

This website has cookies for a better user experience. If you proceed, you agree to our [Cookies Policy](#). [Close](#)



·Home Page· ·Photogallery· ·Gimp Tutorials· ·Photography Guides·
·Italian Website·

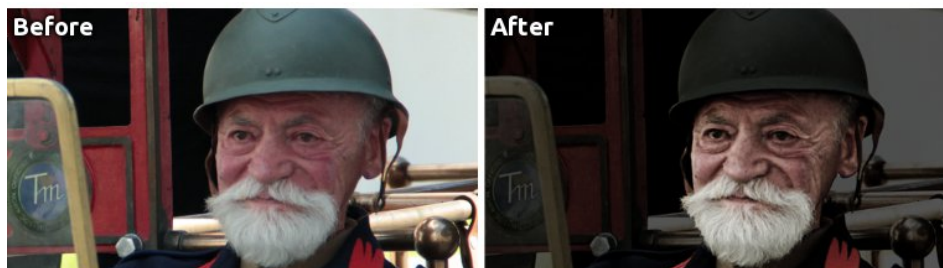
Dragan Effect, Gimp Tutorial

In this tutorial you will learn how to proceed to get Dragan effect.



This is my personal **Dragan Effect tutorial for Gimp**. Sometimes draganized pictures could be amazing, I suggest you to try this dramatic effect on portrait photos. Draganize a photo is a long work, anyway with the help of this tutorial, you will find it very easy. **Dragan Effect** takes its name from the Polish photographer **Andrzej Dragan**. His photos are a little but scary, but really interesting.

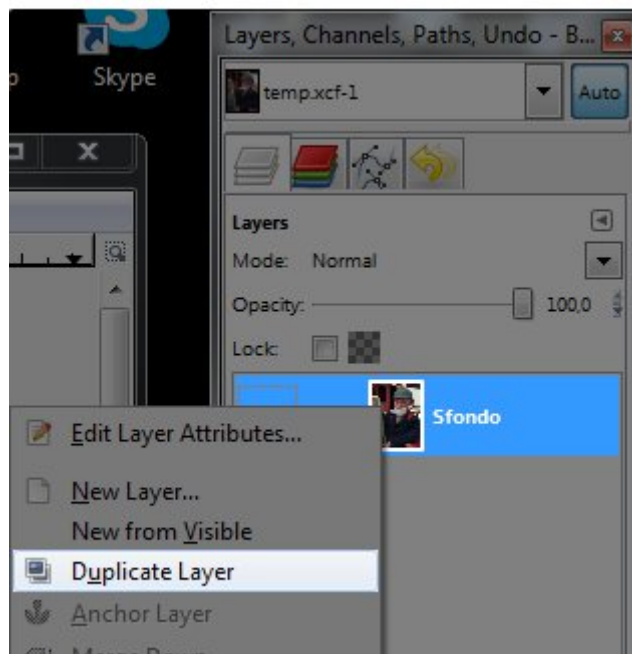
A funny thing to know about Andrzej Dragan is that he doesn't like to shoot photos, he likes to work on them. Each one of Dragan's photos has taken many hours in post production, in some cases a month of work. So you can't hope to get the same result in half an hour :D



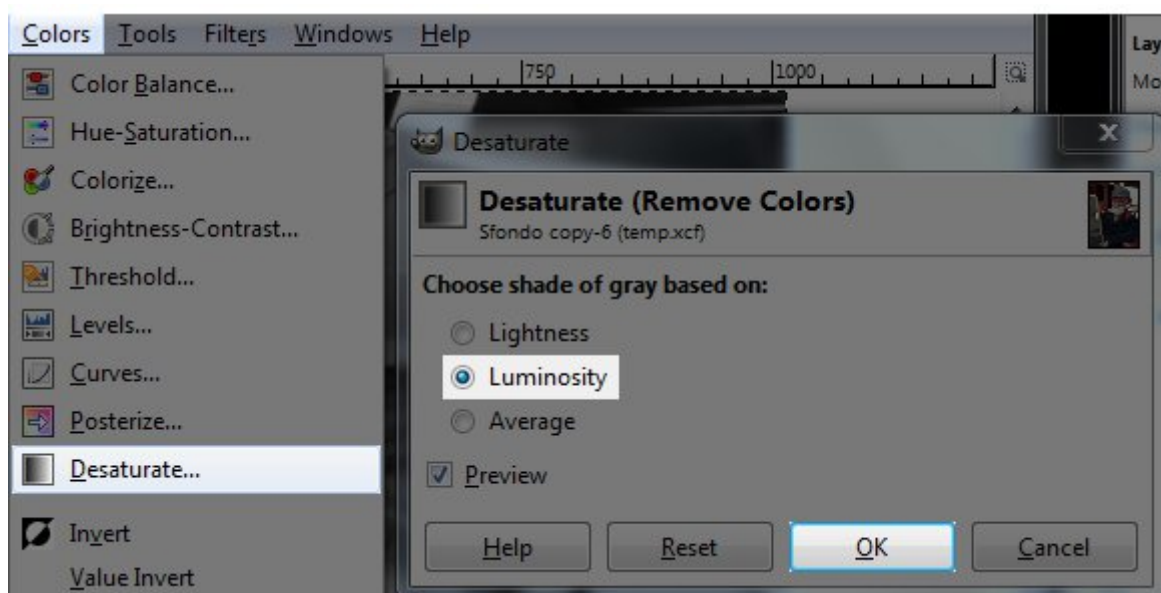
This effect, similar to [bleach bypass](#), is the digital manipulation of an image, to make it more dramatic. The main features of a **draganized photo** are a disproportionate increase of contrast, high sharpness of small details such as wrinkles and hair, and skin color altered, usually toward the greenish or grayish.

