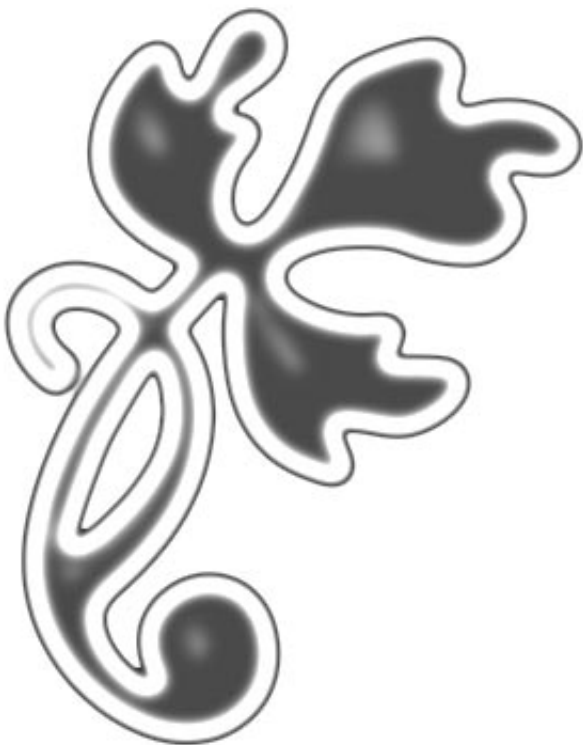


KPT SMOOTHIE



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Overview

The KPT Smoothie filter lets you blur the edges of any image and then clip it, giving the final image a smooth-edged, rounded look. The smoothing effect is created by applying a Gaussian Blur to the edges of the mask and then clipping it to make the edges cleaner.

A Little History...

KPT Smoothie is the evolution of a tip Kai wrote a couple of years back called "How to Clean Up...a Fax or a Scan". In it, he described how to fix up a badly scanned image in Photoshop. The process went something like this:

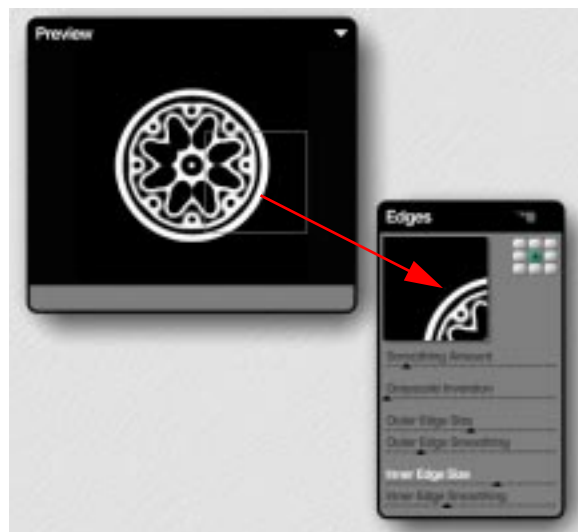
- First, you take the image and apply a Gaussian Blur. This makes the image appear smoother which also results in anti-aliased edges.
- Then, you go into the Levels dialog and adjust the grayscale values to fix up any shading that may have been eliminated when the image was faxed. You also use Levels to clean up the edges.

Well, KPT Smoothie does all that and more. You don't have to go to a variety of dialogs and apply different effects. It's all in one place. What's more, KPT Smoothie goes further than simply consolidating controls, it provides a way to fix up specific edges.

Not only does KPT Smoothie simplify the touch-up process, but it can also be used to make special effects like outlines and rounded rectangles.

Previewing your KPT Smoothie Effect

The thumbnail preview window in the Edges panel shows you a 1:1 representation (i.e. actual size) of a portion of your image. The rectangular area in the Main Preview window lets you change the area displayed in the panel preview. You can use this feature to see the effects of the smoothing on different parts of your image.



As you drag the rectangle in the Main Preview window, the panel preview changes to show a 1:1 portion of the effect.

