

USER MANUAL

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Before starting anything off we highly recommend that you check out the **Installation Guide PDF** to make sure everything is set up properly. You need to have **all 3 files installed** correctly in order to be able to use the Watercolor Effect.

If you have already done this you can move forward to the tutorials below. We recommend using them in the order they appear in this guide to make sure there are no issues along the way.

We're aware that this guide might be a bit long and boring, as we try to cover different levels of user experience but **if you are an advanced user** and you have already properly installed all the files you can skip ahead to the **TLDR section**.

2. UNDERSTANDING DIFFERENT RESOLUTIONS

2.1 First we want to talk a bit about different image resolutions because **they will impact the end result in different ways**. We generally recommend using an image resolution of around **3000 x 2000 px** (landscape) or **2000 x 3000 px** (portrait) for optimal results.

Don't worry if your image is way lower or higher than our recommendation because there are several ways to get around this as you'll learn below.

2.2 Lower image resolution = lower amount of detail, higher resolution = higher detail. On the next page you will find an example of the same image at different initial resolutions and what the end result looks like for each case. *(Continued on the next page)*

You can see the difference in amount of detail on the end result based on the initial resolution of the original image.



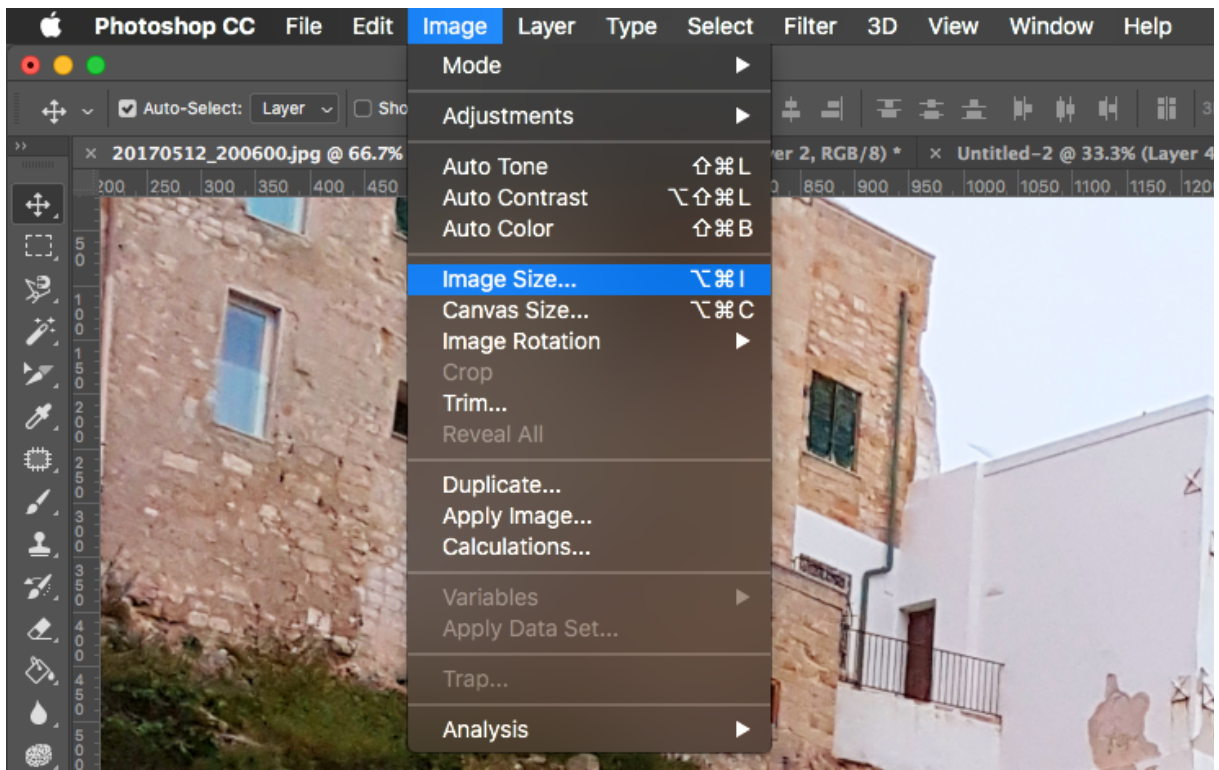
It's important to note that **there is no right or wrong answer** when it comes to the original image resolution and the amount of detail for the end result. It's a matter of personal preference and ultimately what effect you want to achieve.