I have to apologize for an error that you will find. In the screenshots of dragan tutorial, the background layer is named Sfondo instead of Background, sorry. "Sfondo" is the Italian word for background.

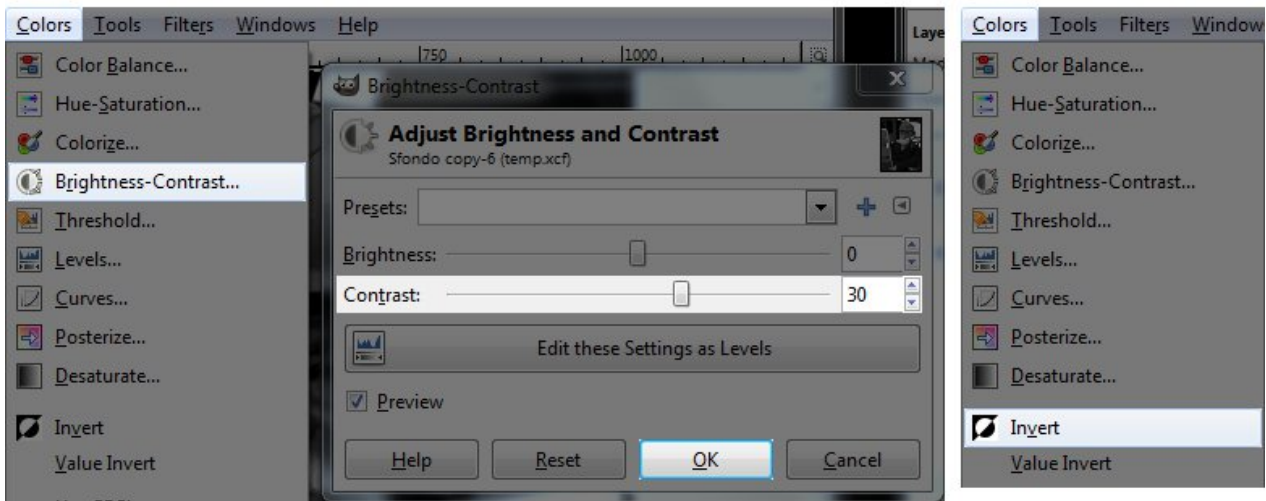
1) First of all open **Gimp** and your image, then **duplicate the background layer**. Just **Right Click - Duplicate Layer**. If you can't find the Levels Window, press **Ctrl+L** on your keyboard. In the rest of the tutorial this operation will be called just **Duplicate Layer**.



