

SHARPENING and FOCUS-STACKING

A QUICK PHOTOSHOP GUIDE

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POST-PROCESSING SHARPENING

sharpening is often necessary,
especially for RAW capture

POST-PROCESSING SHARPENING

- examples from Photoshop CS5
- different methods, e.g.
 - **Unsharp Mask**
 - **High Pass**
 - or others e.g. Smart Sharpen (not shown here)

REMEMBER

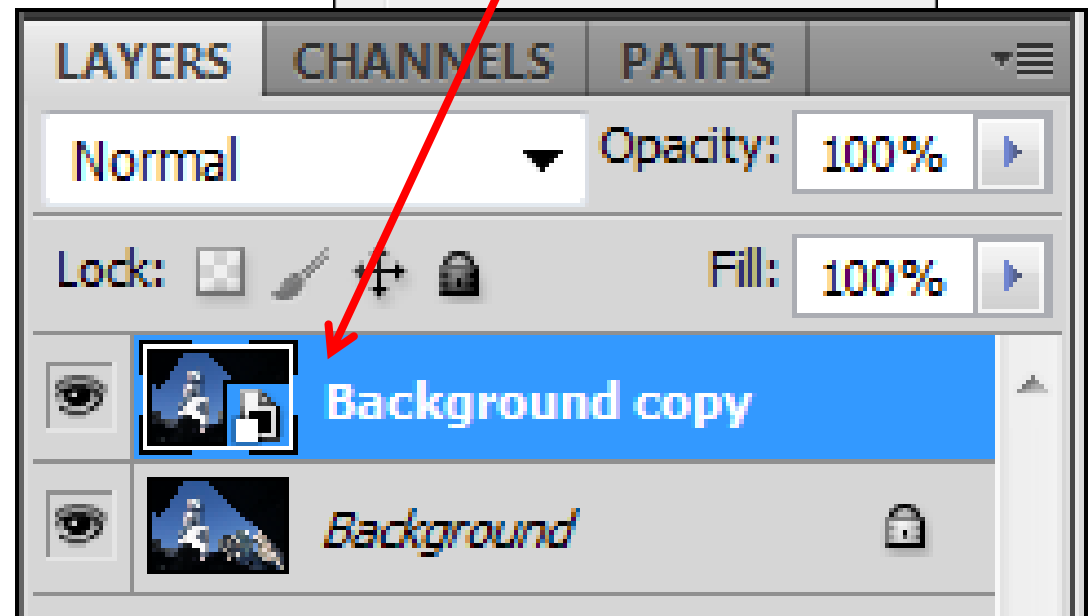
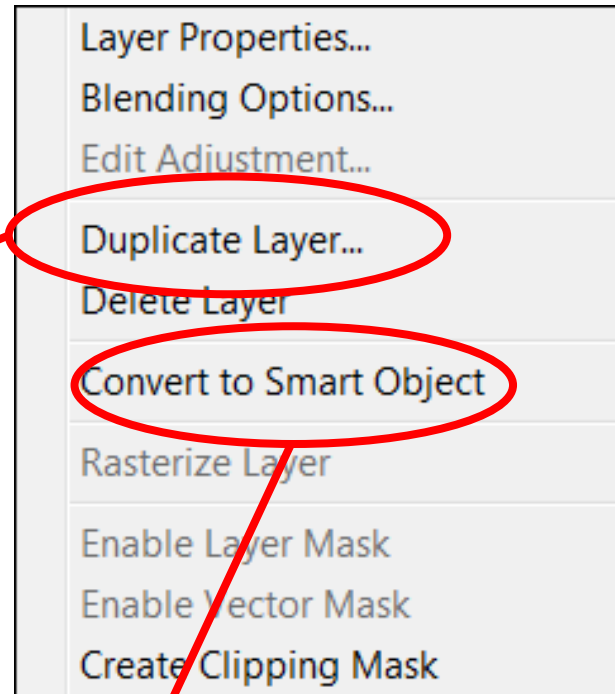
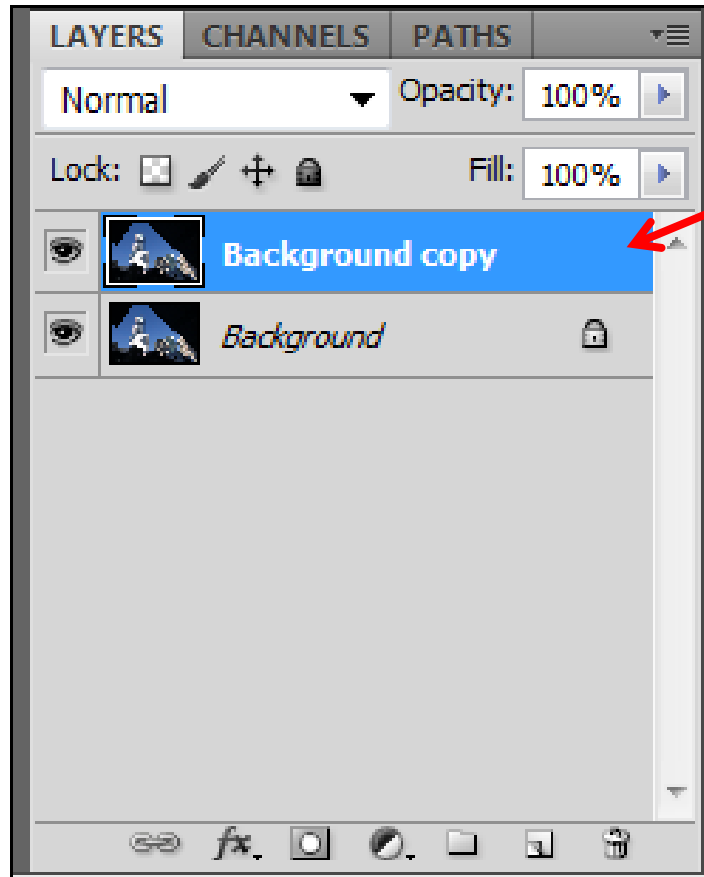
- do Sharpening last!
- be especially careful if you need to change resolution through Image>Image Size. It is usually better to do the sharpening afterwards.
- zoom to 50% or 100%

UNSHARP MASK

steps:

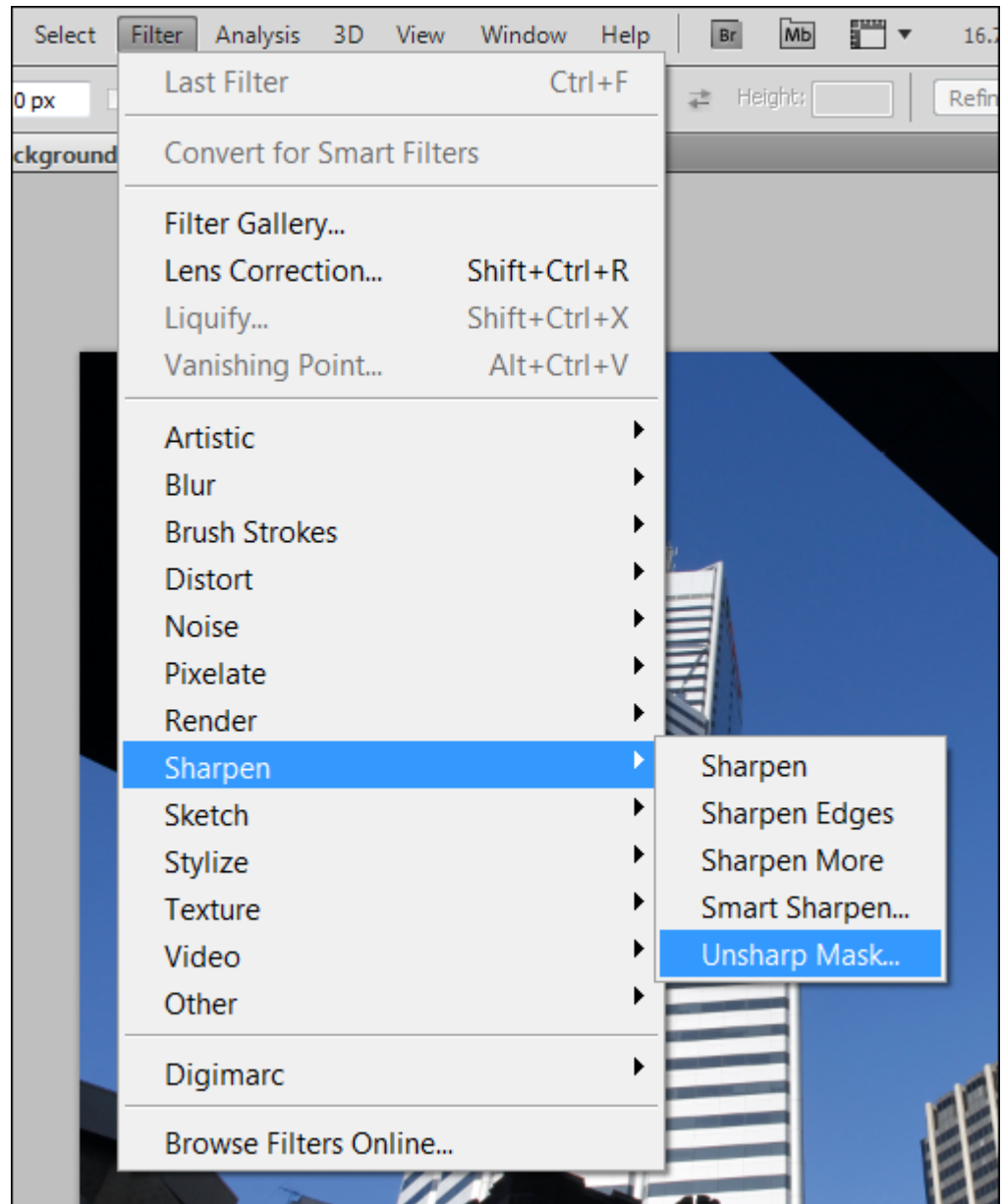
1. make a Duplicate Layer
2. right-hand click on the Duplicate Layer and “Convert to Smart Object”

SHARPENING



SHARPENING

3. Filter> Sharpen> Unsharp Mask

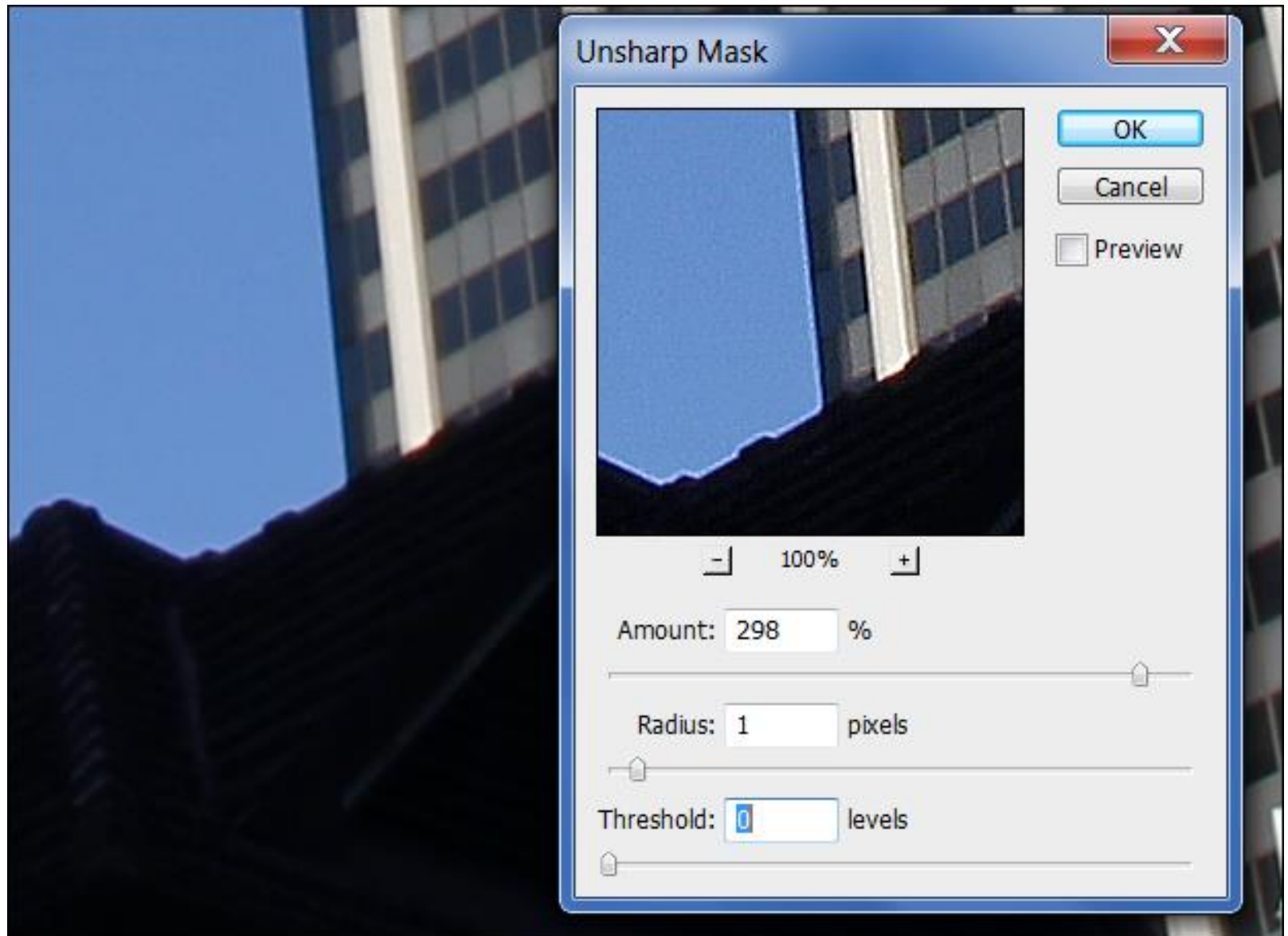


UNSHARP MASK

4. Unsharp Mask menu:

- tick “Preview” to preview on the main image;
- work the sliders:
 - Amount: level of Contrast (50-150 or more)
 - Radius: area of contrast (0.5-1 or 2)
 - Threshold: amount of tonal range before becoming an edge (0-1)
- all books and websites give you different recommendations, so try it out!

