieve blurred backgrounds in a number of ways, depending on your camera equipment and settings. Here are two easy ways:Use macro settings Use aperture priority mode Each one is described below.1. Use macro settings to make the background blurry. In your digital camera macro settings, choose a wide aperture and fast shutter speed. This will automatically result in blurring of the background. Choose a macro or super macro mode, and turn off the flash. Macro mode is usually represented by small flowers or tulips. Approach and zoom in on your subject; try to be closer to the subject than the background. Focus clearly on the subject, and hold the camera still. Take your picture. This is much easier when using super macro settings, where you can get within a few millimeters of your subject. Take care to make sure there is enough light and that you do not cause unwanted shadows from the position of your camera. You may find a tripod useful if your camera or lens doesn't have built-in image stabilization.2. Use aperture priority mode. Aperture priority mode is semi-automatic mode, available in most cameras. When you change the aperture f-value in aperture priority mode, the camera automatically selects the shutter speed and the appropriate ISO settings. Selecting a wide aperture (the smallest possible f-value), will make the background more blurry. Choose aperture priority mode (A or AV). If you're using a DSLR camera and lens, choose the smallest f-value you can. On most kit lenses, when enlarged this will be around f5.6. Keep the subject closer to you to the background. Zoom in on your subject. Take your picture. AV settings to obscure other flowers and focus closely on bees. Canon Powershot S3 IS, AV mode plus zoom. Kimberly Fergusson (nifwlseirff)How to Take a Portrait With BackgroundWhen taking portrait photos, blurred backgrounds eliminate annoying elements by focusing only on the subject. Choose aperture priority mode (A or AV) or manual mode (M). Aperture priority mode is better if your subject is moving, as the camera will automatically adjust shutter speed and ISO settings, to ensure the subject is exposed correctly. Choose a small f-value if you can. Make sure your subject is closer to you than to the background. Zoom in on your subject. If you zoom in on manual mode, you may need to increase the ISO and reduce the shutter speed. Take your picture. Multiple Cell Phones or Small Point-and-Shooting Cameras Allow Blurred Background Phone Cameras can achieve a small amount of background blur if they have settings for image destablization, where lenses and sensors are moved together, staying focused on your subject, but blurring the background (and foreground). However, it can look more like a motion blur than an opaque traditional background. Even if your phone or camera doesn't have these advanced settings, you can still take photos with blurry backgrounds. Choose a portrait mode, and turn off the flash. Make sure the subject is away from the background. Approach your subject, and zoom in. Take your picture. The background is blurred behind the dry seed head, the castle garden of Quedlinburg. Kimberly Fergusson (nifwlseirff)Edit to Add Background Blur Some graphics editors can make some kind of background blurry:Simulated bokeh effects simulate the round quality of blurred highlights on dark backgrounds. Gaussian blur applies softly and even blurs throughout the background. The unsharp mask blurs the details around the area, usually the circle in the center of the photo, which is useful when your subject is floral (round) and is in the middle of the photo! The background is blurry with a circular unsharp mask in iPhoto. Original photo: Powershot S3 IS, supermacro mode. Kimberly Fergusson (nifwlseirff)Choose a DSLR Lens to Blur BackgroundsKit lens sold with most consumer-grade DSLR cameras having a small aperture (f4 to f8). You can reach a blurred background by zooming in and keeping your subject close to you but away from the background. However, for the best opaque effect, consider buying lenses with large apertures (smaller f-values), often sold as low-light or fast lenses. An affordable option for most DSLR models and brands is a 50mm lens with an aperture of f1.8.Lenses with long focal length (or strong zoom) can be used further from the subject, but still blur background details. You need to make sure the subject is further from the background than you are from your subject. Fixed aperture lens with maximum width aperture (low f-value) using shutter speed and ISO settings when shooting at different distances. When zooming with a variable aperture lens, the shutter speed should be reduced and the ISO increased to expose the photo evenly. Aperture priority (A or AV) is the best way to achieve blurry backgrounds in photos. Where are the Best DSLR Lenses for Bokeh and Beautiful Backgrounds? My personal favorite is the Canon EF 100mm f/2.8L IS USM Macro Lens for Canon Digital SLR Camera. It has tremendous sharpness, almost no distortion, and produces an incredible background blur. All of my photos in this article were taken with this