

Removing Blemishes

Welcome to the *Removing Blemishes tutorial* . This tutorial was designed to teach you how to get rid of those nasty blemishes in your photos. If you need help with it, or find it confusing, don't hesitate to e-mail me, the information is at the bottom of the page.



You can download the picture above by clicking [here](#) .

1 If you're sporting a lot of blemishes, you probably won't volunteer to have your picture taken by everyone you know. Now you don't have to worry, we're going to get rid of those marks and scratches, follow along;

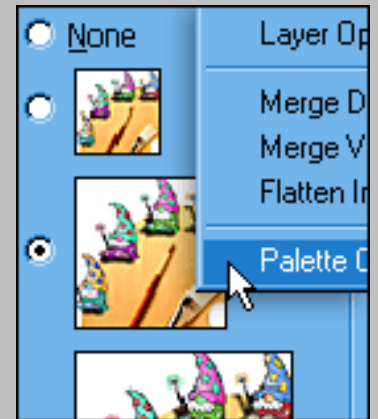
So what is a blemish? A blemish can be defined as a stain, spot, scar, or a mole on someone's face. As you can see, Matt's not having too good of a day.

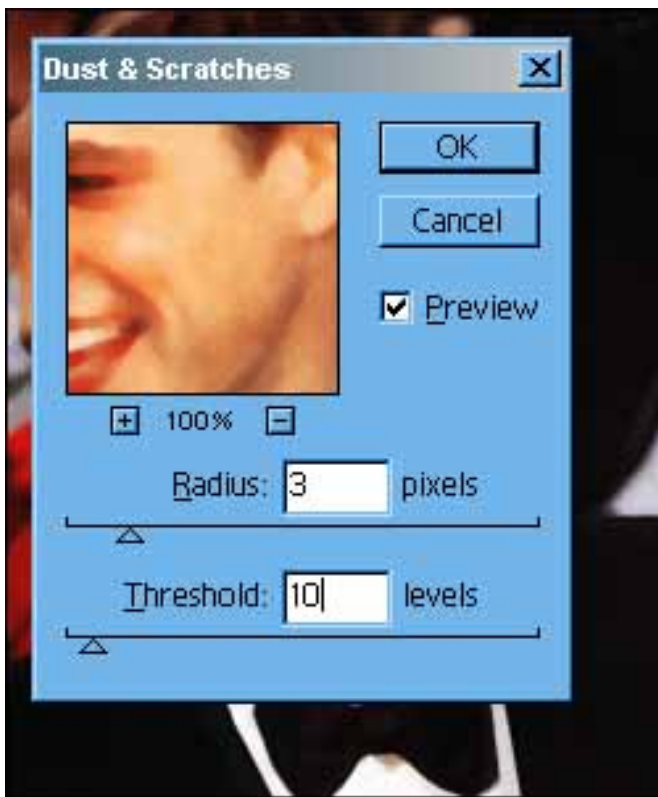
The image to the left points out which blemishes we are going to focus on, any other will be fixed up in the process. Let's get to it!

Download the picture to the left, or grab one of your own. Rename the layer to whatever the subject is, in this case Matt Damon.

Quick Tip!

Remember to name your layers, you won't get confused. If you don't have a lot of system RAM, you can change the size of your layer's thumbnails or eliminate them by accessing the Layers Options menu from the top right of the Layers palette.

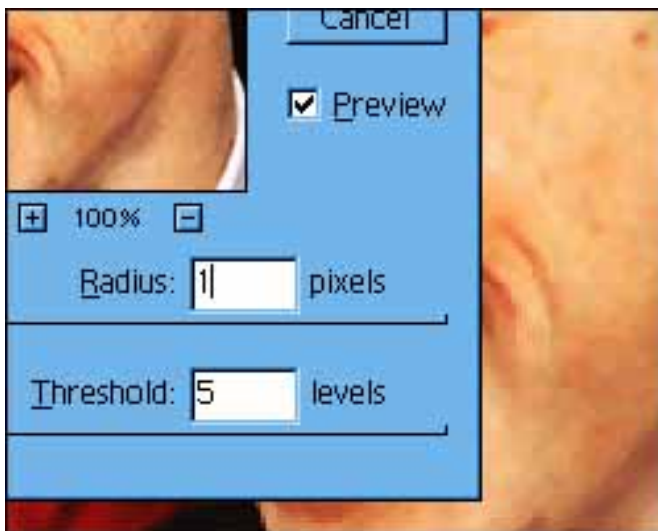




- 2** Apply the Dust & Scratches Filter; choose **Filter>Noise>Dust & Scratches** from the main menu. Use a radius big enough to completely cover up the blemishes, and use a Threshold big enough to maintain the detail. I used a Radius of 3 and a Threshold of 10 as seen to the left. Click OK when you're done.

