

Neon Blur effect in Pixelmator 2.2 Blueberry



Before

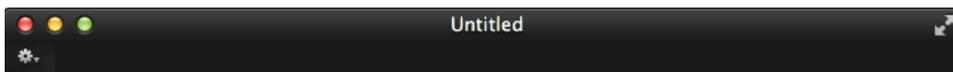


After

Hello all and welcome back to another tutorial in Pixelmator 2.2 Blueberry - the newest version available! Today we will be learning how to turn a regular picture into a cooler, more attractive edited version of it using the lights of Pixelmator - so without further ado, sit back and enjoy the rest of this tutorial! If you wish to see more on the updates in Pixelmator, check out our video at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7t2DaCBFYQQ>

Step 1: Prepare your photo and your document

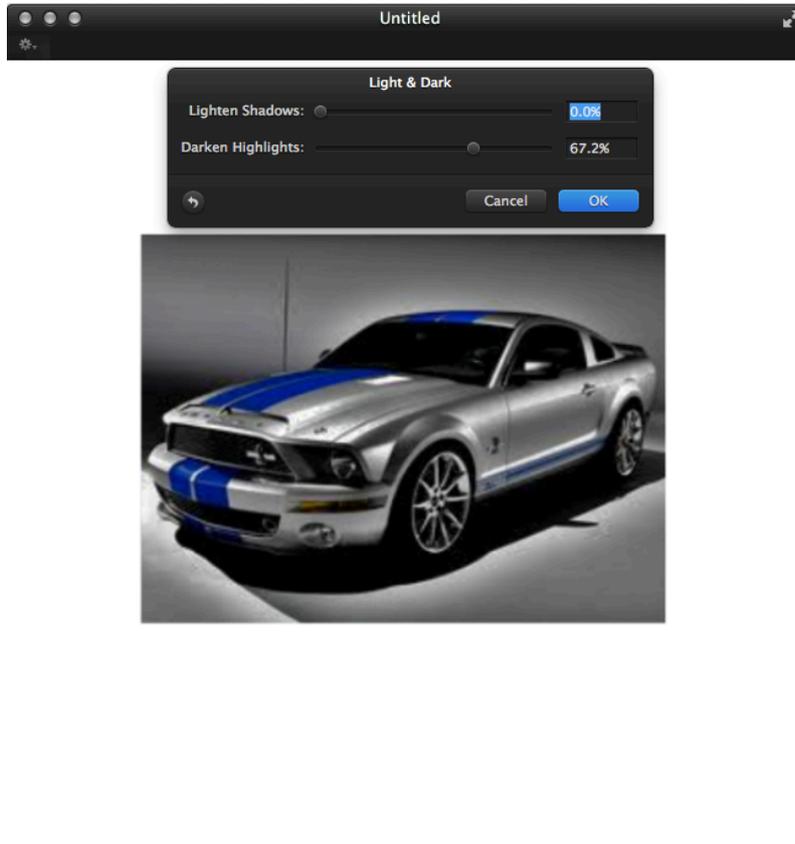
It is very important to choose a fitting photo for this effect - a family picnic won't exactly fit this racy effect. For my photo, I have chosen a Ford Mustang as depicted above - cars usually work well, as they are often perceived as fast and powerful (especially the faster ones). I have also chosen 1000 by 1000 pixels as my document size to make sure I have enough working space.



