

# Through The Lens

*A guide to digital photography for computer enthusiasts.  
After the click of your camera, you're only half done!*



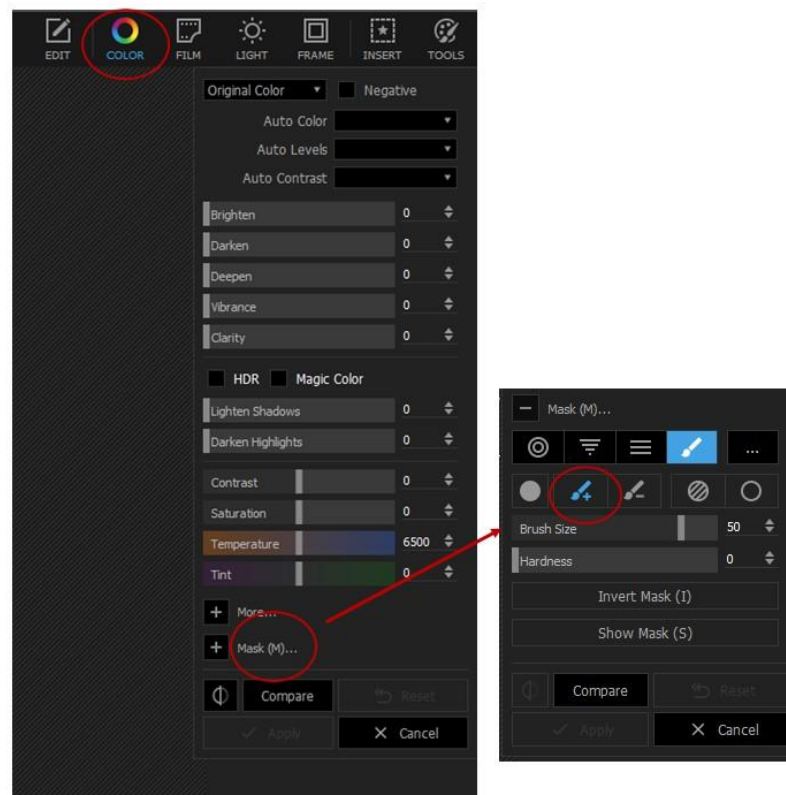
## Selective lighting adjustments in photo editing software

*by Lynda Buske*

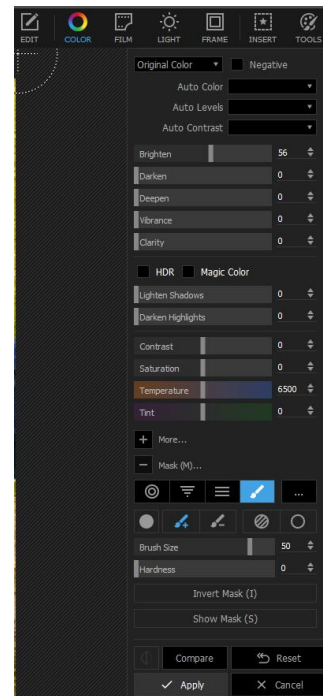
Much of the free photo editing packages available either through Windows 10 (Windows Photos) or on sites like Google photos tend to have lighting tools that apply to the whole photograph and do not allow for adjustments to a particular area of a photo.

Typically, when you take a photo, your camera will set the appropriate exposure based on the entire field of vision so doesn't necessarily know that you are most interested in the small area that contains a face, bird or animal. This can be frustrating and an overall lighting adjustment may well cause the background to look washed out.

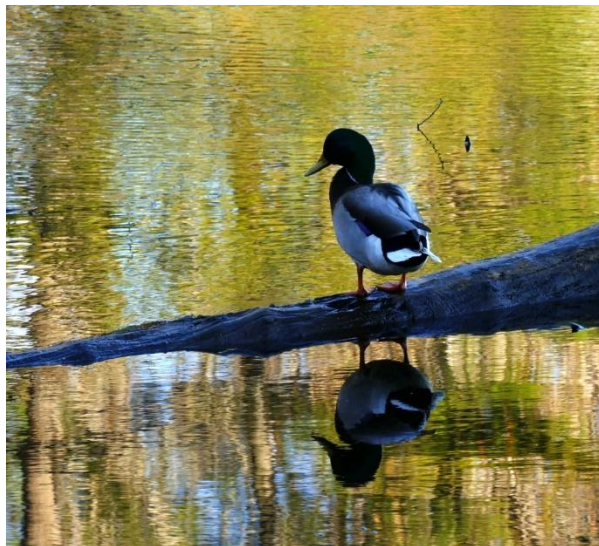
To remedy this situation, I use the free photo editing software, Photoscape X, to isolate a certain area. You simply click on the *Colour* tab, *Mask*, choose a brush size and “paint” the area (click and drag) that want to change.



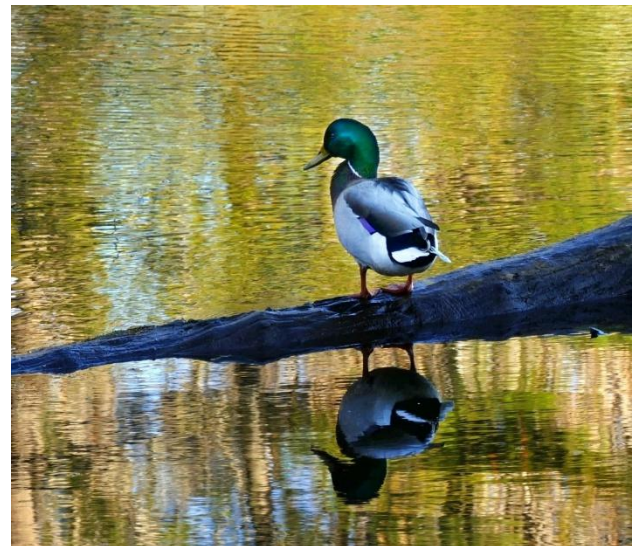
In the example below, it is the bird I would like to lighten without washing out the background water. The red area is where I have painted the mask with my mouse.



Before:



After:



As you can see from the above example, you don't have to be overly particular with the neatness of the mask. I usually keep a little bit away from the edge and it still works out fine. If you really have sharp eyes, you will have noticed that I removed a couple of twigs from the water too! For this, I used the spot healing brush in the *Tools* menu.

For many lighting adjustments you may find you have greater capabilities if you are using an image shot in RAW format rather than JPG. Photoscape X will handle both formats.

Masking is useful, not only for lighting adjustments but any time you wish to make a change to a particular area of your image such as sharpening, saturation, blurring, etc.

Please check out the video I have posted on YouTube: **Lighting masks in Photoscape X**.

<https://youtu.be/CDHttWPRgD0>

Note:

To install **PhotoScape X**

- Use a web browser to go to <http://photoscape.org/ps/main/download.php>
- Click on the **BLUE PhotoScape X for Windows 10** button. Your web browser will take you to the **PhotoScape X** page at the Microsoft Store. Click on the blue **Get** button.

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