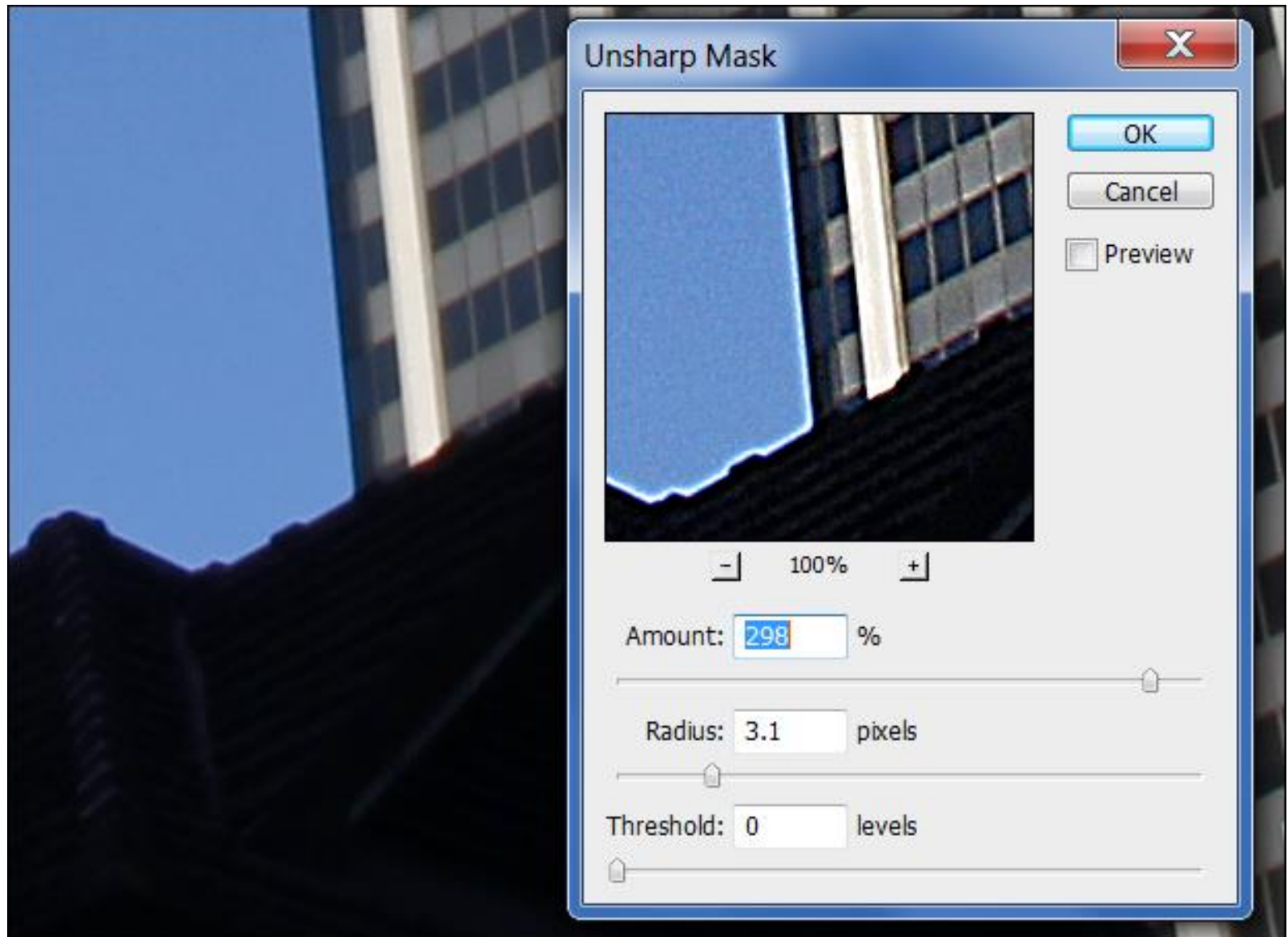
SHARPENING



UNSHARP MASK

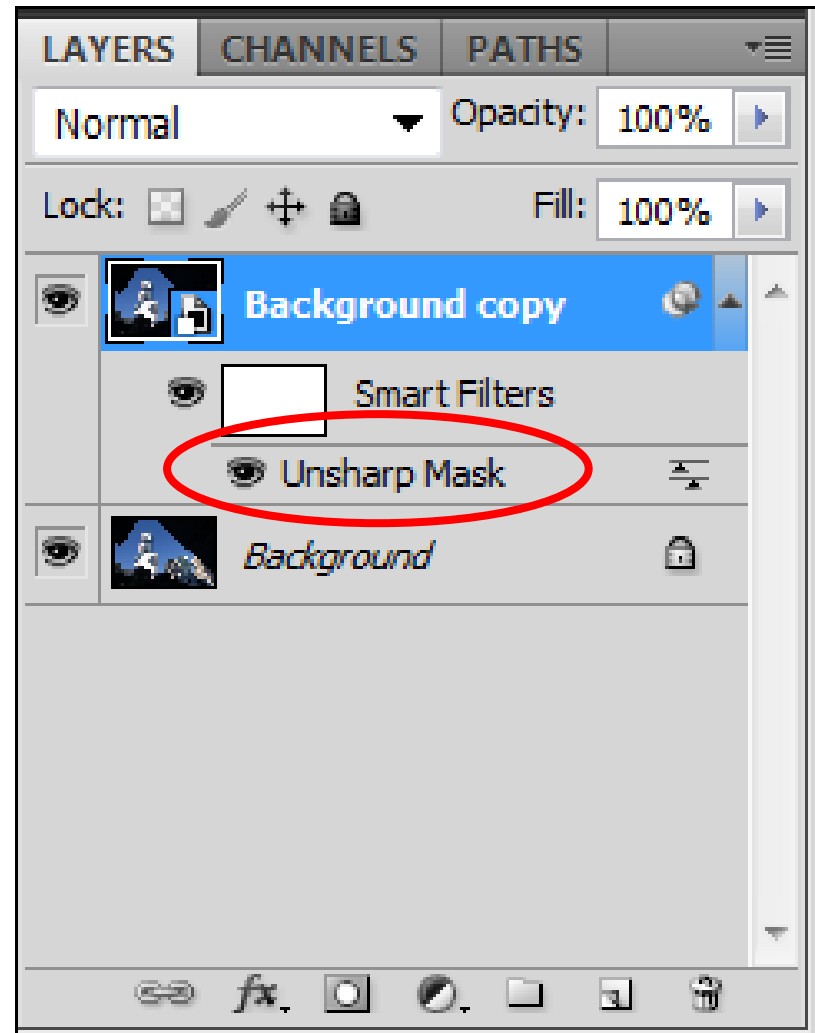
- If you (or the judge!) can see the sharpening, you've gone too far!
- see on the next image, the white borders at a radius of 3.1

SHARPENING

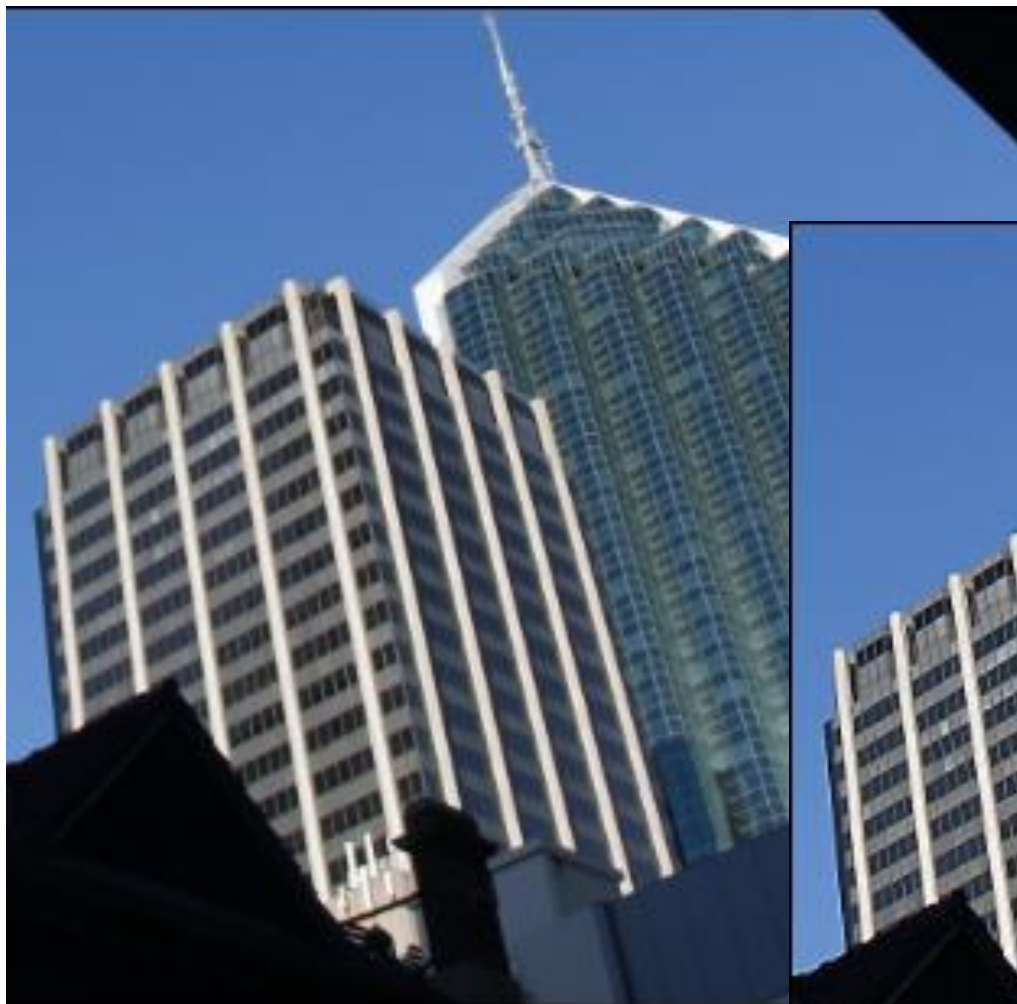


SHARPENING

- as a “Smart Object”, you can go back to the Unsharp Mask filter and readjust the sliders at any time



