

Creating a Cast Shadow on the Floor in Photoshop

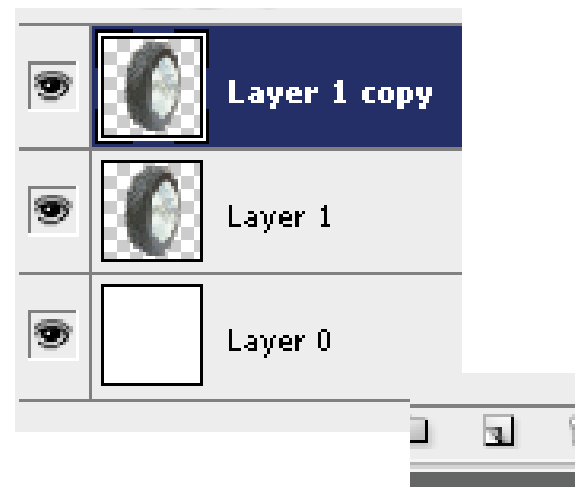
Step 1

Open your image and make sure it is separate from the background.



Step 2

Duplicate the layer by dragging the layer's icon onto the new layer icon in the layers palette.

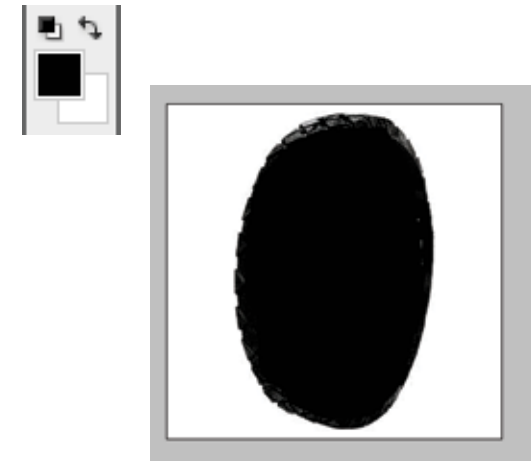


Step 3

Make sure the foreground color is set to black.

Now fill the new layer by pressing Ctrl+Shift+Delete (on a Mac:Cmd+Shift+Del).

Holding the shift key will make it only fill where there are active pixels. This will preserve the layer's transparency.



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Step 4

Now blur the layer.

With the layer selected, go to the **Filter** menu. Select **Blur>Gaussian blur**. Pick a radius around 4.



Step 5

Now to distort the shadow.

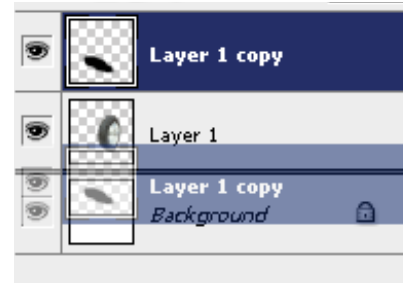
Go to the **Edit** menu, select **Free Transform**. This will make a bounding box around the image. Right click on the selected object and choose **Distort** from the pop-up menu.

Click and drag on the top center handle until it looks similar to the picture. Press **Enter** to apply the transformation.



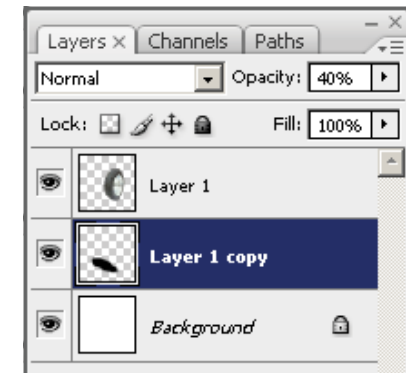
Step 6

To put the shadow layer behind the object layer, drag the shadow layer so it is under the object layer in the **Layers** window.