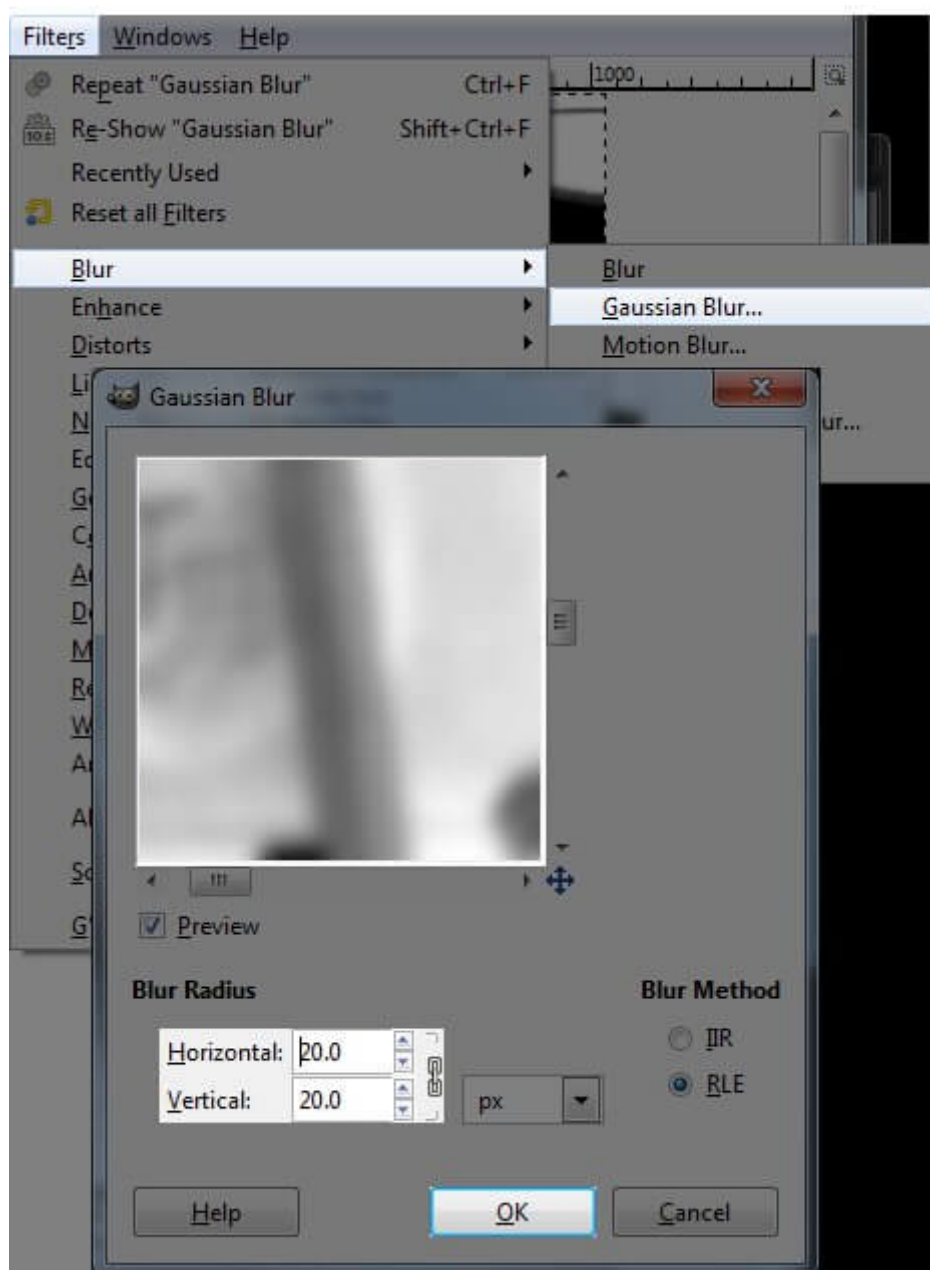
2) Now **desaturate** the **background-copy** layer, by click **Colors - Desaturate**, choose Luminosity method, then press **Ok**.



3) Now we need to **enhance the contrast** of the black and white image, so click **Colors - Brightness-Contrast**, and set **+30** of Contrast, then press **Ok**. After that, invert colors by click **Colors - Invert**.

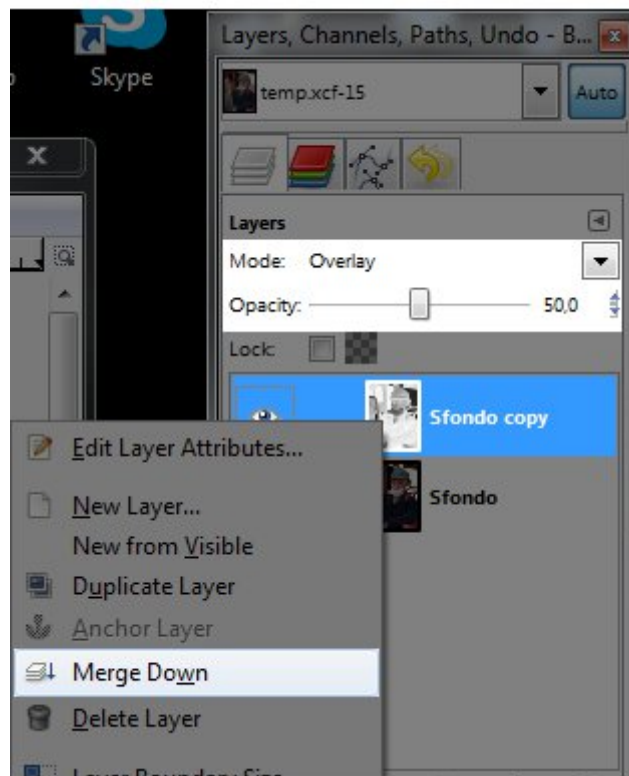


4) At this point you need to **blur the background-copy layer**. Proceed by going to **Filters - Blur - Gaussian Blur**. The radius depends from the size of your photo, the right result is if you can see the shapes, but not the details. I chose a radius of **20px**.