Smoothing an Image

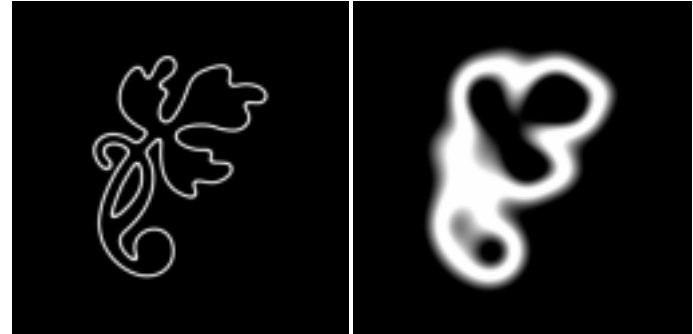
Before you start working with the specific edges in your image, you should apply the smoothing effect to the whole image. Then you can use the Inner and Outer Edge controls to refine the effect.



The Edges panel controls all the settings for KPT Smoothie.

Smoothing Amount

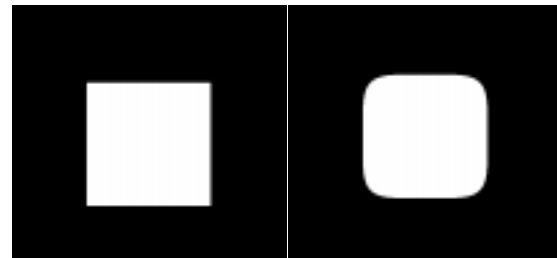
Smoothing Amount controls how much smoothing is applied to the entire image. This control has the same affect as adding a Gaussian blur to your image, except that you can control how the blur is applied in real-time.



Smoothing Amount at low and high settings.

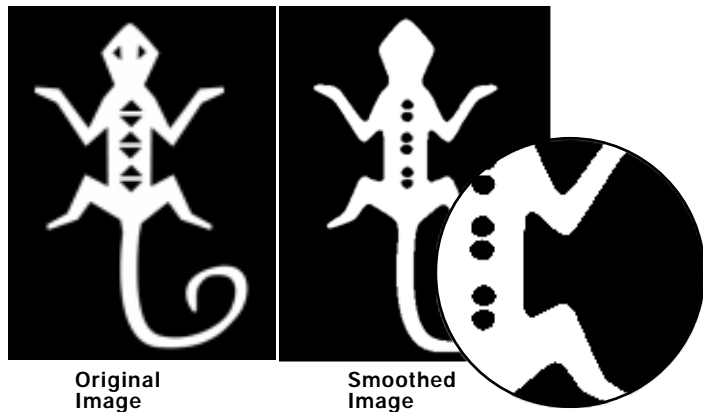
TiPS

Applying a high Smoothing Amount to a solid square is a quick way of making a rounded rectangle.



A rounded rectangle created using a high Smoothing Amount.

You can really see the effects of Smoothing Amount when you apply it to an image with sharp edges. On closer inspection, you can see how the edges are rounded as you apply more smoothing.



The effects of applying Smoothing to a sharp-edged image.

Grayscale Inversion

This control adjusts the balance between the light and dark grayscale values in your image (just like the Levels dialog in Photoshop). Again, the advantage here is that you can see your adjustments in real-time.

Grayscale Inversion can smooth out the transitions between grayscale values to make edges cleaner, or it can eliminate unwanted elements from your image.

TiPS

If you're trying to fix a specific edge, use the rectangle in the preview area to display it in the Edge panel. That way, you can see if your settings are making the edge cleaner.

Extremely high values of Grayscale Inversion actually invert the shades in the image so that what was light is now dark and vice versa.



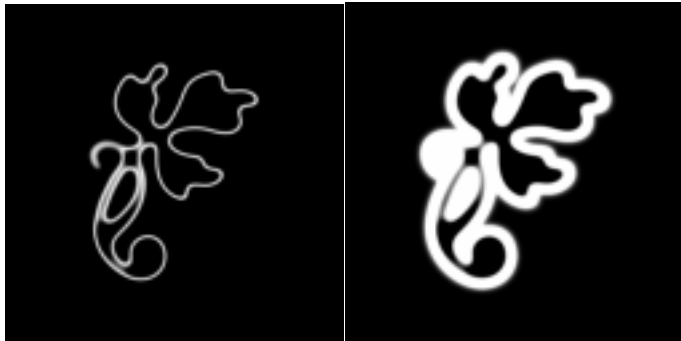
A completely inverted image.