We found the sweet spot to be at around **3000 x 2000 px**, but you might want something different depending on your scene.

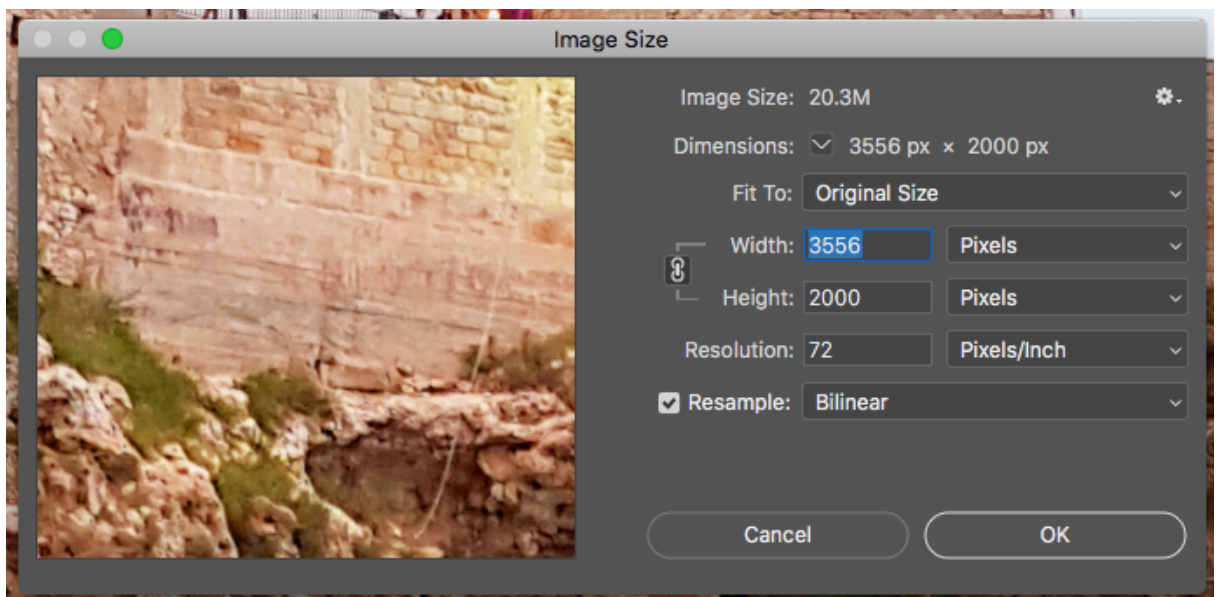
This, however, is important information to know beforehand so you better understand how this product works and how you can use it to get your desired result.