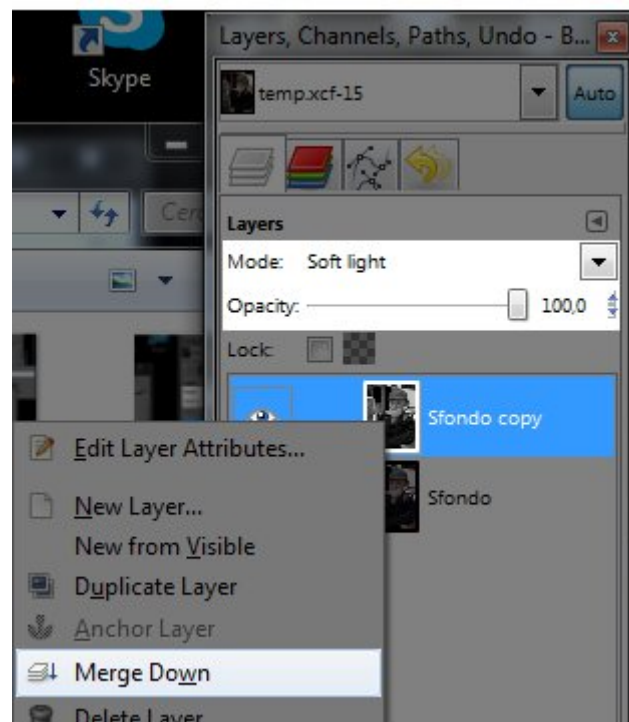


Continues after the advertising...

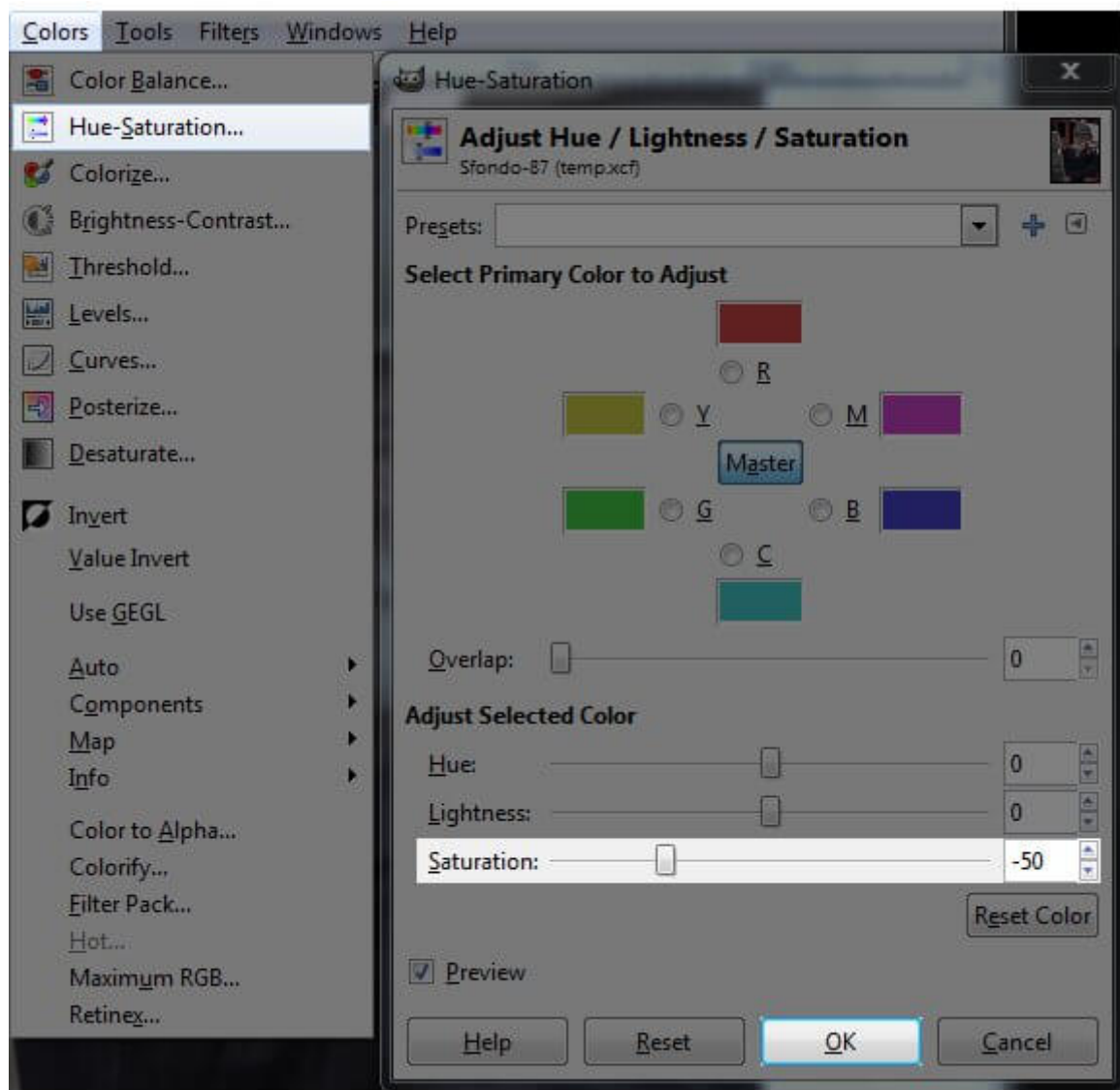
5) Now **merge down the background-copy layer**, select as blending mode "**Overlay**", and set the **opacity to 50%**. (**Right click - Merge Down**). Now it seems to be a **Dragan photo**.



