

Shadows

Drop Shadows

1) Make a selection of the object that needs a shadow (If you have already created a layer mask, command-click the layer mask in the layers palette, your selection will dance...)

2) Create a new layer (with the selection still active)

3) Edit-Fill with black (this will fill the selection with black on the new layer)

4) Drag the new shadow layer below the object needing the shadow

Shadows can have a color tint.

Shadows tend to get blurry the longer they extend

The intensity fades as the shadows extend

Look study explore shadows you encounter. We look at shadows everyday, but create a shadow, make it look true.

5) Edit-Transform-Distort

(drag, push, pull the shadow to create a natural looking shadow)

6) Filter-Blur-Gaussian Blur

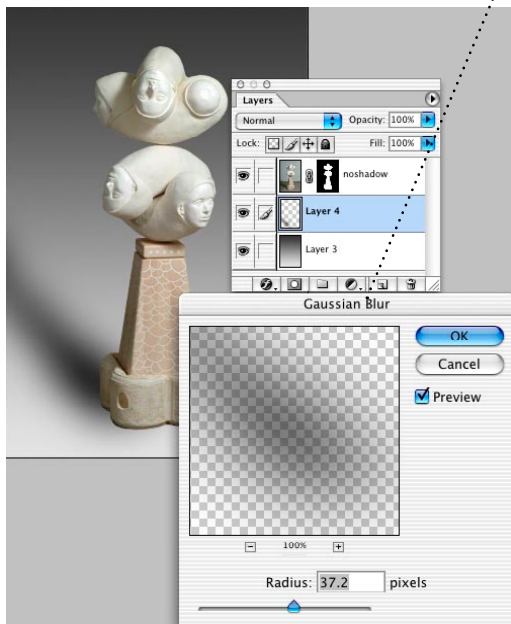
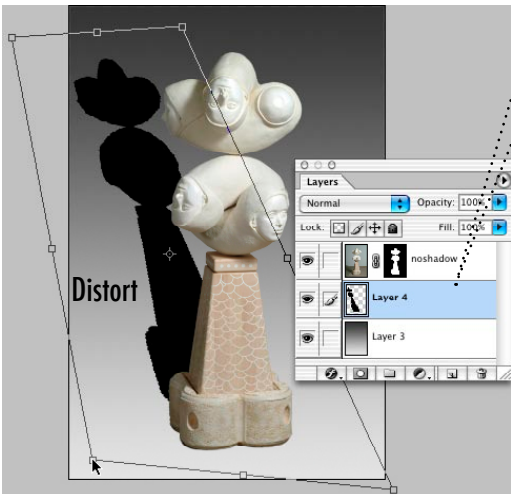
(create a soft edge for your shadow)

7) Lower the opacity of the shadow in the layer palette

-How to make the shadow better-

Instead of a solid black shadow create a gradient, darker near the object, fading away at a distance.

When in the gradient tool, click the gradient in the option bar, this will give you a dialogue box. You can set the gradient from black or not quite black to the gray, off white or whatever color you have chosen for the background. Even transparency... (remember transparency is the checkerboard)



Custom Gradient

- colors set by clicking on bottom slider,
- color option at bottom activates
- click on your color choice in the image to choose color for gradient