3. HOW TO CHECK YOUR IMAGE RESOLUTION

3.1 Open up your image in Photoshop and from the menu up top click on “**Image > Image Size**”.



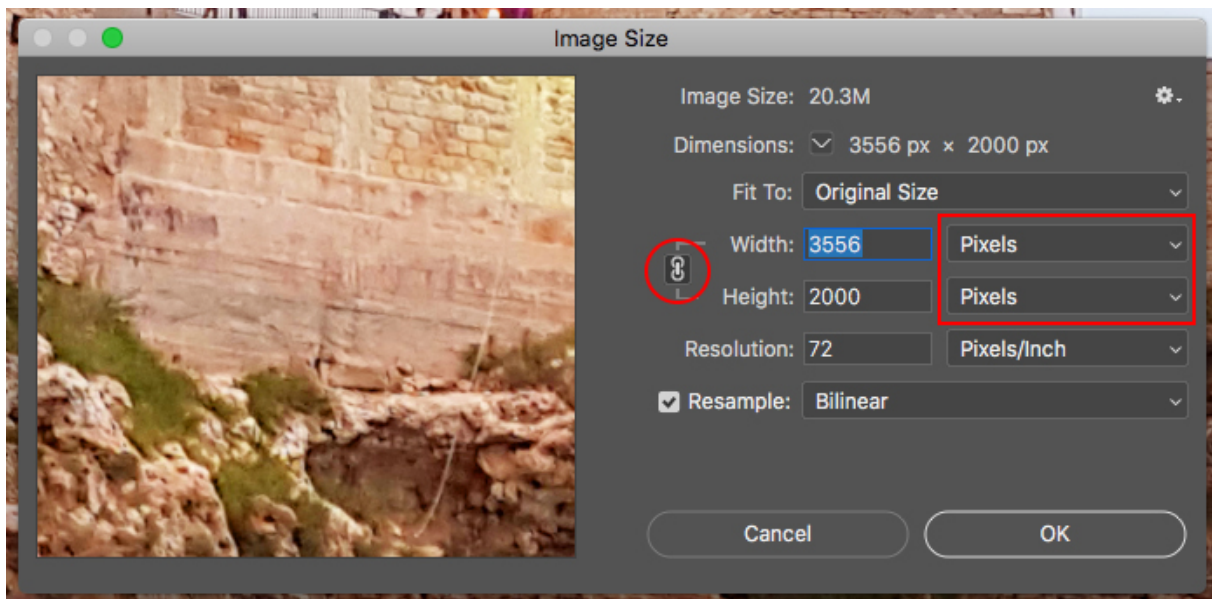
3.2 A new window will open up and you will find the width and height there. You can also resize the image from here and click “**OK**” when you are done but if you just want to check out the size you can click “**Cancel**”.



4. HOW TO GET AROUND DIFFERENT RESOLUTIONS

4.1 Case 1: You have a crazy high resolution image but you want less detail for a more authentic looking end result.

This is a very simple and easy fix. **Downsize your image.** You can use the steps **3.1** through **3.2** and enter a lower value. Make sure you are working with pixels and also that the chain icon is selected so you don't accidentally change the aspect ratio of your image.



4.2 Case 2: You have a really low resolution image but would like to get more detail to your scene. For this case we have 2 solutions.

Solution 1: Upscale your image. Do the same thing you see above at step **4.1** only this time insert a higher value than what you currently have. Aim for around 3000 x 2000 px.

You should also **make a note of the original image size** because you'll want to downscale it back after you apply the effect.

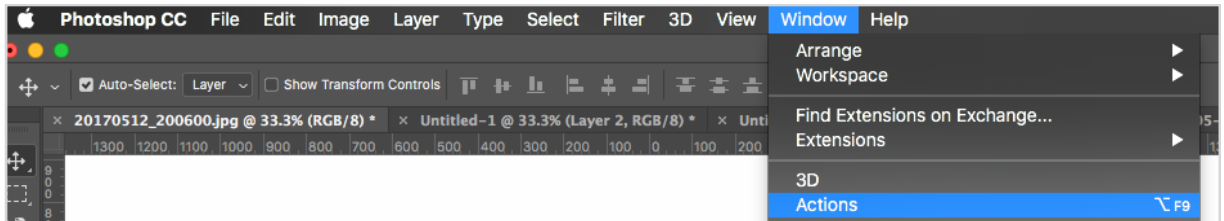
Don't worry if this will make your image look blurry because **after you apply the effect you can downsize it back** to keep sharp quality.

Solution 2: Use the low resolution of the effect. If you don't want to bother with upscaling your image, we have a simple fix for this. You can just open the image in Photoshop, leave it as it is and just use the low resolution version of the effect to do all the work for you. We'll have more details regarding that below.