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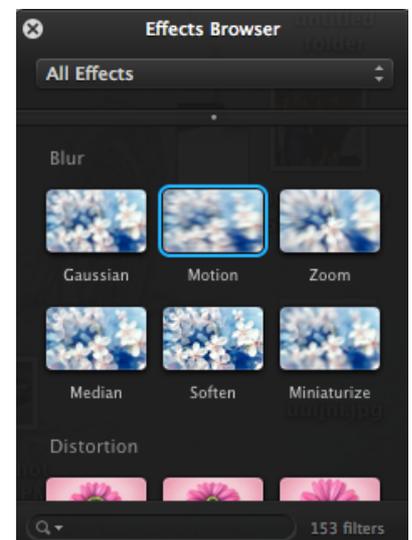
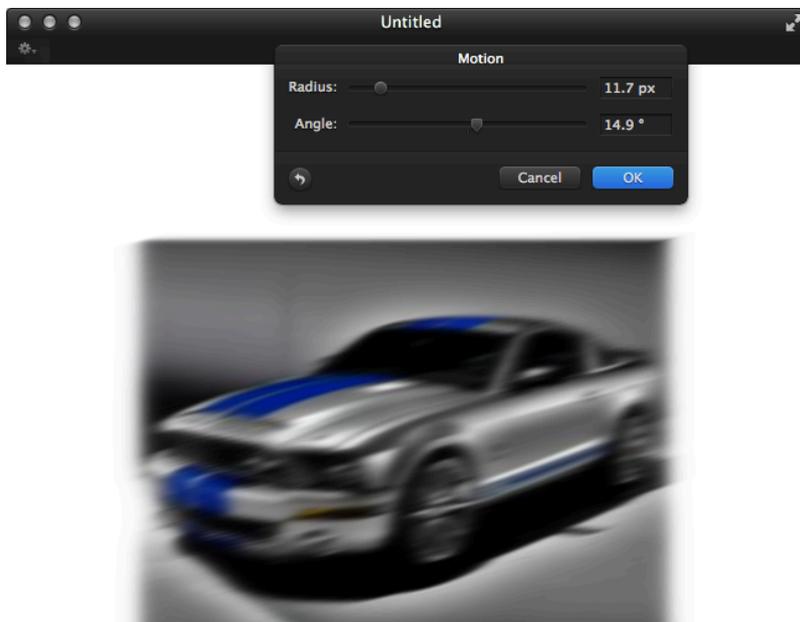
Step 2: Lighting and darkening the background and shadows

To make sure our picture gets that dark mood across, we should make sure that our shadows are at its darkest possible - that means we should bring the “Lighten Shadows” section down to 0%, and the “Darken Highlights” section to around 67.2%. This will help develop the background in the picture, adding a nice touch to it.



Step 3: Adding the speed

To make our object appear faster, we are going to use the motion effect to make our picture blurrier, partially appearing as if it is moving by at speed. To do this, bring the Radius to around 11.7px, and the Angle to 14.9 degrees. Don't worry if the picture doesn't look attractive yet - the color editing will make it look better!

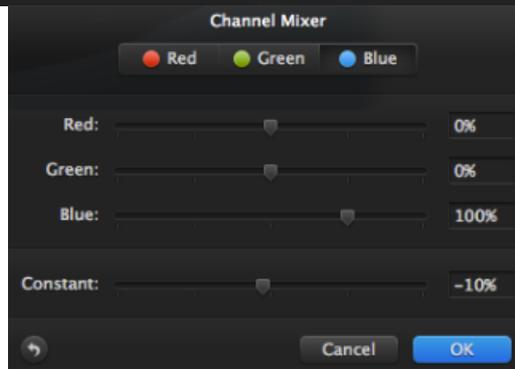
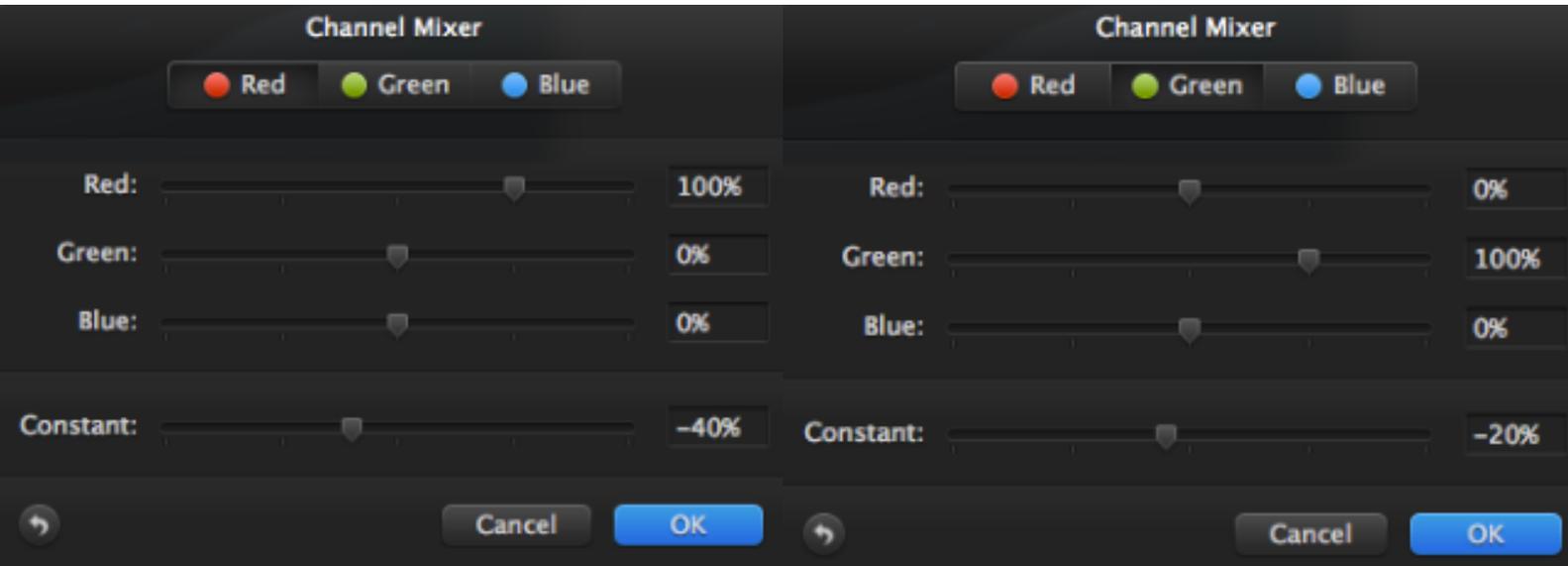


