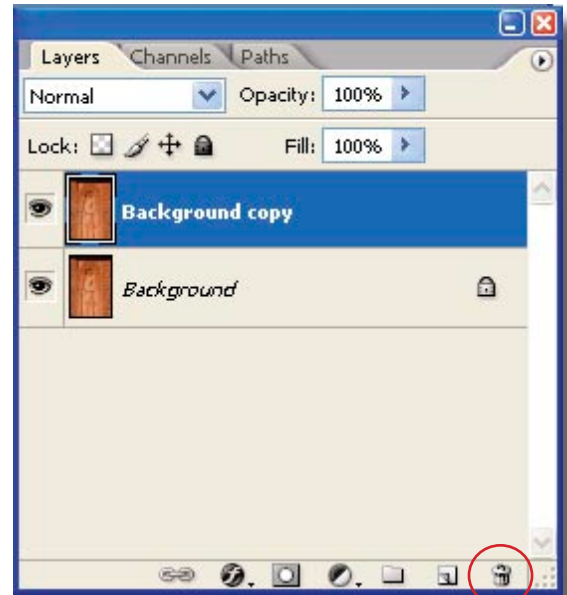


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Step 1. Duplicate the Background Layer

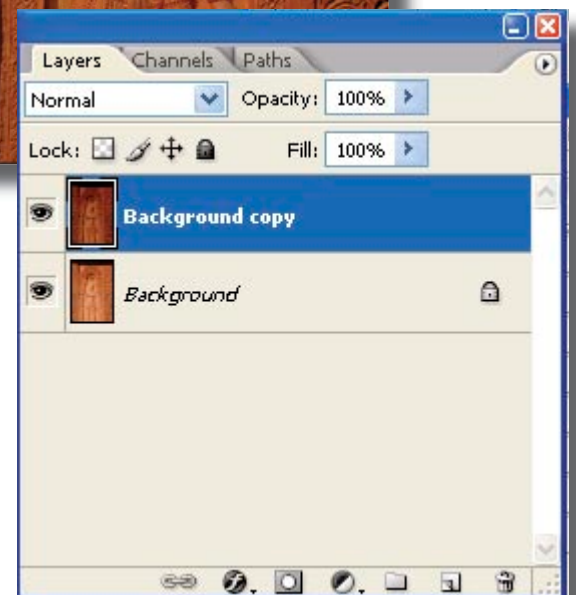
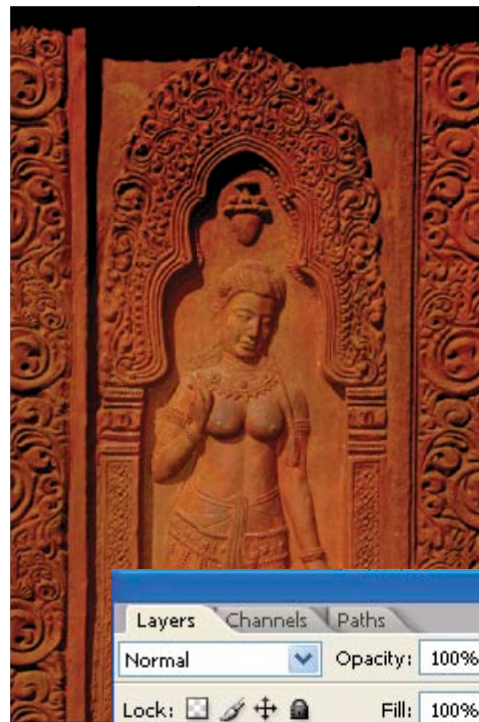
Duplicate the Background layer by dragging and releasing the layer over the new layer icon at the bottom right of the Layer Palette.



Step 2. Adjust the Exposure

Select the top layer named automatically the Background copy. Use the Brightness/Contrast slider under the Image /Adjustments menu to make the top layer darker.

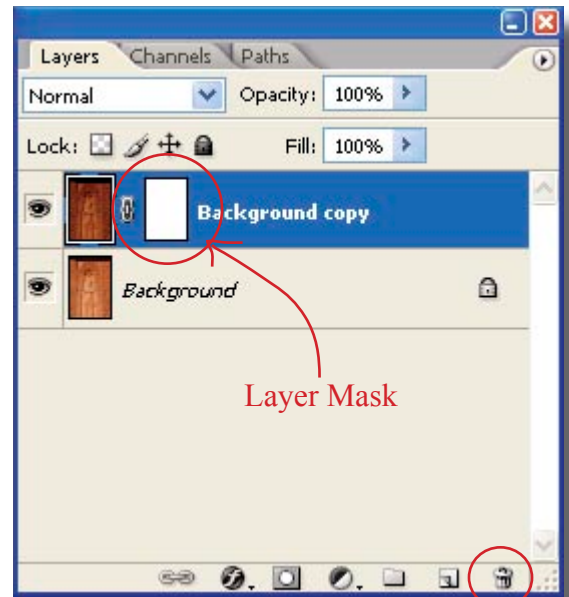
Notice the darker top layer on the Layer Palette.