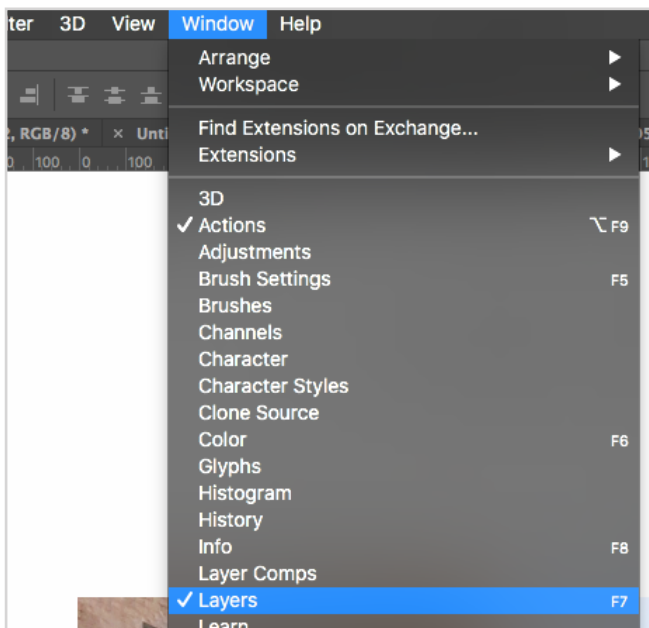
5. SETTING UP YOUR WORKSPACE

5.1 Open your image in Photoshop.

5.2 Open up your actions panel. If it's not already open you can go to the menu upto and click on **"Window > Actions"**



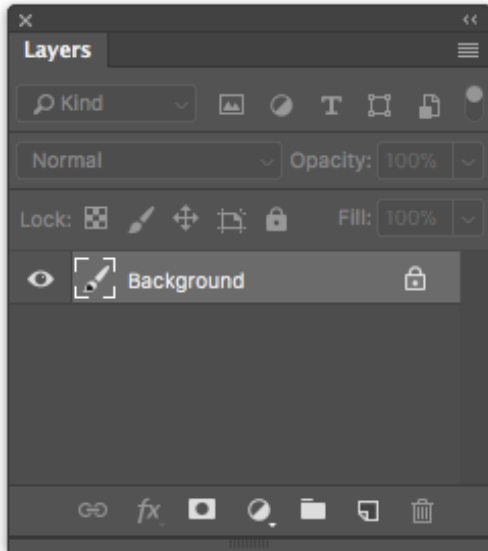
5.3 Open up your layers panel. You can find it from the menu upto and clicking on **"Window > Layers"**



Once you have everything ready we can move to actually using the effect.

6. APPLYING THE WATERCOLOR EFFECT

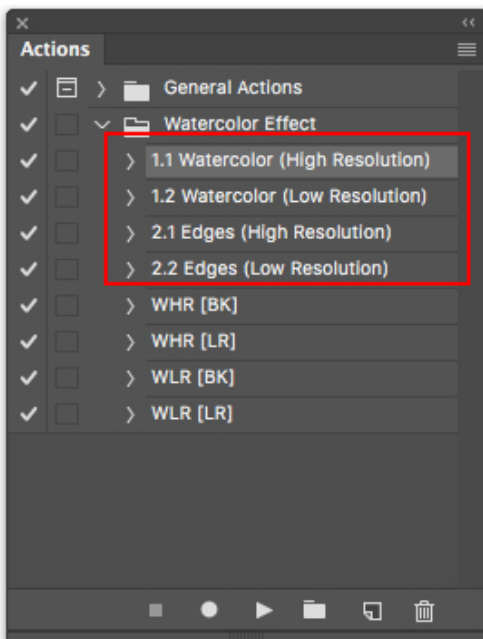
6.1 If it's not already open, open up your image in Photoshop. We'll use "Test Image.jpg" included in the downloaded folder for the purposes of this tutorial but you can use anything you want.



6.2 In your layers panel, **make sure you only have one layer** containing the image. **If you have other layers delete or merge them.**

6.3 Also **make sure your layer is HIGHLIGHTED**, this is vital or else the effect will fail to apply.

A highlighted layer will appear in a lighter color if you use the dark interface and darker if you use the white interface, as you can see in this image.



6.4 Scroll to the bottom of your **actions panel** and you should find a folder containing a couple of actions. For the purposes of this tutorial we are only interested in **Watercolor (High Resolution)**, **Watercolor (Low Resolution)**, **Edges (High Resolution)** and **Edges (Low Resolution)**.