lens. It can be used as a portrait lens, if you have enough distance, but you have to stand away from your subject! I also recently discovered a cheaper CANON 35mm f2 F2 IS USM lens, and I'm very happy with how well it's blurred. It also lets me get closer to the subject of my photo than 100mm. I chose the Canon 100mm IS macro lens because of its ability to blur the background beautifully, with image stabilization. It's also ideal for food photography! CommentsDo you have any tips for achieving good background blur and bokeh? Please leave it in the comments below! CommentsSalome.Nancy on April 14, 2020:2596 N 91th Chtham on December 05, 2019:Ok boomerBig Remo on October 25, 2019:Man's not hotThank you for the write upblur background on October 02, 2019:I like it great work by developer site. Good news. blur background sl apps labShahaalam on May 11, 2019:FekoMubarak on March 27, 2019:My mobile blur Camera Settings openTX on December 18, 2018:What he said about focal length is technically incorrect and generally misunderstood. Focal length is not longer which reduces depth of field. It's the magnification of the bigger picture that does it. If the focal length then a lens of 100mm at half life size will provide less depth of field than a 50mm lens at life size. The opposite is true. Emilie on May 3, 2018:Thank you so much for sharing your knowledge Kimberly. You are very generous in your teaching. Joella Molson on October 31, 2017:This is the information I'm looking for. I can't thank you enough for demystifying this for me! I have read other articles bud do not understand what they are talking about. Your explanation is easy to understand and applied to my camera. I'm so happy to find this. Thank you again. Avinesh Prahladi from Chandigarh on October 08, 2013:Let me start by saying that I was looking for such a hub. Although I am a beginner in the photography arena, but I always wanted to have such an effect in my clicks. Now, that I have found it, I will definitely give it a try. Kimberly Fergusson (writer) from Germany on July 03, 2013:Thank you lemonkerdz! There is no such thing as cheating!lemonkerdz from LIMA, PERU on June 22, 2013:Great tips and this really helped our photos on HP. Or if you're a cheater you can use Galaxy notes for dolls like me. ThanksRebecca Mealey from Georgia, USA on May 3, 2013:Very helpful. I always appreciate photo tips like yours, because they come down to earth and are easy to understand. Thank! Kimberly Fergusson (writer) from Germany on April 19, 2013:Thank you raydevlin! I haven't used Alien Skin yet, but have used various Photoshop, Gimp, Gimp, Snap tools and even Instagram. You're right — they don't do a good job of obscuring the background in real photos. Kimberly Fergusson (author) from Germany on April 19, 2013:TrahnTheMan - a 4/3 micro camera looks interesting - but I was very vibrating when holding it! I went with the 650D, and I loved it! Susette Horspool from Pasadena CA on December 12, 2012:This fascinated me. I don't know what a little tulip is for! I kept accidentally turning it on, getting annoyed and turning it off again, then looking for ways to blur the background by going in several levels to change the speed. (Lo) Yes, I'm not going to Every now and then I'll get the background I want and don't know why. Thanks for the tip. nifwlseirff. I'm happy. Ray Devlin from Houston, Texas on December 04, 2012:Great article — comprehensive and informative. I sometimes use software, like Alien Skin, to create bokeh effects — but you can't beat getting it right at the camera first. Thank you for sharing! TrahnTheMan from Asia, Oceania & between on September 23, 2012:You may be a candidate for the new 4/3 (four-thirds) micro-sensor format/sensor, which has interchangeable lenses, no mirrors (so smaller and lighter than traditional DSLR), and cheaper. Canon, Nikon, Sony (NEX) and Panasonic (G2 & G3) has several respected models. Kimberly Fergusson (writer) from Germany on September 20, 2012:Trahn — Thank you! I've used older DSLR's, but found them very heavy and they don't seem to have good image stabilization — many of my photos are blurry from camera shake, unless I use a tripod or rest my arm on a solid surface. The lightness of the Powershot with good image stabilization is perfect for me at the moment. However, I did list after some great DSLR macro lenses (as well as mega-zoom lenses). Maybe some newer DSLR is lighter, something to see when I have funds available. -:)TrahnTheMan from Asia, Oceania & between on September 19, 2012:Wow- It's still doing a great job! Imagine the quality of the shots you can take with a DSLR — I think you'll make a lot of embarrassment! Thanks for the helpful hub. Kimberly Fergusson (writer) from Germany on September 16, 2012:Hi Trahn! I'm still using my old Canon Powershot 3iS! It's been a fantastic camera for me - light enough to use great macro shots and distance, thanks to fantastic image stabilisation. All photos of me on this site have been taken with Canon Powershot 3iS. TrahnTheMan from Asia, Oceania & between on September 16, 2012:Hi- are you still using Canon