(All effects in Pixelmator can be searched in the Effects Browser)

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Step 4: Main color changer

We are now going to use the color mixer to adjust the color variation in our image - this step sort of decides what your overall image color is going to be, so feel free to play around with that and choose a shade which you prefer. For my image, I changed to Constant of Red to -40%, the Constant of Green to -20%, and the Constant of Blue to -10% respectively.



If you have used the same variations as I have in the Channel Mixer, your photo should have ended up something like this:

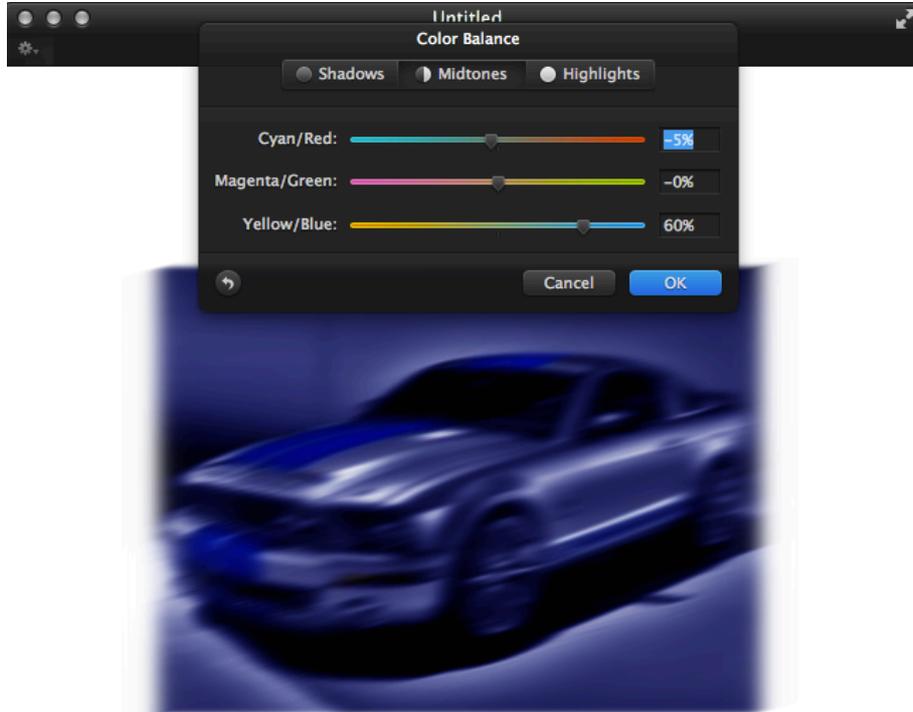


Don't be alarmed if it hasn't , there is no fixed result for this!