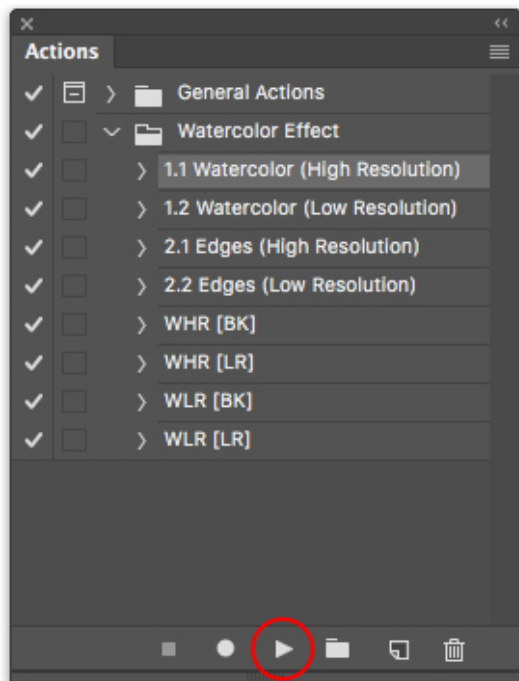
Don't worry about the rest of the actions in this folder but **DON'T DELETE THEM**, as those are the vital parts that ensure everything is working correctly.

6.5 Which effect should you use?

If you rescaled the image to something in the vicinity of **3000 x 2000 px**, or if your image resolution is higher than this then always use the **high resolution version**.

If your image resolution is **below 3000 x 2000 px** and you did not upscale it then you should **use the low resolution version** of the effect.

The same rule applies to the Edges effect, but **don't use Edges before the Watercolor Effect** as it will not work!



6.6 Select either Watercolor (High Resolution) or Watercolor (Low Resolution) depending on your image's resolution as explained above and then **click on the little play icon** at the bottom of the panel.

6.7 Let the effect do its thing, it will apply lots of filters, textures and make edits automatically and it should take up to 5 minutes, maybe even less, depending on the speed of your computer. In the end you should get something that looks similar to this:



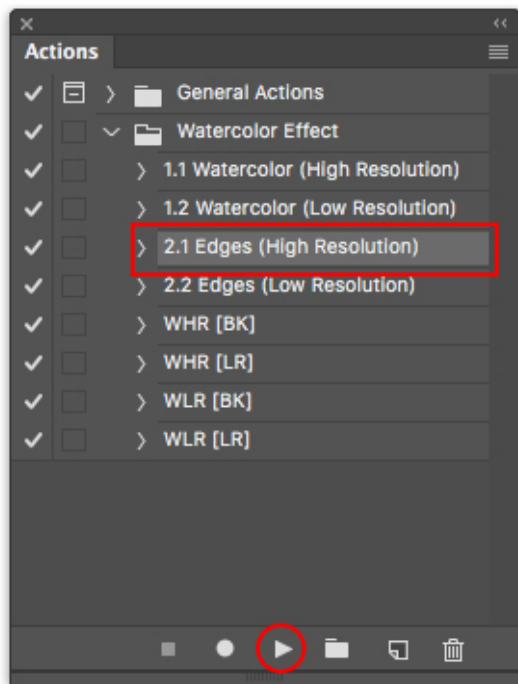
7. USING THE EDGES EFFECT (OPTIONAL)

7.1 Now that you have successfully applied the watercolor effect you can also apply the edges effect if you want achieve a stylized look for the edges of your image.

This is entirely optional and up to you. If you believe the watercolor effect is enough you can skip this and just leave the image as it is.

Some things to keep in mind about the edges effect:

- Edges **should only be used after applying the watercolor effect** as it will not work otherwise.
- Don't delete, hide, lock, merge or create any new layers before applying the effect.
- Use the **low resolution version** for image sizes **below 3000 x 2000 px** and the **high resolution version** for image sizes **above 3000 x 2000 px**.