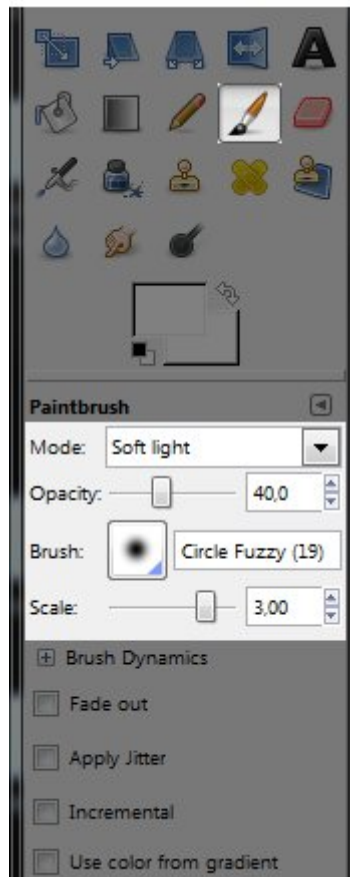
6) Duplicate the **Background Layer** (**Right click - Duplicate layer** on the layer window), then **desaturate** (**Colors - Desaturate**, select **Luminosity**), and **merge down**, selecting **Soft Light** as blending mode, set **opacity to 100%**.



7) A characteristic of an optimal **Dragan Effect** is a photo with weak colors. Proceed by going on **Colors - Hue-Saturation**, and set **saturation to -50**, then press **Ok**.



At this point your image should appear as an old and faded photo. Now you need to accentuate the wrinkle of the subject with light and dark, using the brush tool. Remember to brush all the details carefully, it may take some time, but is probably the most important step to get a realistic **Dragan effect with Gimp**. Setup a brush as you can see below .



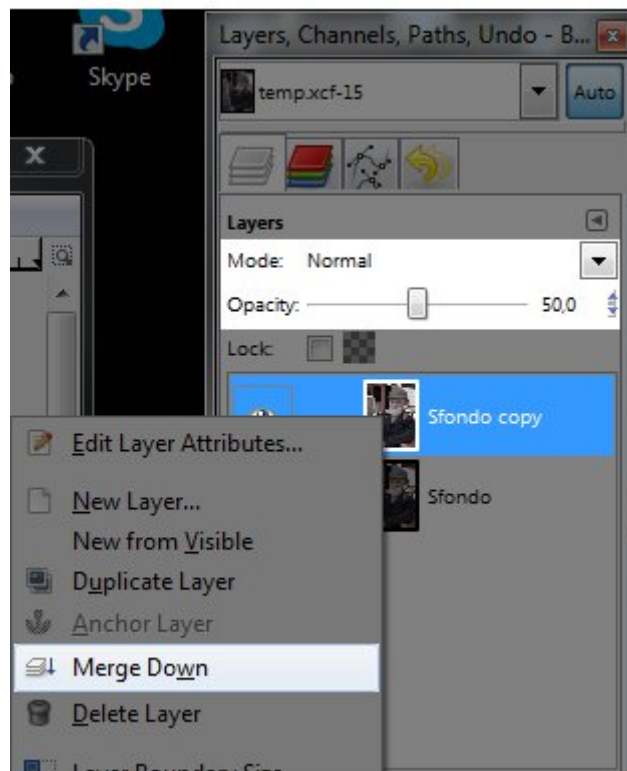
9) Duplicate the background layer, then brush it. You have to use **white for enhance light**, and **black for shadows**.

