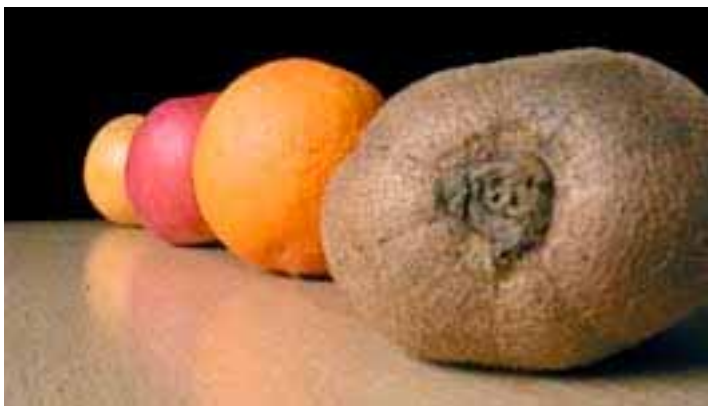


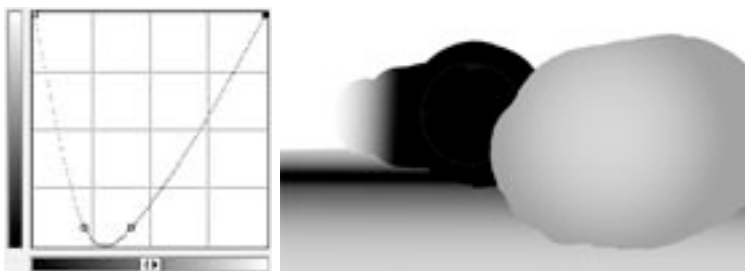
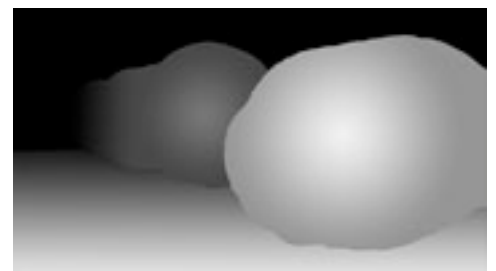


Here is a short tutorial by Tom Kufner about how he uses the **McBlur** filter to enhance digital photos:



First, I took the photo with my Olympus 5050z digital camera. As you can see the "Depth-Of-Field" of a prosumer-class digital camera is not that great. The image just looks "too sharp"! A shallower Depth-Of-Field would make the scene look much more dramatic. So I had to add some touch-ups in Photoshop.

I opened my photo in Photoshop and added a new layer over the background. This temporary layer will just serve for painting the depth mask (Z-buffer). I filled the whole layer with black, and then I used the Photoshop's selection and gradient tools to roughly paint the scene's depth map. (The whiter areas in the depth map layer are closer to the camera.)



Then I used the Photoshop's Curves tool to select the depths in the photo that I wanted to remain in focus. This step will convert my depth map into blur-radius map required for the **McBlur** filter. Notice that the **McBlur** filter will blur the dark areas less than the bright areas in the selection mask. In other words, the image areas represented with dark selection mask will remain in focus.

I copied the depth map layer, entered the Photoshop's Quick Mask mode, and pasted the depth map into the selection mask. I returned to the image mode, selected the background layer, and entered **McBlur**.



Finally, I applied the **McBlur** filter with radius set to 30 to achieve the Depth-Of-Field that I wanted!