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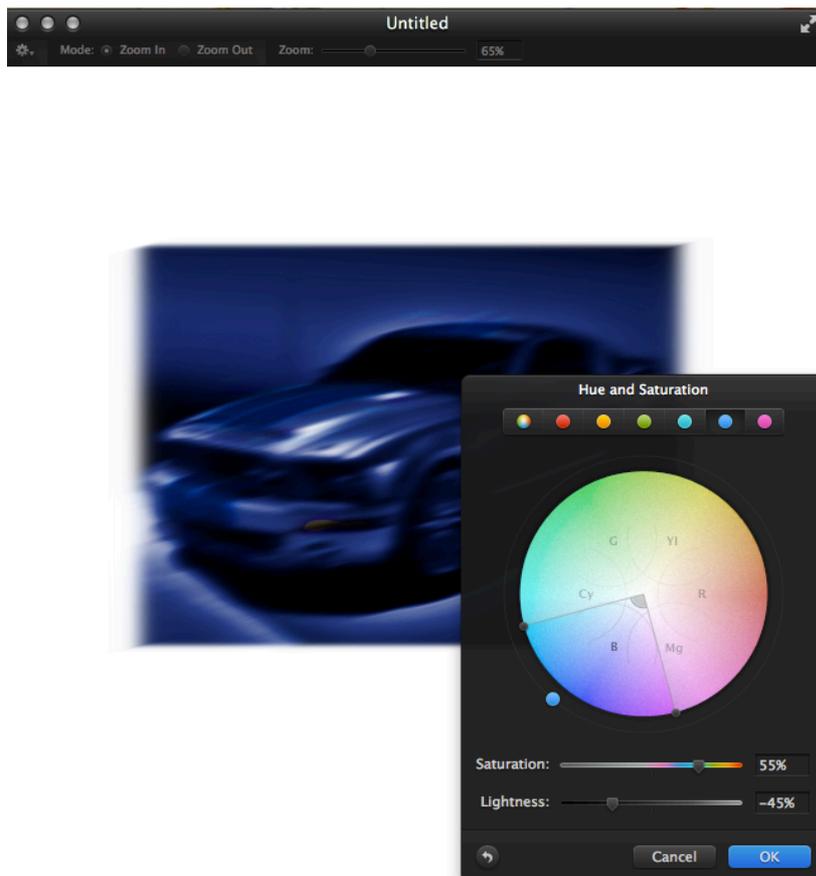
Step 5: Darkening the mood

We will now use Color Balance to make our picture a bit darker than before - To do this, you should keep Cyan/Red at around -5%, Magenta/Green at 0%, and Yellow/Blue at around 60%. Again, get familiar with those functions as they are quite influential upon the image.



Step 6: Intensifying the atmosphere

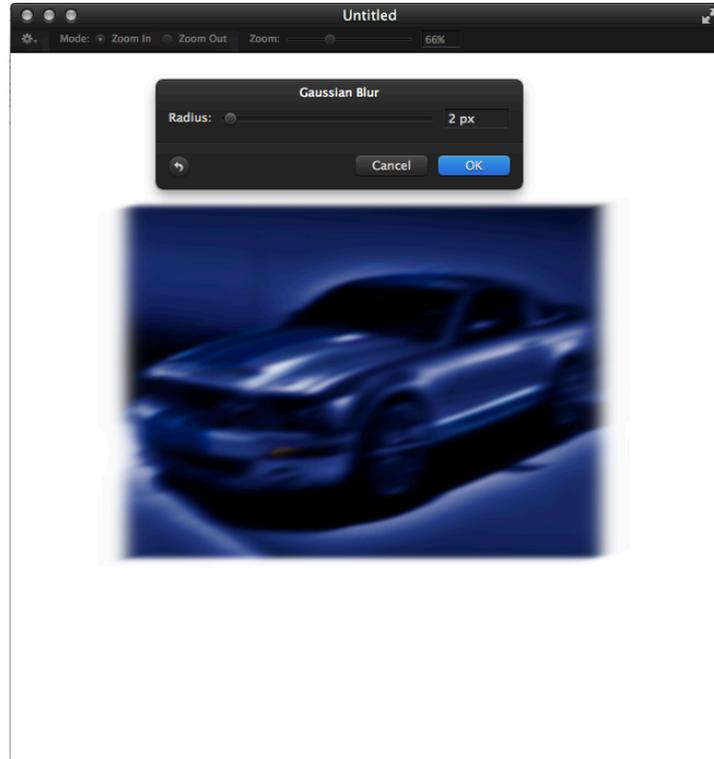
To make our picture slightly bluer (as this is the Neon Effect), we are going to use the Hue and Saturation tool to achieve the desired colors. For this, change the Saturation to around 55% and the Lightness to -45%, as we are trying to darken the picture.



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Step 7: Gaussian Blur

The Gaussian Blur, a Pixelmator favorite, will now add a nice touch to our Neon Blur effect - like the Motion Effect, the Gaussian Blur will assist the Motion Effect in making the object even blurrier - make sure that the Gaussian Blur doesn't have too much impact - go over the limits and you risk hiding all the curves and shadows in the photo, so 2px seems like an appropriate number for this.



