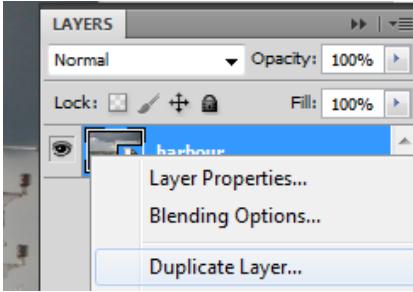
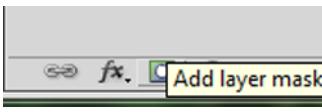


create a watercolour effect painting with PHOTOSHOP

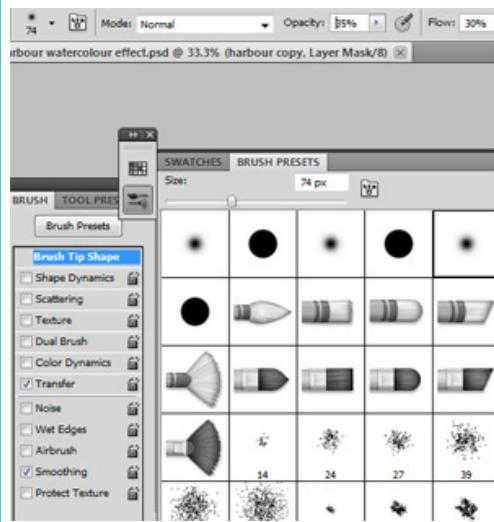
1	<p>Start with a new document large enough to accommodate the size of image you want to work with. Make sure it's between 250 - 300 dpi and the mode is set to RGB.</p>
2	<p>Place or open your image (make sure you have a copy of the original for future use). It will appear in the Layers Panel. Double click on the name to rename it to something appropriate, eg, I have called mine 'Harbour'.</p>
3	<p>Go to Window>Layers to display the Layers panel. Right click on the picture layer and select Duplicate Layer from the drop-down list. The layer will be named the same as the original layer with the word 'copy'.</p> 
4	<p>Working on the Copy layer, go to Filter > Blur> Smart Blur. Enter values similar to those in the screen capture below. You may find the Radius and Threshold settings are too sharp or too blurry for some details so see what works best for you. Make sure that Quality is set to High and the Mode is Normal. Click OK when you're happy with it.</p> 
5	<p>Create a Layer Mask by either clicking on the square with a central white circle icon at the bottom of the Layers Panel - see below - or go to Layer>layer Mask>Reveal All.</p> 

6 Select the Brush Tool from the Tools menu, then select a soft brush from the brush options. (Window>Brush Presets)
Make sure black is set as the foreground colour.

You will need to adjust the brush setting depending on the level of detail you want to preserve.:

- * For fine detail such as the pattern on a dress or the features of a face you might want to keep Opacity and Flow to around 80% .
- * Where you have expanses of fields, trees, foliage, skies, etc, you can drop Opacity and Flow down to between 20 - 30%.

I'm used a soft round brush with low opacity and flow to brush around the sea and sky.



I changed the brush settings to Opacity and Flow to 85% and brushed around the boats in the harbour. and other elements I wanted greater detail in.

7 Flatten the image by right clicking on this layer and selecting Flatten Image from the bottom of the drop-down list.

You will see that it defaults to a Background. You can double-click on the name and re-name it to something more sensible. I have called mine Stage One Harbour.

This is how mine is looking at this stage:

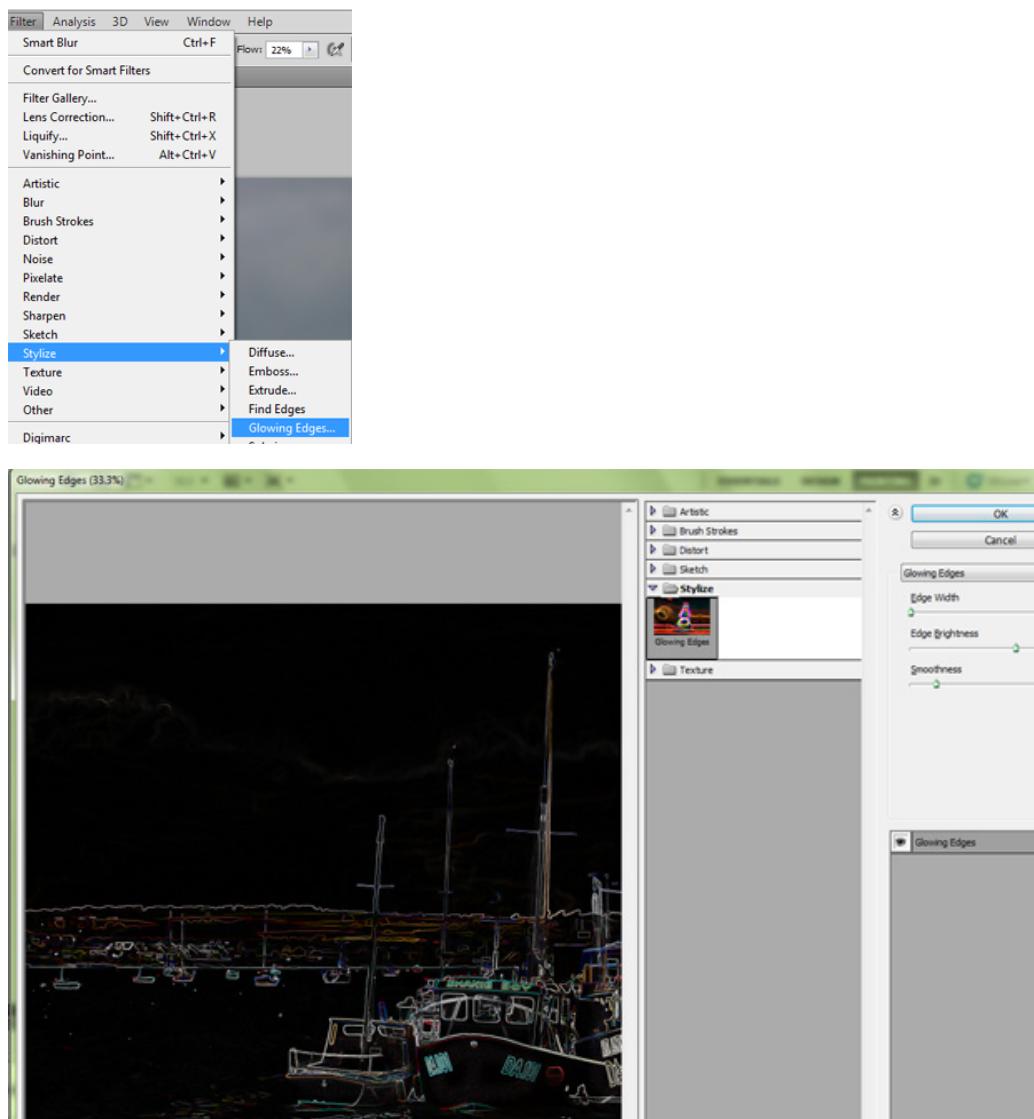


8 Duplicate your new single layer and rename it - I called mine Sketch Harbour.

9

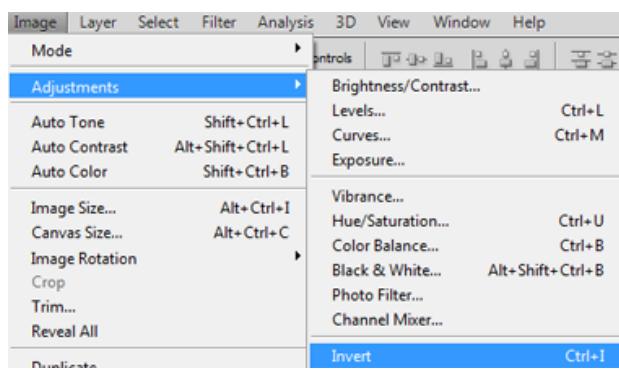
On your Sketch layer, go to Filter>Stylise>Glowing Edges.

Again, try out the settings to see what works best with your image. The settings below give me the effect I'm looking for at this stage.



10

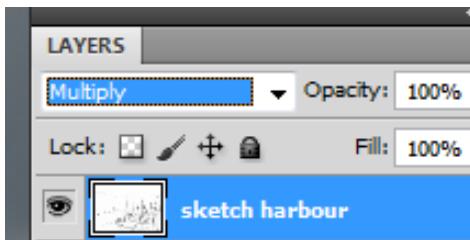
Go to Image>Adjustments>Invert (Ctl - I)