For a better understanding you can refer to left side of the image below. **Green is the white**, and **red is the black**.

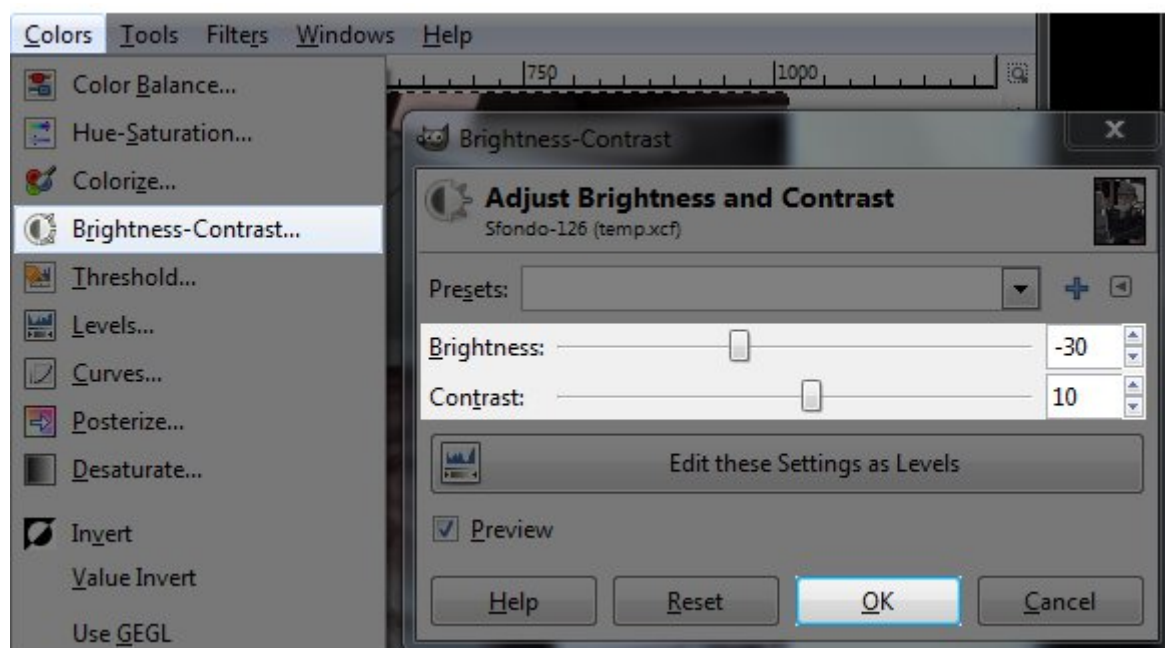
The scale of the brush should be varied according to the size of the details, to get a precise result.



10) Merge down the layer, choose Blending mode **Normal**, and **opacity to 50%**.

