Soft filter effect

1. Open document **flowers.jpg**
2. Go to **Layers > Duplicate Layer...**
3. Go to **Filters > Blur > Gaussian Blur...**, and set Radius between 13 -15
4. Adjust the Opacity to 30 - 50%

Soften the edge of a selection

1. **File > Revert**
2. Draw a 2" square with **Rectangular Marquee**
3. Copy and paste into (500 pixels Width and 500 Height) new document
4. Go back to your old selection
5. Choose **Select > Feather** with Radius **5** and copy and paste into (500 pixels Width and 500 Height) new document
6. Compare results

For a very subtle softening, you can type a value less than one pixel (for example, .5).
The larger the value, the larger the feathered or blurred transition.

You can also soften the edges of a selection by switching to the Quick Mask mode and using a soft-edged brush to adjust the edges.