11 Go to Image>Adjustments>Desaturate. This is how mine is looking now.



12 On the Layers Panel, change the Blend Mode to Multiply

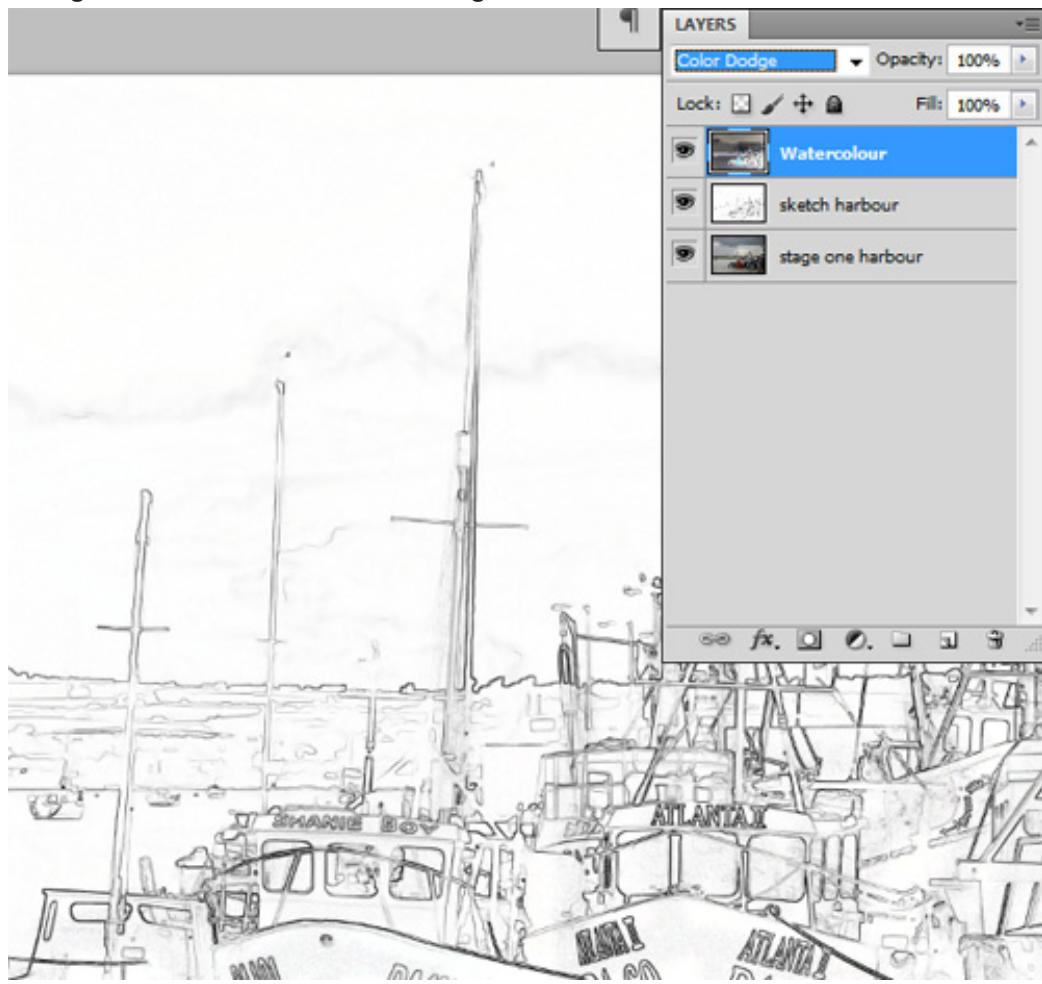


13 Now duplicate the Stage One layer (ie not the Sketch layer) and call it something like Watercolour.

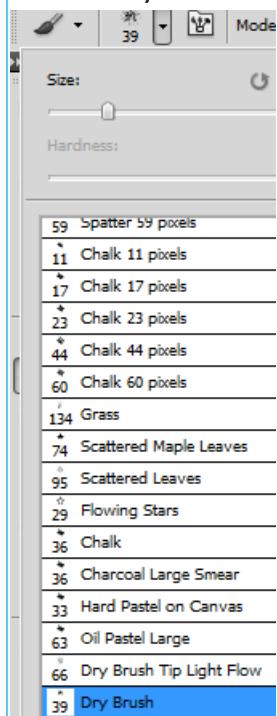
14 On this layer, go to Image>Adjustments>Invert

15 Move (click and drag) the layer to the top of the layer stack.

Change its blend mode to Colour Dodge:



16 Select a dry brush



17

Make sure the foreground colour is black.

Set Opacity and Flow to around 20 - 25% and paint over the elements you want coloured. This brush paints away the top layer letting the colour below show through.

Again, adjust the opacity and flow to suit your image and try to build up colour density with successive strokes.

If you go too far, either undo (Ctl-Z) or change the foreground colour to white and paint back the top layer, again doing it gently.

Here is the original image:



and here is.....

the final watercolour effect.