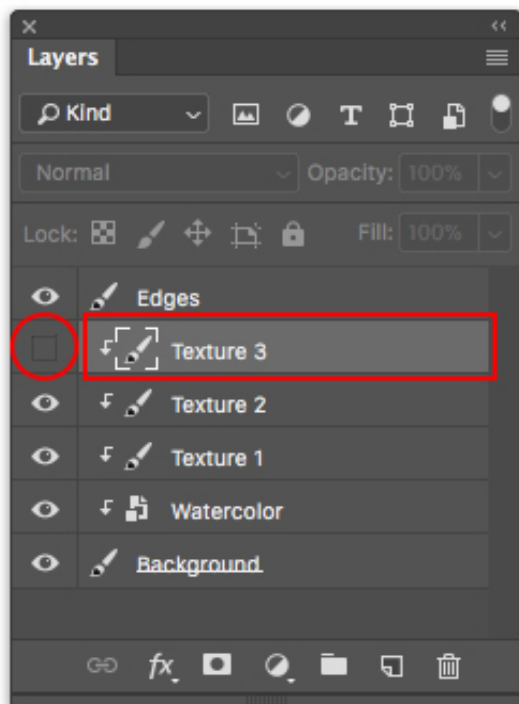
7.2 To apply the effect go back to the actions panel, select the high or low resolution version of the edges effect (depending on your image size as explained above) and then click once again on the little **play icon** at the bottom.

7.3 Wait for the effect to apply. It should take less than the watercolor effect and once everything is ready your image should look like this:



The white and gray squares in the background signify that the background is now transparent.

8. USING THE WATERCOLOR ERASER (OPTIONAL)

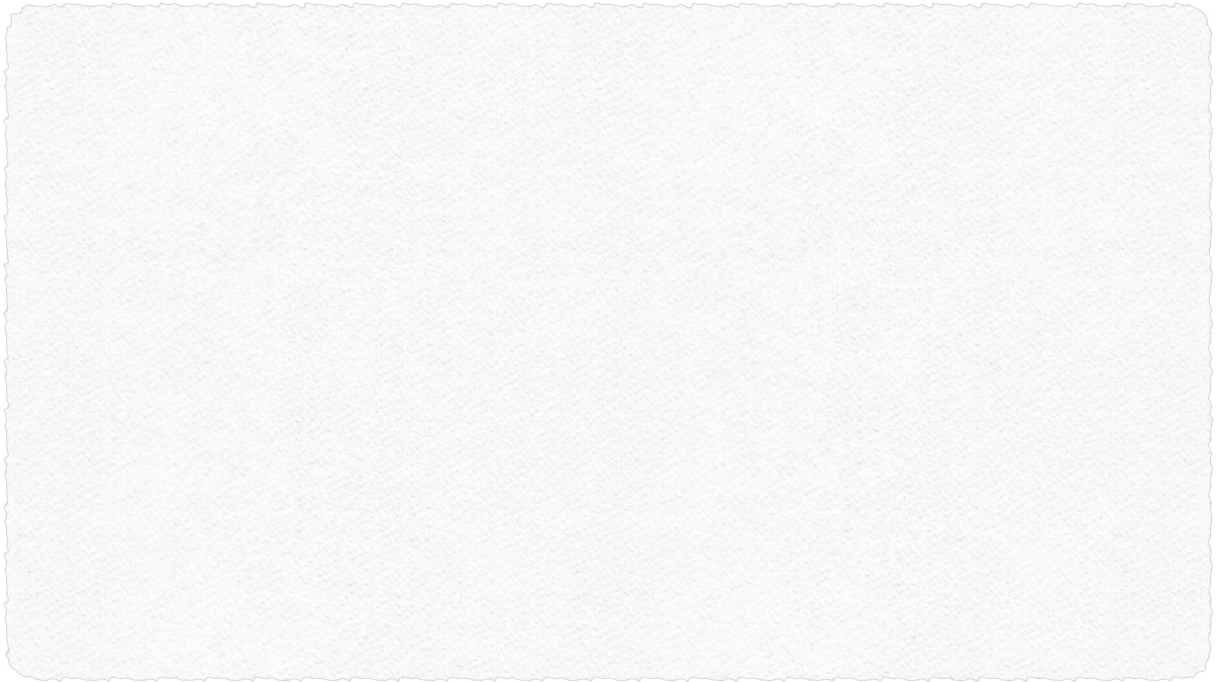


8.1 This will work at any stage **after applying the watercolor effect**. You can choose to use the edges effect before or after doing this or skipping either one of them entirely.