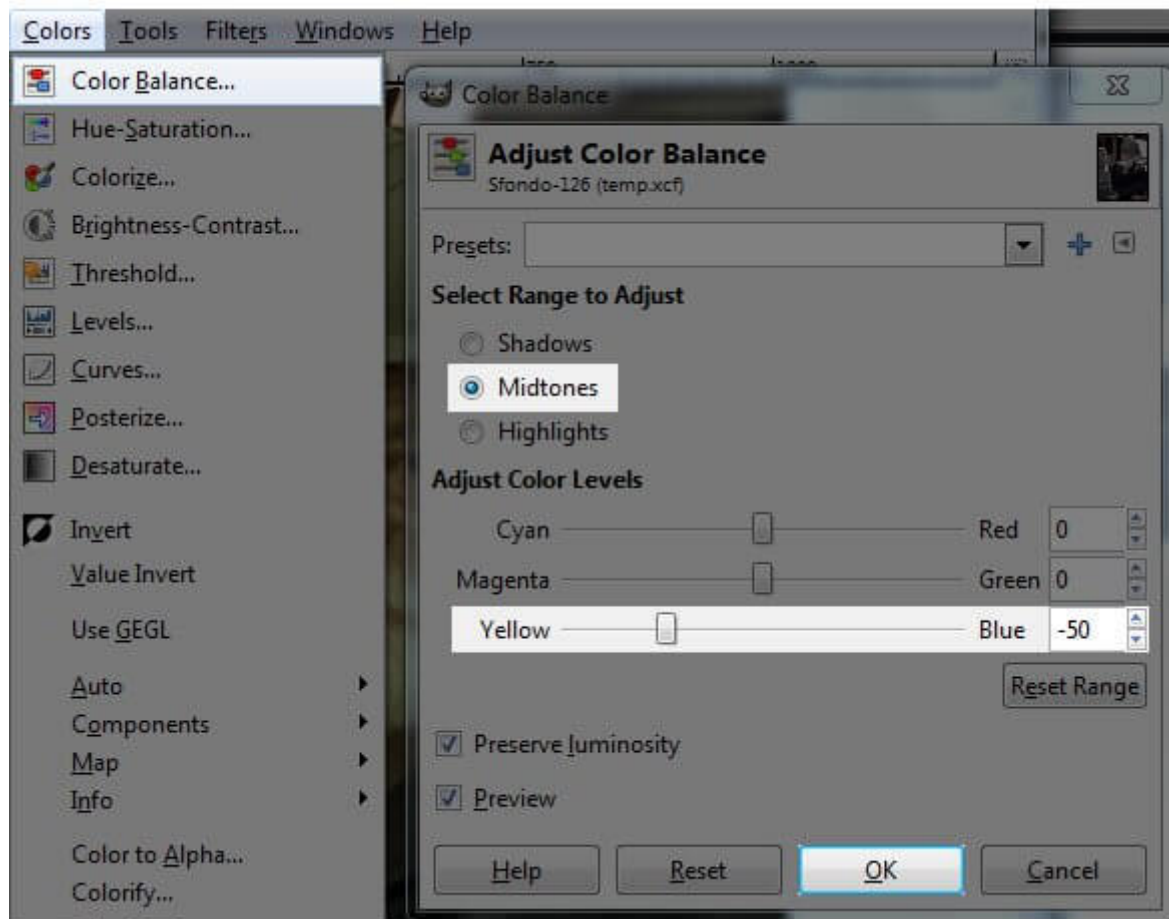


11) Now **duplicate layer** for the last time, then set the **Brightness** of the upper layer to **-30** and **contrast** to **+10**, then press **Ok**.

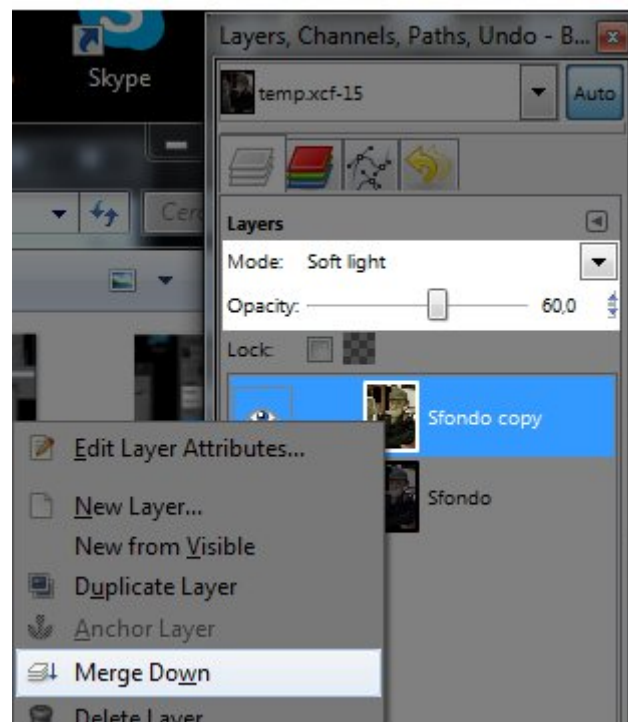


Continues after the advertising...