SHARPENING



before

after

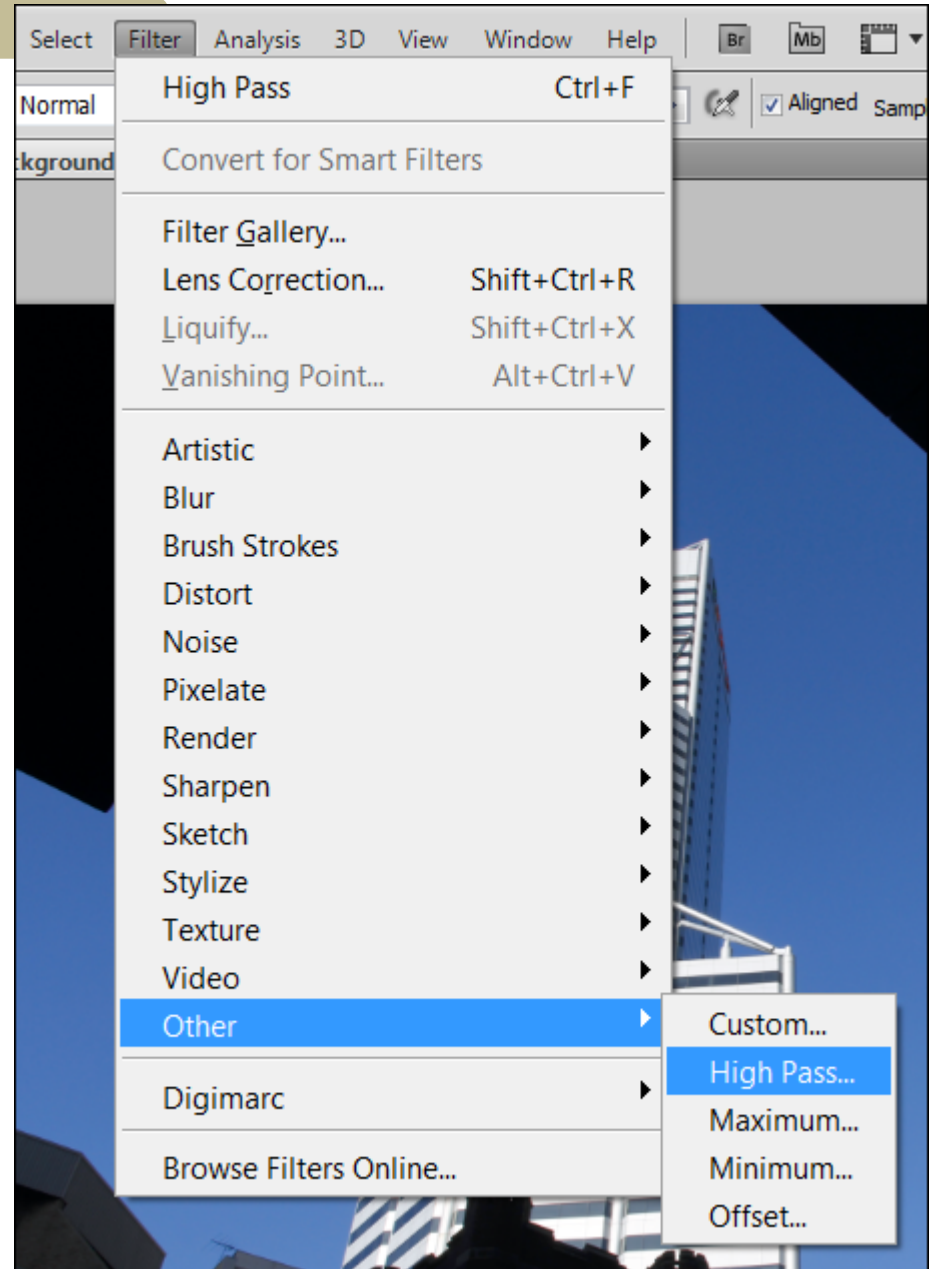


SHARPENING

- Other Method
 - **High Pass filter**
 - easier, only one slider
 - works only on the edges of the image, not so affected by noise

