

Create a Photo Vignette in Photoshop Elements

- 1) Open the image you want to work with in Elements.
- 2) Click on the Create a new layer icon on the Layers panel.
- 3) Press the letter D to get the default colors of black and white for your Color Chips. Press Alt Backspace (Mac: Opt Delete) to fill the new layer with black (the Foreground color).
- 4) With the Rectangular Marquee tool, click and drag an outline inside the edges of your image.

Variation: Instead of using the Rectangular Marquee tool, try the Elliptical Marquee tool, and draw an oval selection.
- 5) In the Options bar, choose Select > Feather. When the dialog box comes up, set your Feather Radius to 180 and click OK. You can vary the radius, depending upon how much “fade” you want.
- 6) Press Backspace (Mac: Delete) to get rid of the center selection, leaving you with a nicely faded vignette. Press Ctrl D (Mac: Cmd D) to deselect. Adjust the Opacity slider at the top of the Layers panel (found on the right column about midway down the screen) to achieve a more subtle look.

Compare the difference in your image with and without the vignette. You’ll find that this simple, subtle effect helps “frame” your subject and adds a polished look to your photo.

Bonus tip!

Turn off all the layers except your vignette layer, then save that layer as a PNG file. You’ll have a ready-made vignette to apply to other photos anytime!