Powershot? Is that what you use for parrot photos? Kymerly (author) from Germany on August 27, 2012:jainismus - thank you! Glad you liked it!sradie — I didn't play too much with my camera's aperture priority mode before writing this (the programmable settings were really good for my usual subject), but had fun playing around. Glad it's useful!sradie from Palm Coast Coast on August 16, 2012:I It's like that. I've been doing photography for years and already know most of this. But, you have increased my knowledge of AV, the aperture priority mode that will now be more useful to me. Clearly written, good job. Kimberly Fergusson (author) from Germany on August 08, 2012:photostudiosupply, pringooals, belleart - thank you very much! EyesStraightAhead — Photos can certainly convey a heap of emotions! I love your idea of note cards, and would love to know how your customers respond! Ingar — It also works in reduced light. Maybe not complete darkness though! You need to improve the ISO setting in low light, which can introduce more noise. And you'll need a steady hand or tripod — much harder to focus in low light and keep the camera sufficient to avoid obscuring photos. Ingar Filinn from Ireland on 06 August 2012:Does this also work in the dark or reduce light? Nice pics!Shell Vera from Connecticut, USA on August 04, 2012:Great hub. I studied photography as an art but really enjoyed it. I know how to take pictures that I will enjoy but want to learn how to take good pictures that others might enjoy as well. I then wanted to create my own line of note cards to help people with their customer relationship management. I think photos, when taken the right way, can convey such emotions. I hope to apply these tips next time I try to shoot against an opaque background, which is my favorite type of photo shoot for people and children. Kymberly Fergusson (author) from Germany on June 28, 2012:Darryl - Sigma lenses are definitely quite cheap. Thank! Darrylindavis from Brussels, Belgium on June 10, 2012:A good and very informative hub. Sigma has some nice lenses that offer good quality at democratic prices such as 50mm macro lens and 70mmKymberly Fergusson (author) from Germany on May 20, 2012:Cablemanagements — thanks! Which camera are you using? I'm glad these tips are useful! S K Sinha from India on May 19, 2012:Great tips! Until recently I knew that it could be done through the help of add on lenses or filters only. Never tried this option before but will soon try it. Thanks for this! Kymberly Fergusson (writer) from Germany on May 19, 2012:Natashalh — thanks! I love blurry backgrounds, and bokkeh highlights. I'm glad the information was useful! Natasha from Hawaii on May 19, 2012:Amazing tips! Thank you for including information about achieving blurred background effects without fancy cameras. Kymberly Fergusson (writer) from Germany on April 02, 2012:Turtletwoman - thank you! I want to know which camera you choose, and if you're happy with Kymberly Fergusson (author) from Germany on April 02, 2012:Rayveer - You can blur the background relatively easily with the Fujifilm S2950 Finepix camera, as it has a variety of settings and functions. It has manual mode (M) and aperture priority mode (A) on the shooting mode button, and the camera can focus on macros and distances. Rayveer on April 01, 2012:Pak I have a semi slr camera fujiifilm s2950 ... please let me know that the future is opaque background available semi slr camera!Kim Lam from California on March 24, 2012:I am in the market for DSL cameras so i have tagged this article. Thank you for sharing your photography skills! Nice layout, and a very thorough tutorial. Elected!cardealeen from Michigan on March 07, 2012:The excellent hub is filled with fantastic information. I have a decent camera but don't know what all those buttons mean at the top and on the menu. I think I'll mark and reread this hub when I have time to play around with my cameral Kymberly Fergusson (author) from Germany on March 04, 2012:cclitgirl - a good photo is possible with all kinds of cameras, although getting detailed macro shots can be difficult (or impossible with my old phone's camera!) I look forward to seeing more of your photos in future hubs! Kymberly Fergusson (writer) from Germany on March 04, 2012:Thank you Ruby! I am glad to have written a useful hub! Cynthia Calhoun from Western NC on March 03, 2012:I will mark this. As I do more hubs, I find that quality images are key. I got an idiot camera, though. This is Kodak Easyshare. I consider myself an artist, but I feel very challenged when it comes to good photos. I know enough about not using flash, but the details are good. I have to check if you have more photo hubs — this is very helpful for me. Voted U/A/B/I.Maree Michael Martin from Northwest Washington on an Island on March 2, 2012:Thank you so much for this informative center! Now I'm going to go practice my photography using some of your ideas and see what I come up with. Fantastic sharing. Look forward to more of your great writing and pictures. Pictures.

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