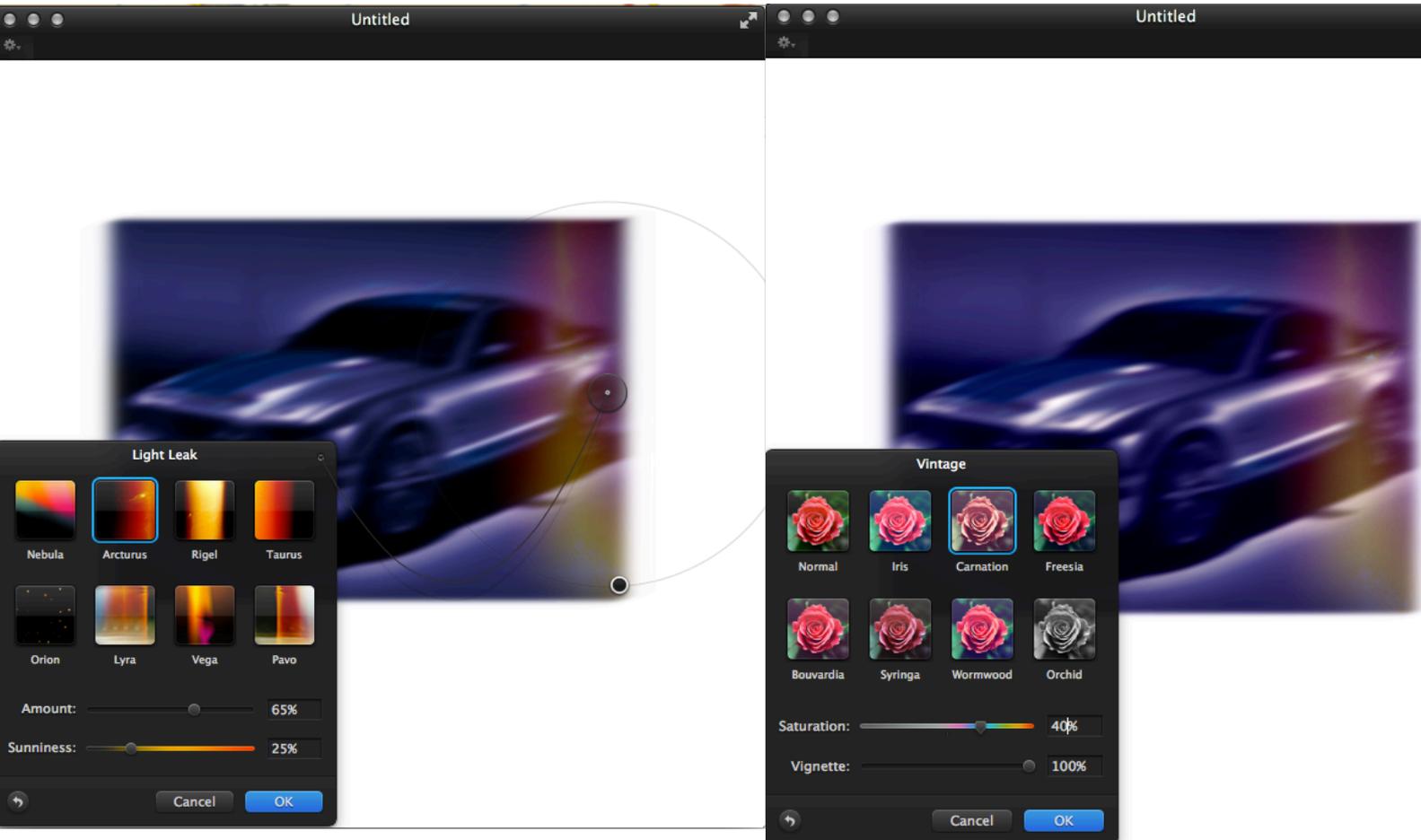
Step 8: Extras

Congratulations! You have learnt how to use the Neon Blur Effect on your photos! But remember, "Creativity stops where you want it to," and with the new release of Pixelmator 2.2 be sure to try out some of the new features available! Below are some examples you could use:

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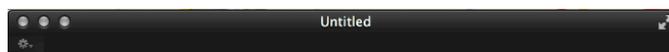
Extras: Vintage Effect

For this add on, you can the newly formed, easier to use Light Leak Effect to add a ray of sunshine to your photo - you can then use the Vintage effect to cover up the mix of modern and old - keep the amount at about 65% and the Sunniness at 25%, and for the Vintage, select around 40% Saturation and 100% Vignette to keep the blend together.



Extras: Exact opposite

Don't feel limited with your options - feel free to explore and try new things out in Pixelmator! Below is an example of the exact opposite of the outcome. I used the Curves effect to make the photo bright, happy and lively!



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Thank you very much for looking at yet another one of our Tutorials - hope to see you soon again on Pixelmatortutorials.net!