Step 7

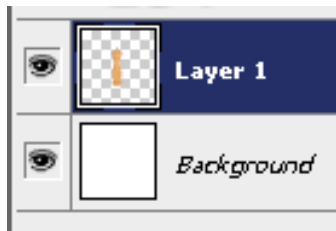
Finally, reduce the opacity of the shadow layer. Experiment and see what looks best for your image.



Creating a Cast Shadow on a Wall in Photoshop

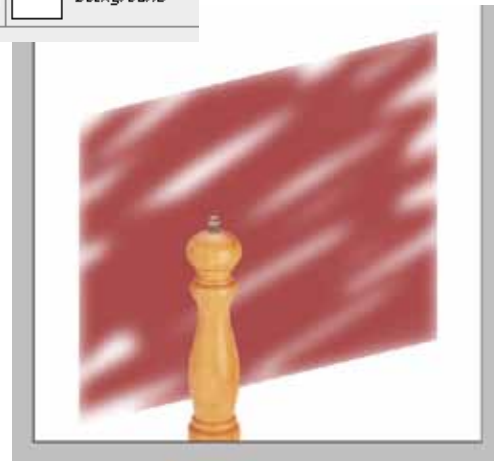
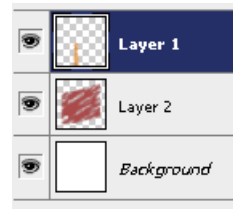
Step 1

Open your image and make sure it is separate from the background.



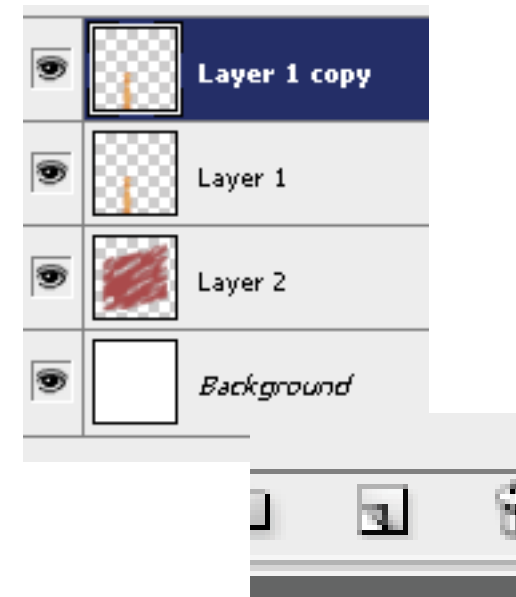
Step 2

Create a new layer and make your wall. This one was made by defining a rectangular area with the Marquee Tool and then brushing in some color. Then apply a blur and distort the wall layer to the desired angle.



Step 3

Duplicate the object's layer by dragging the layer's icon onto the new layer icon in the layers palette.



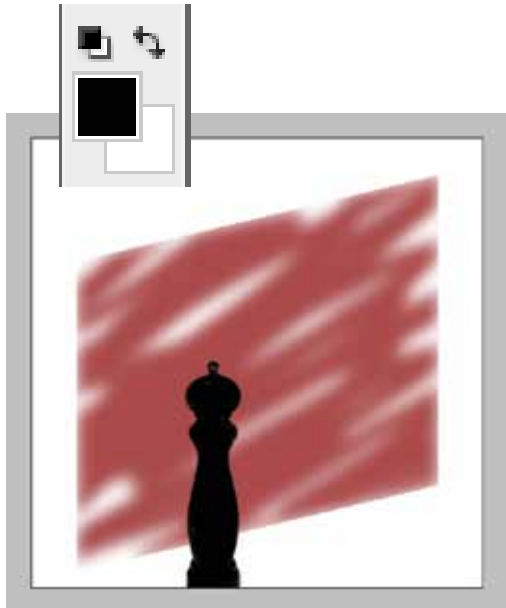
Creating a Cast Shadow on a Wall in Photoshop

Step 4

Make sure the foreground color is set to black.

