

## **Using the Lens Blur filter in Photoshop CS**

I suggest that you experiment with a low resolution image first.

- 1 Open an image and make sure that it is 8bit.
  - 2 Go to channels and create a new channel (alpha 1)
  - 3 Select this channel and the image will show up as totally black.
  - 4 Select the gradient tool after checking that black is the foreground colour, drag up the image. The image will look black at the bottom and white at the top.
  - 5 Click on the RGB channel and you will see a graduated red mask from solid at the bottom to none at the top on top of your image.
  - 6 Then select layers and make sure that your layer is highlighted, and the mask will disappear.
  7. Go to filters>blur>lens blur
  8. Drag the corners of the lens blur window as large as possible and increase the size of the preview image using the + & - at lower left, so that you can see the changes better.
  9. Select Alpha 1, preview, and faster.
  10. Moving the blur focal distance slider will move the focal plane up the image. Value of 0 will be at the bottom and 255 at the top
- Choose an iris to give the effect that you want.  
Radius alters the amount of blurring.  
Specular Highlights slider selects the brightness cutoff, so that pixels that are brighter than that value become specular highlights.  
Blurring removes noise so add noise to make the blurring more realistic.

Once you have made the adjustments press OK and the background will be ready for you to drop in a selected image into the infocus zone to give the effect of using a telephoto lens with a wide aperture.

Play around to get the feel of this filter.