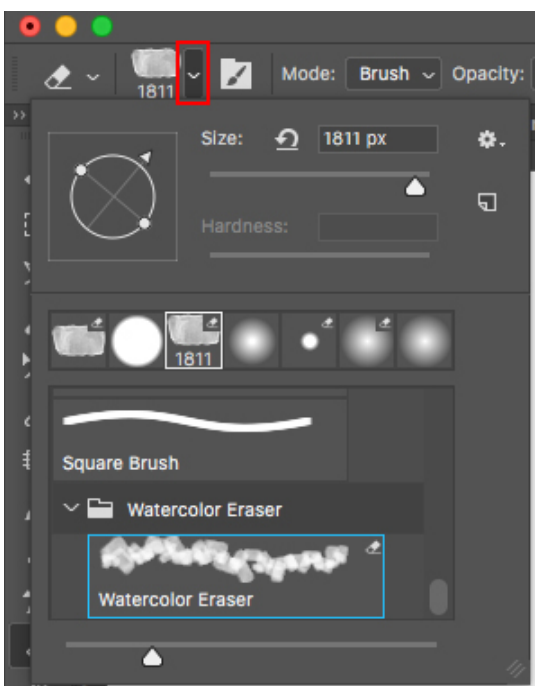
To use this, go to your layers panel and you will see a layer named “**Texture 3**” that is not visible.

Click on the “**Texture 3**” layer to highlight it and then **click on the blank square** at the left to make the layer visible.

8.2 An eye icon will appear in place of the blank square and a white watercolor paper will appear on top of your image.



8.3 Go to the tools panel at the left side and click on the **eraser tool**. If you can't see the icon there you might need to hold click and then select it from the list that appears.



8.4 After clicking on the eraser tool go to the top left corner and **click on the little arrow icon** next to the brush.

A small menu will open and you can then scroll to the bottom of the menu and look for a folder called **“Watercolor Eraser”**.

Inside the folder you will find a custom eraser also called **“Watercolor Eraser”** that you need to click on to start using it.

You can also adjust the eraser size by moving the slider at the top of this menu in case you want a smaller or bigger size.

8.5 Now you can start using the brush on the white watercolor paper texture layer. Gently click on it multiple times in the middle moving slowly to the edges to reveal the image underneath.

You will need to do this multiple times, hold click, move your mouse, release and repeat until you are happy with the result.

This is a manual process so the end results will vary depending on how you use the eraser on this layer. If you don't like the result you can use **CTRL + Z** (Windows) or **CMD + Z** (Mac) to undo, or go to your history panel (**Window > History**) and undo a few steps and start over.



8.6 You should aim for something that looks similar to this:



8.7 And that's it! If you followed this guide step by step you should have all the bases needed to use all the included tools covered and hopefully you gained a better understanding of how you can use our products to create your own awesome work!

9. TLDR

If you're an advanced user and know your way around Photoshop here's a summary of this guide:

INSTALLATION

- Make sure you have all the tools installed properly (see the **Installation Guide PDF**).

WATERCOLOR EFFECT

- Use **Watercolor (High Resolution)** for image sizes of **3000 x 2000 px and higher** OR **Watercolor (Low Resolution)** for image sizes **below 3000 x 2000 px** from your **actions panel**. The same rule applies for the **Edges effect**.
- Alternatively you can upscale or downscale your image to something in the vicinity of 3000 x 2000 px, apply the effect and then scale your image back to the original size.

EDGES EFFECT

- Use the **Edges effect** from the **actions panel** but **don't use it before applying the watercolor effect** as it will not work otherwise.

WATERCOLOR ERASER

- Enable the **"Texture 3"** layer and use the included **watercolor eraser** from the **eraser brush panel** to delete areas in the middle of the layer until you reveal the image underneath.