if(isset($\_POST['submit'])) {

// define the list of fields

$fields = array('name', 'address', 'city', 'state', 'zip');

$conditions = array();

// loop through the defined fields

foreach($fields as $field){

// if the field is set and not empty

if(isset($\_POST[$field]) && $\_POST[$field] != '') {

// create a new condition while escaping the value inputed by the user (SQL Injection)

$conditions[] = "`$field` LIKE '%" . mysql\_real\_escape\_string($\_POST[$field]) . "%'";

}

}

// builds the query

$query = "SELECT \* FROM TABLE ";

// if there are conditions defined

if(count($conditions) > 0) {

// append the conditions

$query .= "WHERE " . implode (' AND ', $conditions); // you can change to 'OR', but I suggest to apply the filters cumulative

}

$result = mysql\_query($query);