Photoshop CS2: That “Other” Filter

The “Other” filter included at the bottom of Photoshop’s Filter list presents a mystery – just what is “Other,” and what does it do? In this tutorial, Linda demystifies the Other Filter through a series of steps that show how to brighten pixels in relation to surrounding values, how to sharpen images without noise, how to mask quickly, and how to relocate and shift a selection – all through the “Other” filter.

“Other” Filter Possibilities

The “Other” filter is an odd name for a filter, as it doesn’t describe the full capabilities hidden within this tool. You can create special effects, save time on tasks that might be accomplished through other Photoshop tools, and alter your images quickly with some surprising special effects. In other words, if you have an image that you think is dull or unsalvageable, put it through some of the Other Filter options to see what happens. You might develop an image that is suitable for any number of projects.

For the first part of this tutorial on the “Other” filter, I’ll use the rather boring image below, which is also included as a download with this article (“flowers.psd”):

NOTE: All the equations within this article were used on 300 ppi images. When you open the downloaded files, change the resolution from 72 ppi to 300 ppi to follow along (Image > Image Size > Change Resolution from 72 to 300 > click OK).

Open the image above (or any other image that you choose) and go to “Filter > Other” to view your options. As you can seem in the image below, you have choices between adding Custom, High-Pass, Maximum, Minimum, and Offset alterations to this image:

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