Dust & Scratches covers up blemishes by finding areas of an image that stand out a bit more than others, certain colors that protrude from areas that are completely filled with another color, it then blurs the surrounding colors into the odd one. It's sort of like a filter for the Stamp Tool.

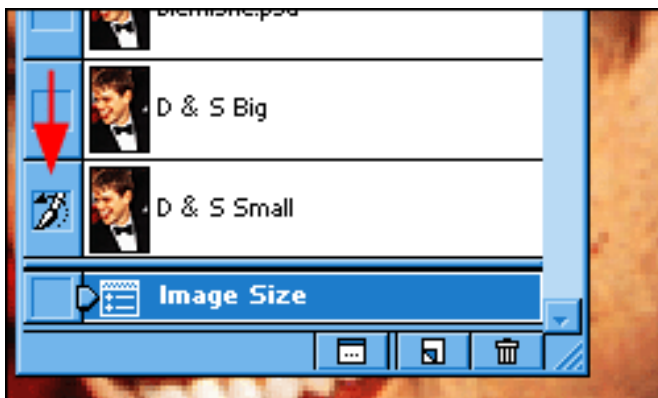
Hold down your **Alt** key and click the **Create New Snapshot** button at the bottom middle of the history palette. This enables you to continue modifying your photo, but revert back to the snapshot version in case you don't like your changes. We will be using it for something else. Name the snapshot "D & S Big".




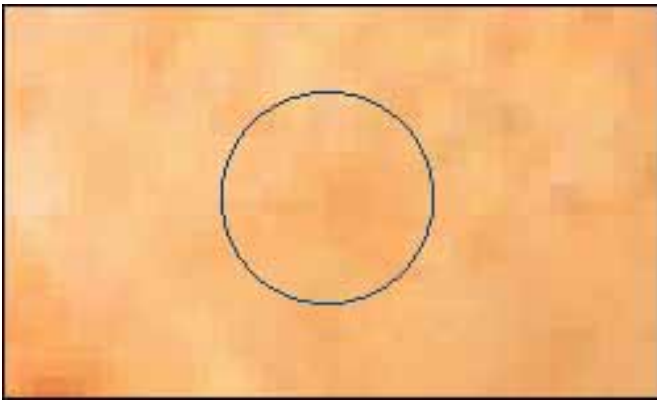
- 3** Undo your changes, press **Ctrl + Z** on your keyboard. This gets rid of the Dust & Scratches filter but maintains a snapshot of it in the History palette.

Add another Dust & Scratches filter, but this time lower the Threshold and Radius so that it only covers up the smaller blemishes as seen in the photo to the left.

Repeat Step 2 where you created a snapshot except this time name it "D & S Small", press **Ctrl + Z** to undo.



- 4** Grab the **History Brush** () from the toolbar. Click on the empty box next to the "D & S Small" snapshot in the history palette, a history paintbrush icon will appear.



- 5** Select a soft brush from the Brushes palette, zoom in and start painting over those blemishes. If you come across an area that won't disappear, toggle to the "D & S Big" snapshot, once you've finished fixing it up apply an Unsharp Mask filter to it, choose **Filter>Sharpen>Unsharp Mask** from the main menu.



Discussion

Removing blemishes, moles, scars, and scratches is one of the most used effect in the modeling industry. Magazine covers are enhanced tons of times before they are released. It just goes to to prove you can't judge a book by it's cover. If you have any questions, or there are any steps that I can further elaborate on, don't hesitate to e-mail me using the information below. Due to the amount of e-mail I get, you'll get a quicker response if you use the discussion forum. Post your question in the tutorials forum. Click [here](#) to go to the discussion forum.

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