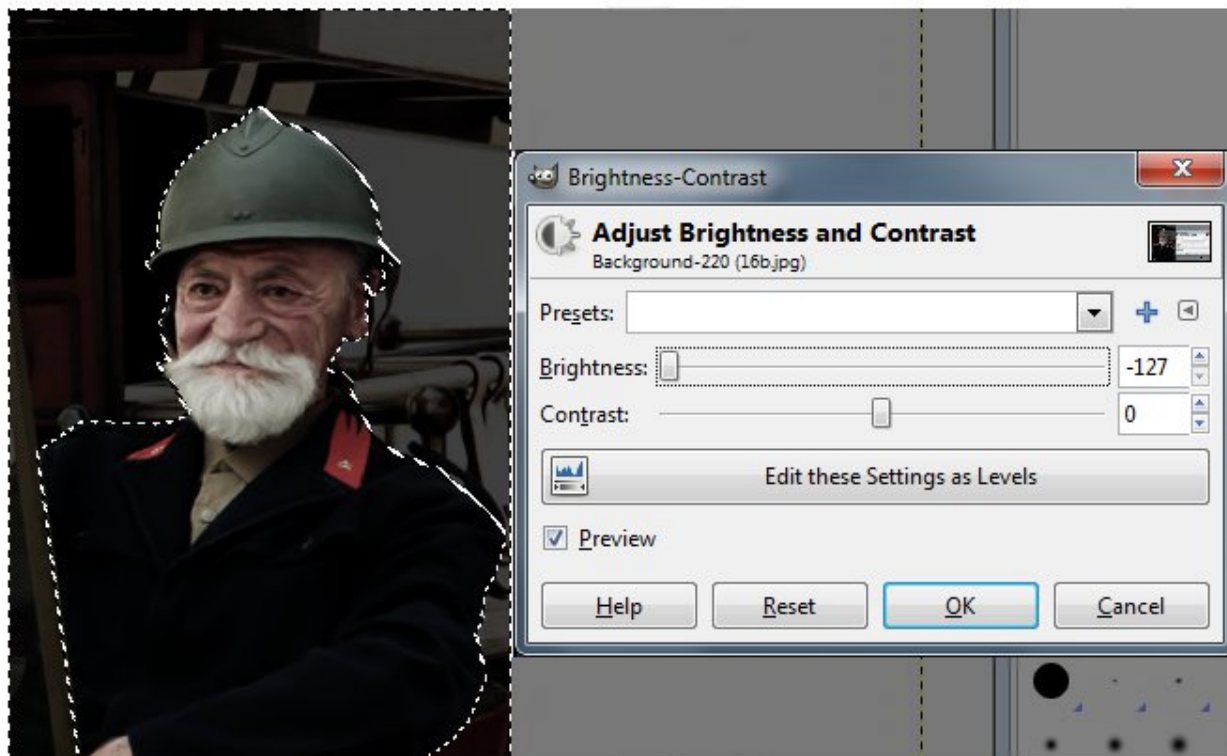
12) Setup color balance (**Colors - Color Balance**) only for midtones to **-50 Yellow/Blue**, then press **Ok**.



13) Now **merge down** The Background-Copy y with **Soft light** as blending mode, **opacity 60%**.

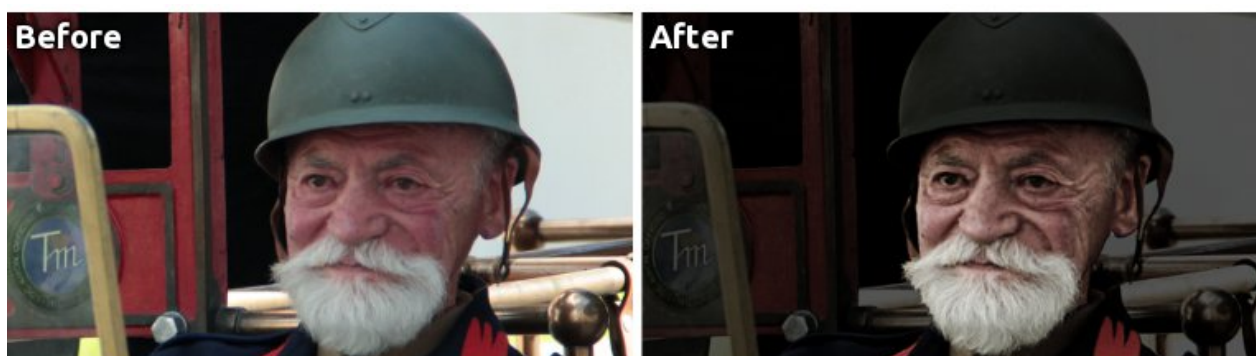


14) The work is almost finished, y ou just need to select and dark en the background. Proceed by **selecting the subject** with your favourite mask, then **invert selection** and **feather it**. Now **modify the Brightness** until you are satisfied (**Colors - Brightness-Contrast**).



After make my selection, I realized that the result would have been better without selecting the helmet, I proceeded changing the selection and this is the result:

Obviously any one of the parameters of this tutorial can be varied as you desire. If you like the dramatic photos, you may be interested also to [bleach bypass tutorial](#).



← GO BACK



Italian pages, but any update about English version will be posted in English.

Contact Us



Use of these tutorials, for non commercial purposes, is allowed only if you put a link to the homepage of this website.