SHARPENING

1. create Duplicate Layer and Smart Object;
2. Filter>Other>High Pass

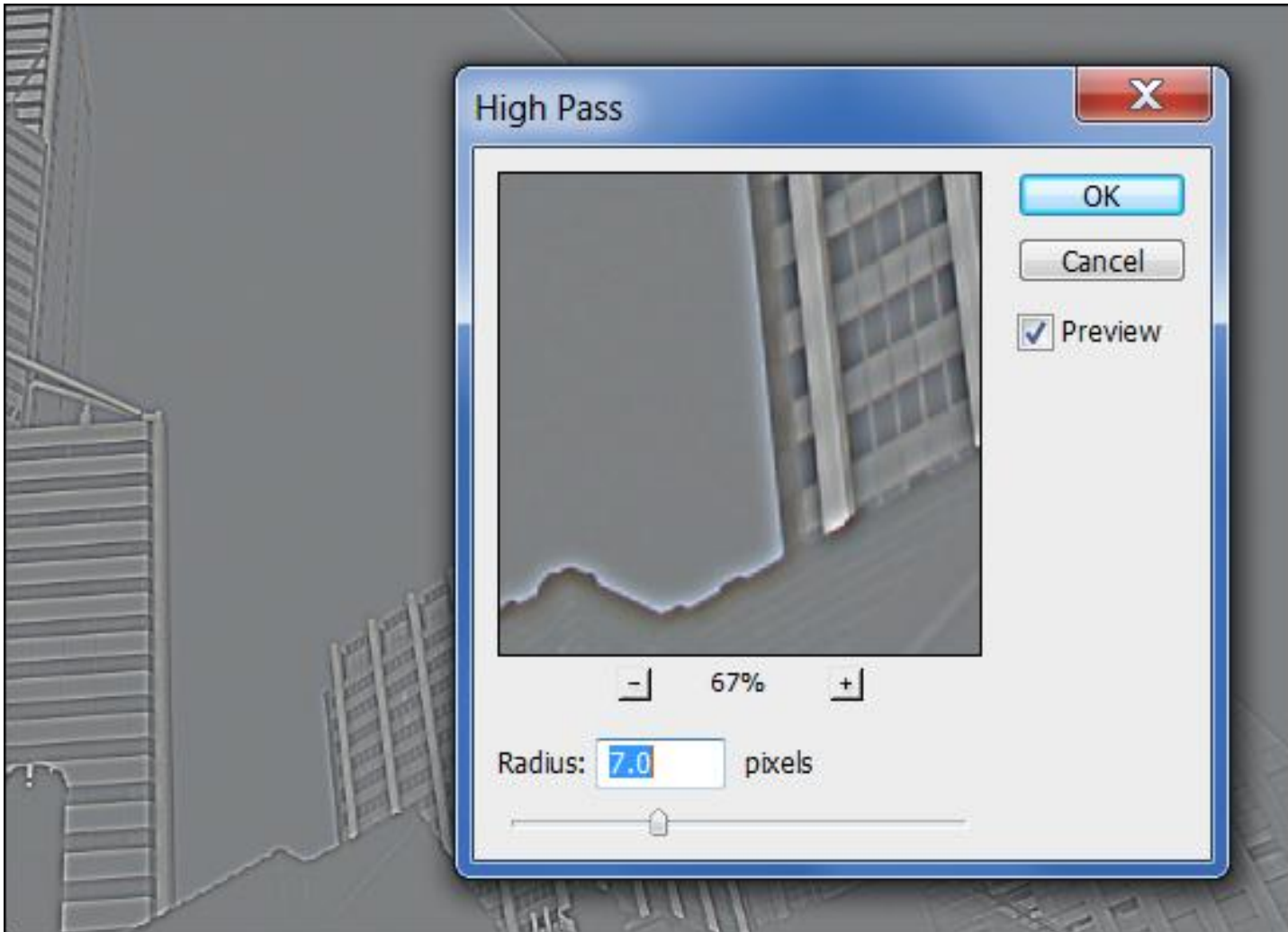


HIGH PASS FILTER

3. High Pass menu:

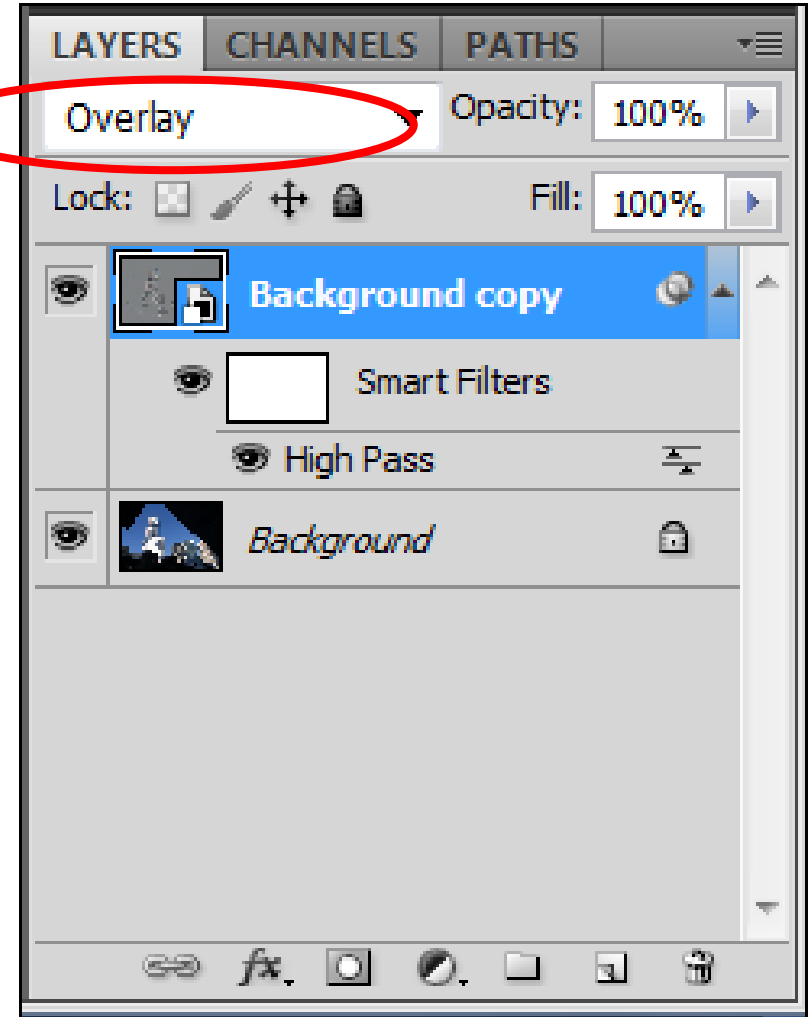
- tick “Preview” to preview on the main image;
- work the slider:
 - Radius: area of contrast (try 2-5 or higher)

HIGH PASS FILTER



SHARPENING

4. change the blend mode to “Overlay”
 - or “Soft Light” or “Hard Light” to change the sharpening
 - ready!
 - use the Smart Object to change



FOCUS STACKING

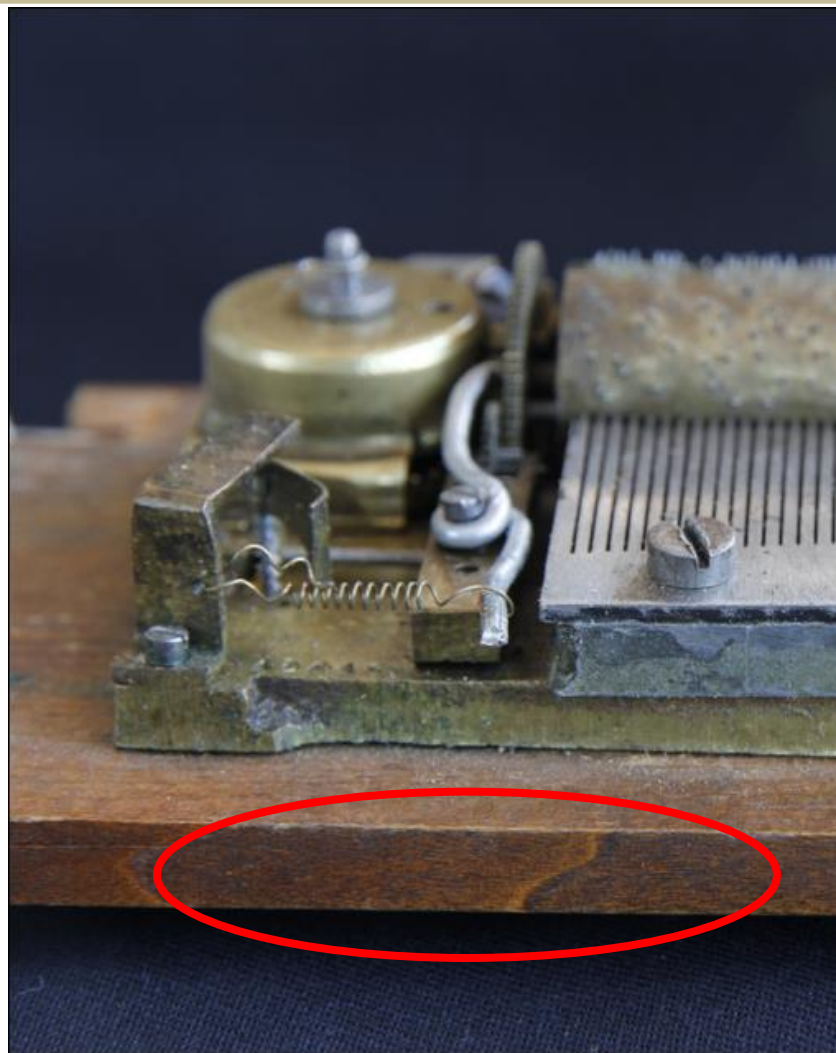
- to create a large Depth of Field
- for e.g. Macro or Landscapes
- where a small aperture still is not enough to get everything in focus

FOCUS STACKING

STEPS:

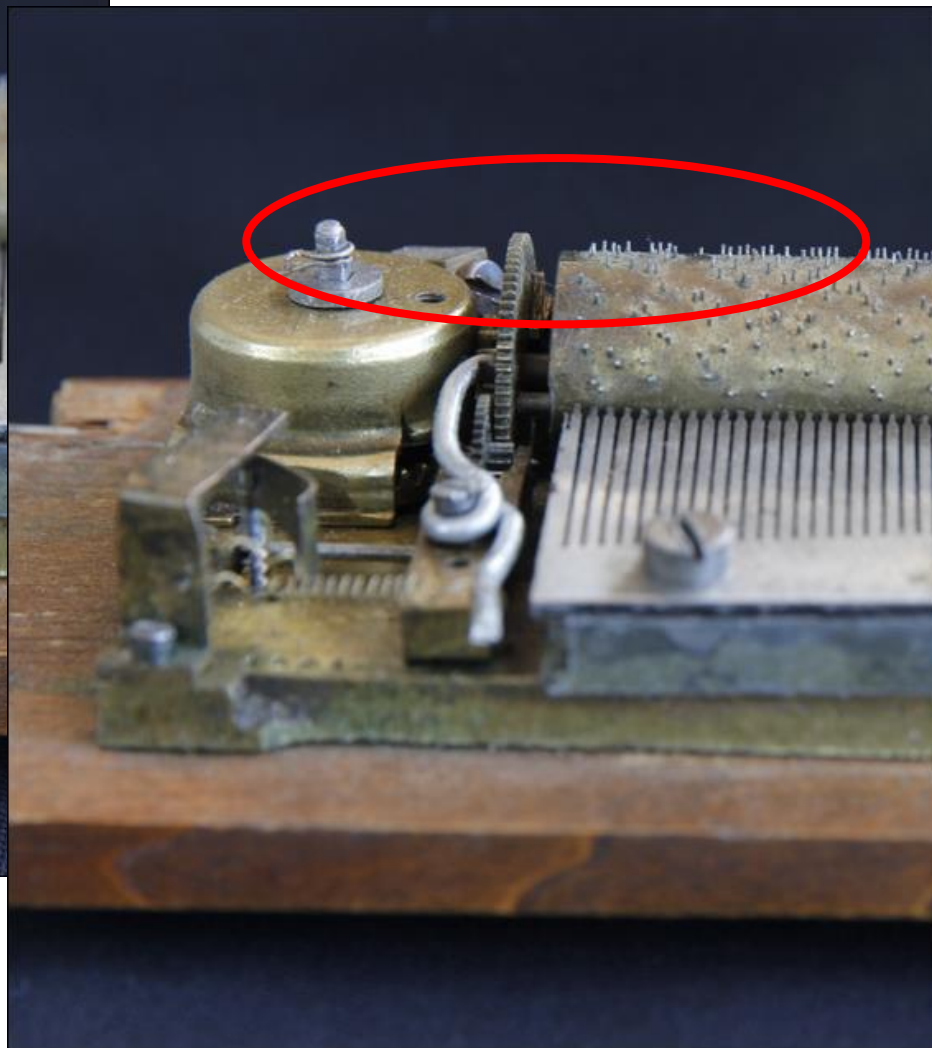
- take a number of shots, with e.g. f8, stepwise focussing from near to far
- 5 to 10 shots or more

FOCUS STACKING



near-focus

far-focus



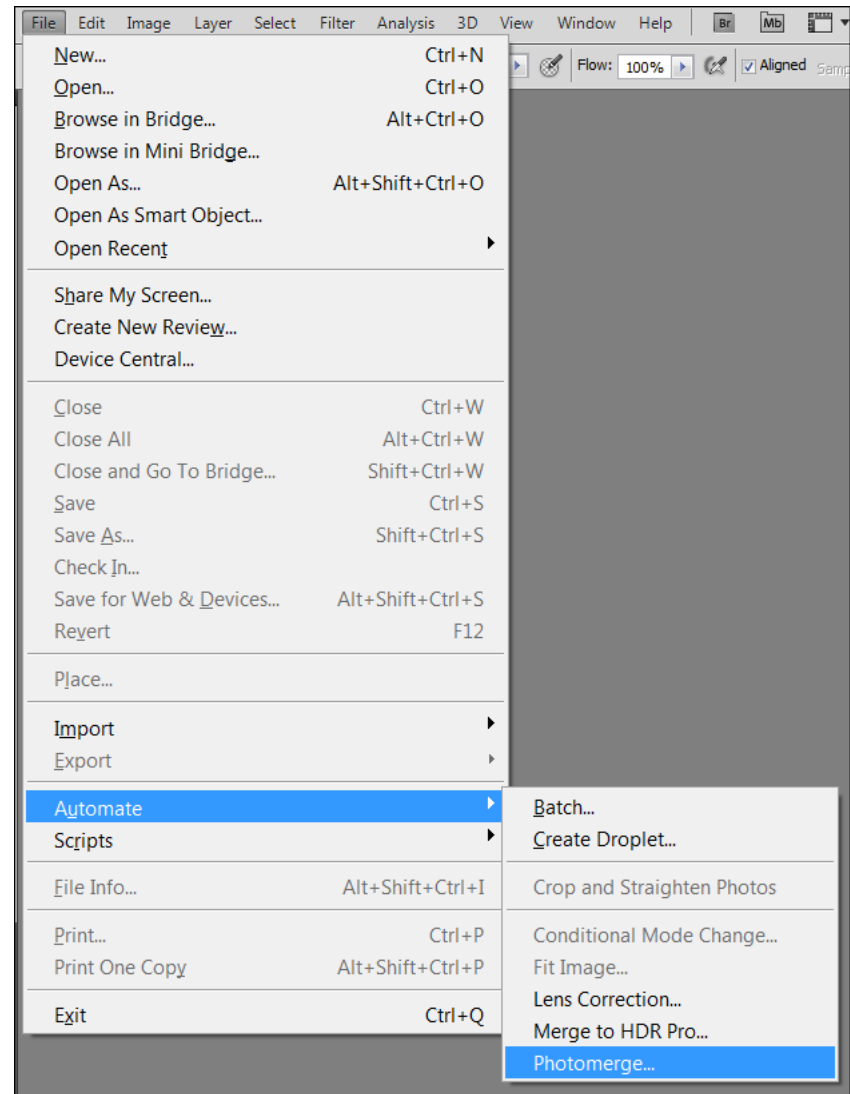
FOCUS STACKING

Photoshop steps:

1. Open files to be stacked

2. File>Automate>Photomerge

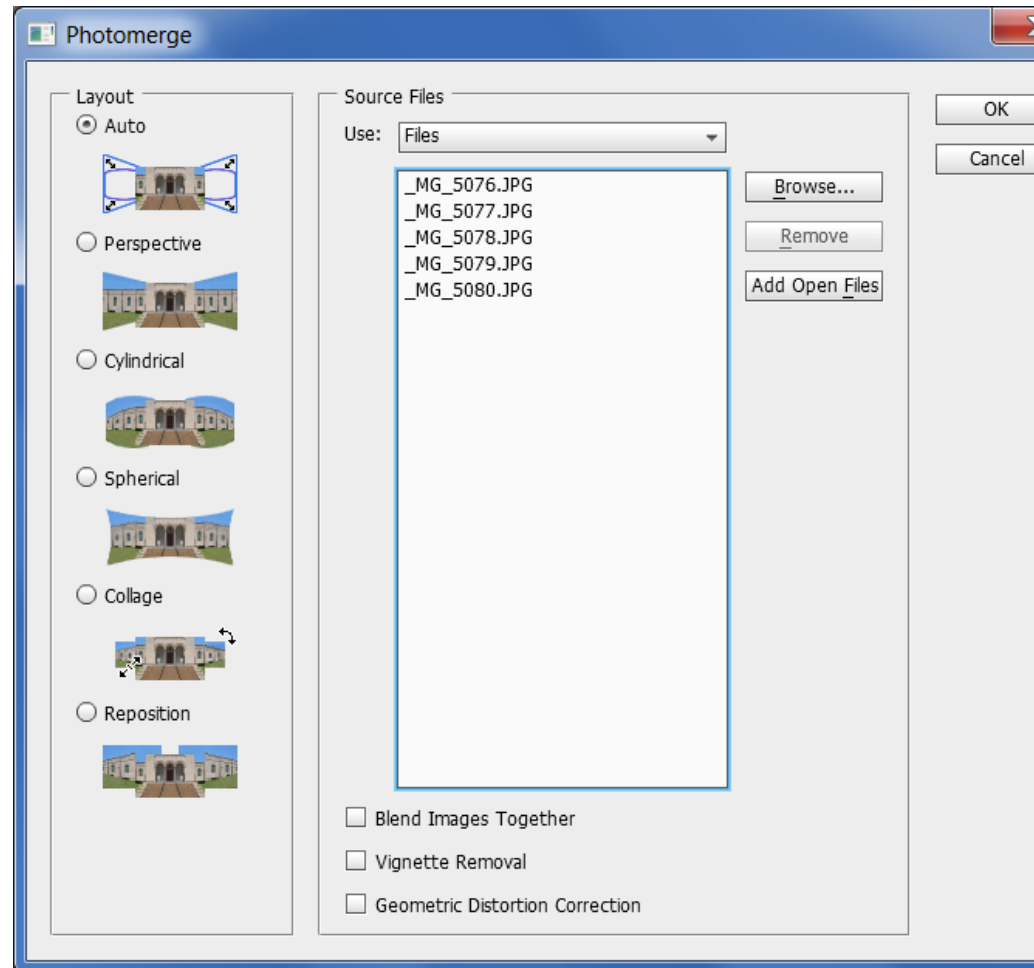
- or highlight in Bridge and Tools>Photoshop>Photomerge