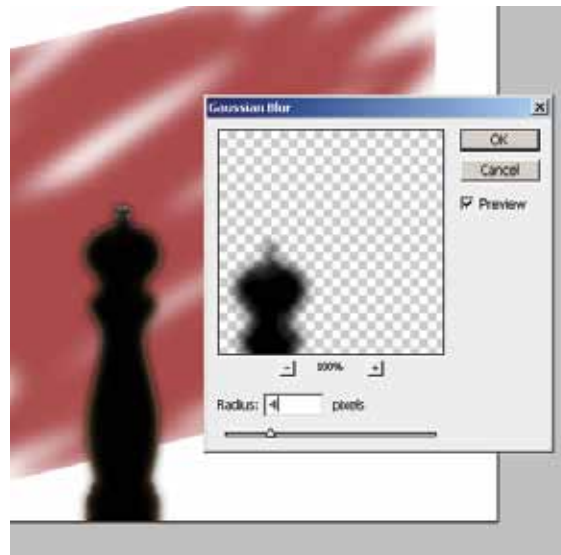
Now fill the new layer by pressing Ctrl+Shift+Delete (on a Mac: Cmd+Shift+Del).

Holding the shift key will make it only fill where there are active pixels. This will preserve the layer's transparency.



Step 5

Now blur the shadow layer. With the layer selected, go to the **Filter** menu. Select **Blur>Gaussian blur**. Pick a radius around 4.

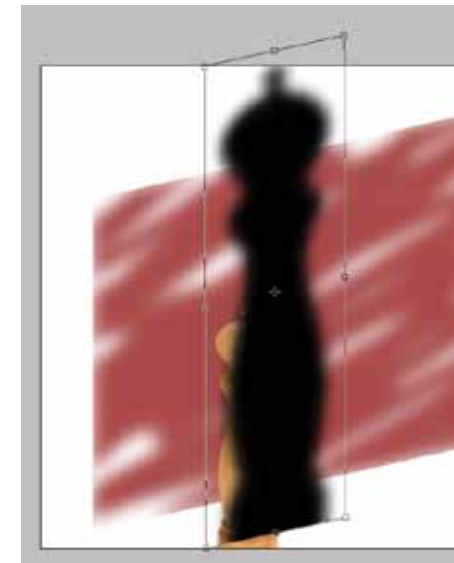


Step 6

Now to distort the shadow.

Go to the **Edit** menu, select **Transform>Distort**. This will make a bounding box around the image.

Click and drag on the handles to give the shadow the same angle as the wall. Remember, wall shadows are bigger than the objects that cast them. Press **Enter** to apply the transformation.



Creating a Cast Shadow on a Wall in Photoshop

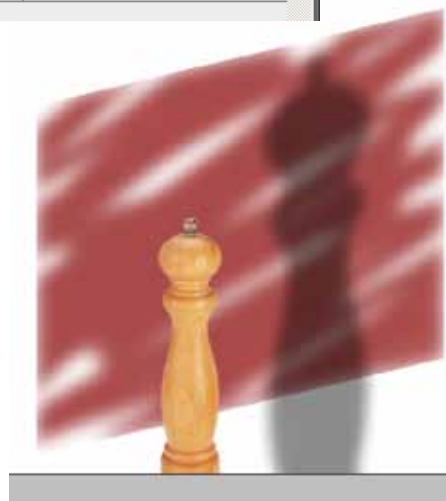
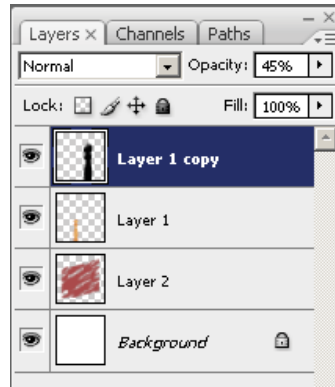
Step 7

Move the shadow layer into position.



Step 8

Reduce the opacity of the shadow layer. Experiment and see what looks best for your image.



Step 9

Use the eraser tool to delete the portion of the shadow that looks awkward.



Here is the final look.