Working with Outer Edges

As their names suggest, the Outer Edge controls let you apply the KPT Smoothie effect specifically to the outside edges of your image.

Outer Edge Smoothing

Outer Edge Smoothing determines how much smoothing is applied to the outside edges of the image.



Low and high settings of Outer Edge Smoothing.

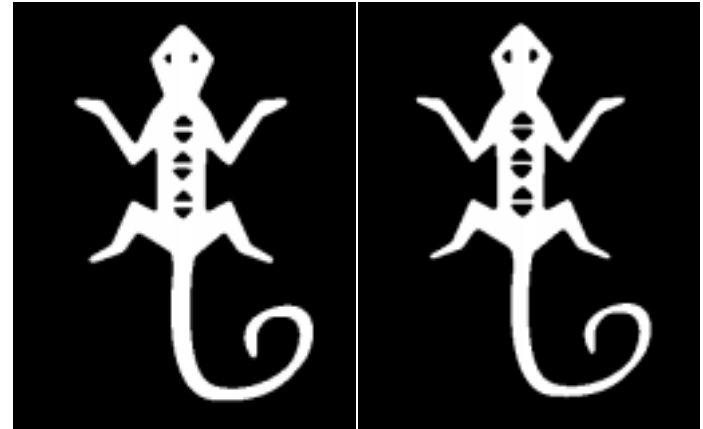
Outer Edge Size

Outer Edge Size sets how much of the outer edge of the image is trimmed. Use this control after you've set the Smoothing Amount. That way, you can see how much of the smoothing effect you're clipping.

Working with Inner Edges

The Inner Edge controls let you apply the KPT Smoothie effect to the inside edges of your image.

These are the controls you'll use to clean-up images with thin lines. The smoothing process can distort or eliminate lines, the Inner Edge size can help you redefine them.



The effects of using the Inner Edge controls to redefine lines within the image.

Inner Edge Smoothing

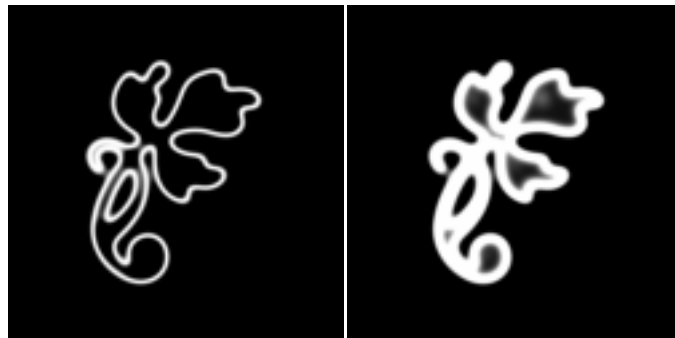
Inner Edge Smoothing sets how much smoothing is applied to the inside edges of the image. If you use Inner Edge Size to hollow out the shape, this setting applies smoothing to the inside of the shape.



An example of Inner Edge Smoothing.

Inner Edge Size

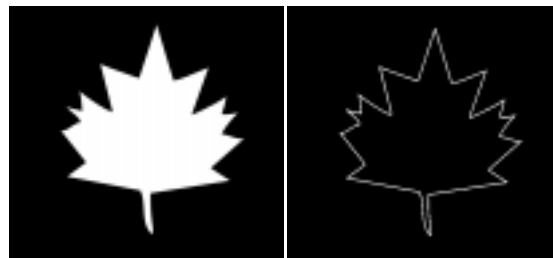
Inner Edge Size sets how much of the image's interior is trimmed. This can clean up inside edges distorted by Inner Edge Smoothing. The higher the setting, the more hollow the image appears.



Low and high settings of Inner Edge Size.

TIPS

Inner Edge Size is great for creating outlines out of solid shapes.



An outline created by applying Inner Edge Size.