

Using the Photoshop History Brush

Apart from its original purpose of bringing forward image data from an earlier layer, the history brush can also be used in enhancing images. The effect the brush will have on an image is determined by the mode set for the brush and the opacity of it. The following chart shows the results of using the different modes and the percents that I find effective.

Mode	Effect	% Opacity
Multiply	Darkens	12
Screen	Lightens	12
Colour Dodge	Lightens Bright White	4
Colour Burn	Darkens Shadows	4
Difference	Darkens Highlights	4
Soft Light	Increases Contrast	12+

The percents are my preferences - experiment with them to find the best for yourself. Also remember that, if you make a crop of your image, you must establish the "source" of the history brush at or after the cropped layer.

Make sure that the airbrush feature is turned on for the brush - the idea is to gradually build up the effect by multiple passes of the brush.