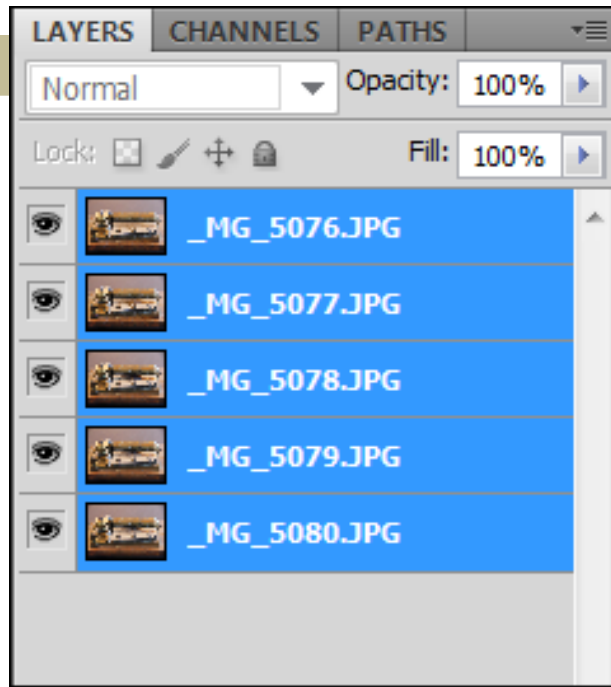
FOCUS STACKING

3. “Add Open Files”
4. Layout – Auto
5. Untick “Blend Images Together”
6. OK, wait a little...
this creates a new
File:

Untitled_Panorama1

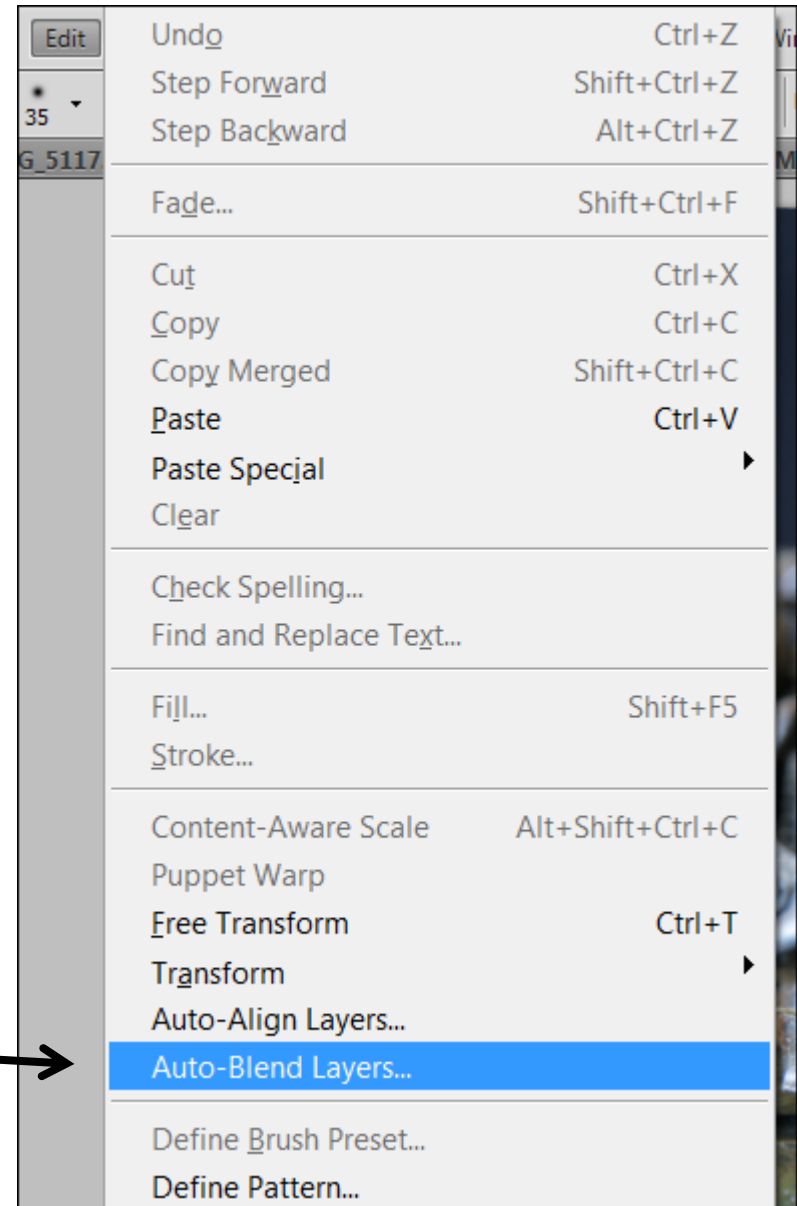


FOCUS STACKING



7. On the Layers palette for this file: Select all the Layers

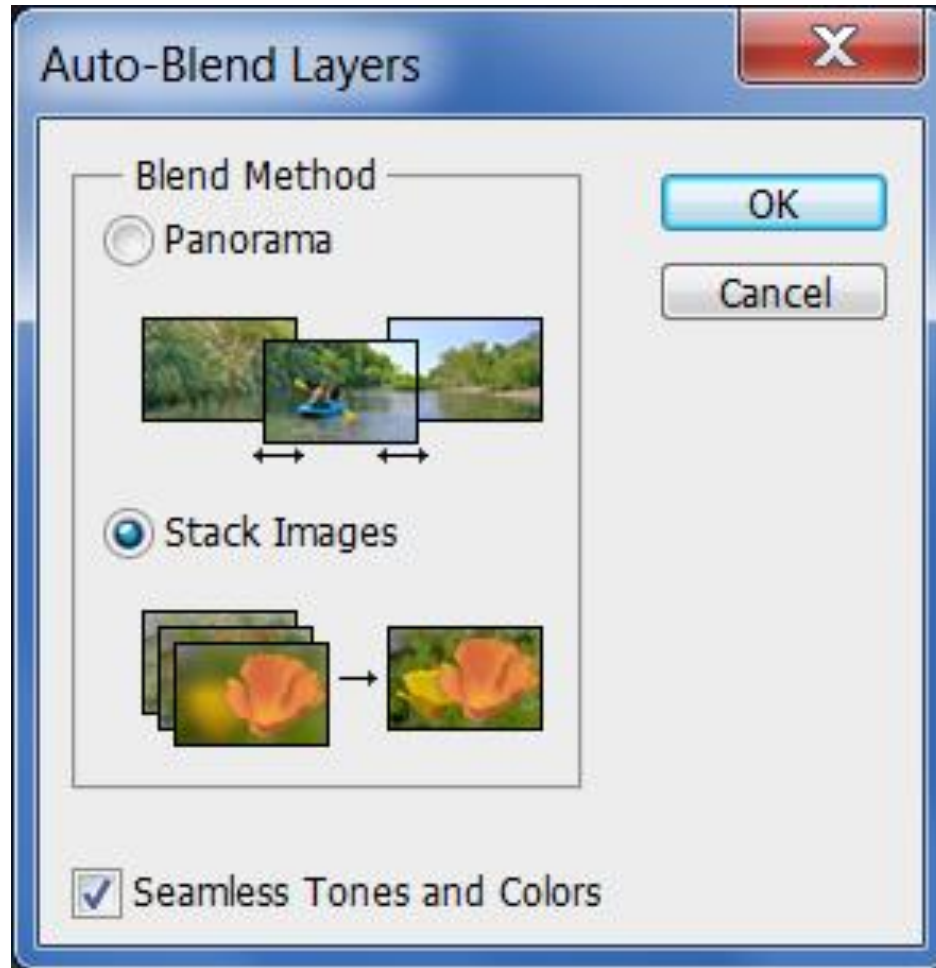
8. then: Edit > Auto-Blend Layers



FOCUS STACKING

9. use the
default
values

10.OK

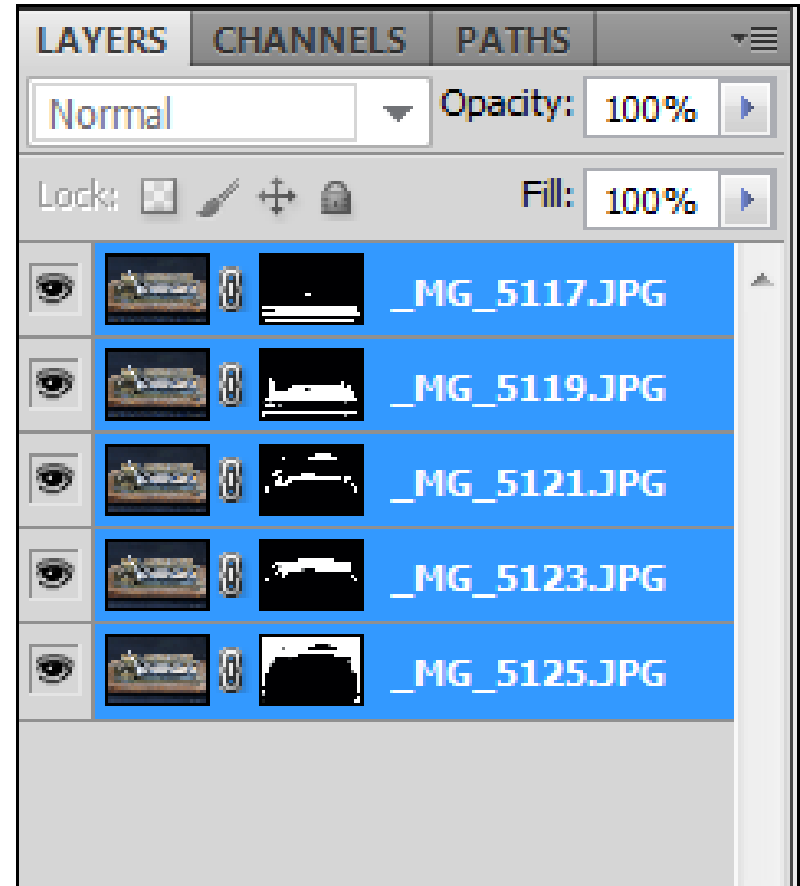


FOCUS STACKING

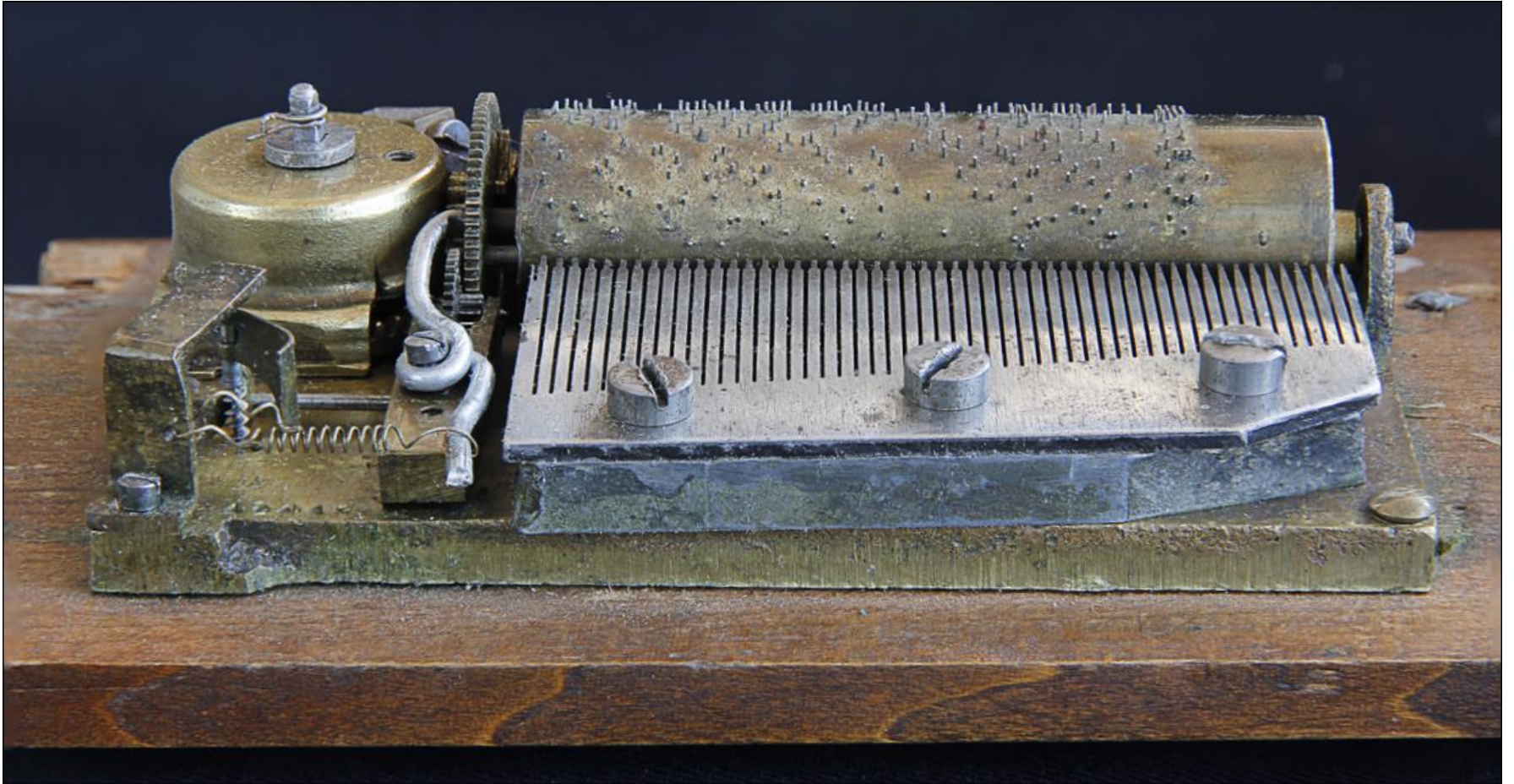
11.the layers are being stacked.....

12.Layer>Flatten Image

13.File>Save as....
to save your new
file with a new
name



FOCUS STACKING



voila, your image sharp from front to back!

ELEMENTS

on my (old) version of Elements
I can use:

- Enhance>Unsharp Mask....
- Filter>Other>High Pass....
- but sorry, no Focus Stacking...



GOOD LUCK!

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