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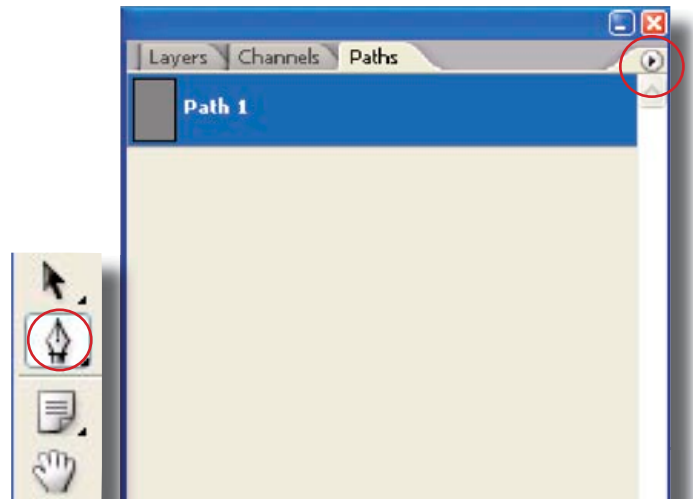
Step 3. Create a Layer Mask

With the top layer selected, go to Layer/Layer Mask/ Reveal All. This will create a layer mask and will be shown as a white rectangle to the right of the active layer.



Step 4. Draw the light using a Path

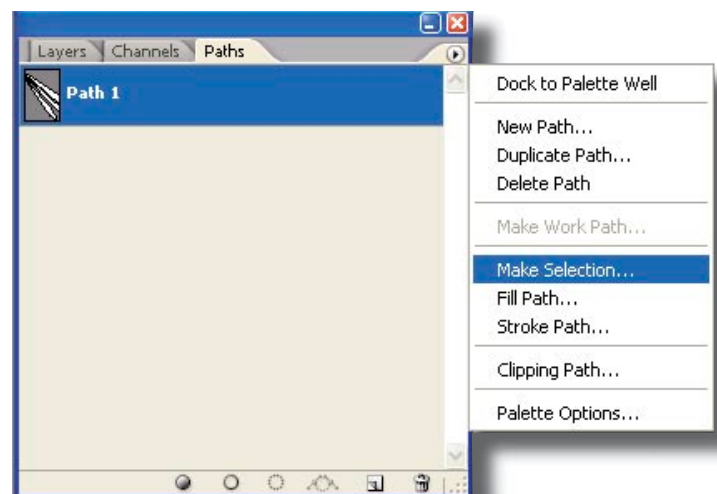
Go to the Paths Palette and create a new path. By creating a path, you'll be able to make and modify your selection at any time. Also, paths with the use of Bezier Curves are more precise for selecting than using the Lasso Tool. To create a new path click on the small button (option button) at the top right of the palette and select new path. Use the pen tool to draw and adjust your path to define the area hit by the light.



Step 5. Make a selection

Now that you have the paths, it's time to turn them into selections. Do this by going back to the Paths Palette and click the option button and select Make Selection. On the feathering box, type 25 pixels.

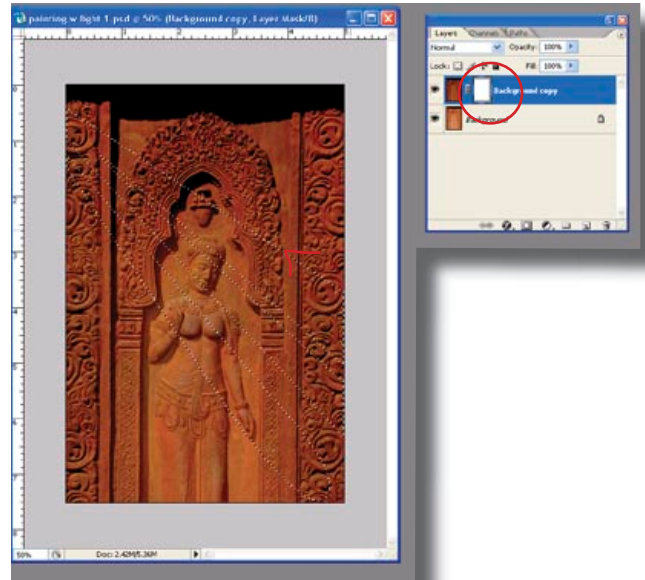
Note: The amount of feathering will depend on the image size and desired effect, so adjust the feathering to your liking.



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Step 6. Apply the selection to the Layer Mask

Now that you have made your selection, it's time to transform your image. Select the Layer Mask then fill the selection with black by clicking Edit then scroll down to Fill. From the Fill menu select Black at a 100% opacity. Doing this should reveal the bottom layer through the feathered selection.



Step 7. Add a little warmer light.

To enhance the effect of the warmer sunlight, select the bottom layer and adjust the saturation on the Yellow Channel to make it warmer. To do this go to the Image menu and select Adjustment and then Hue/Saturation. From the Hue/Saturation menu select the Yellow Channel from the drop-down menu and add saturation. Voilà. A great light effect that can transform any image with few simple steps.

