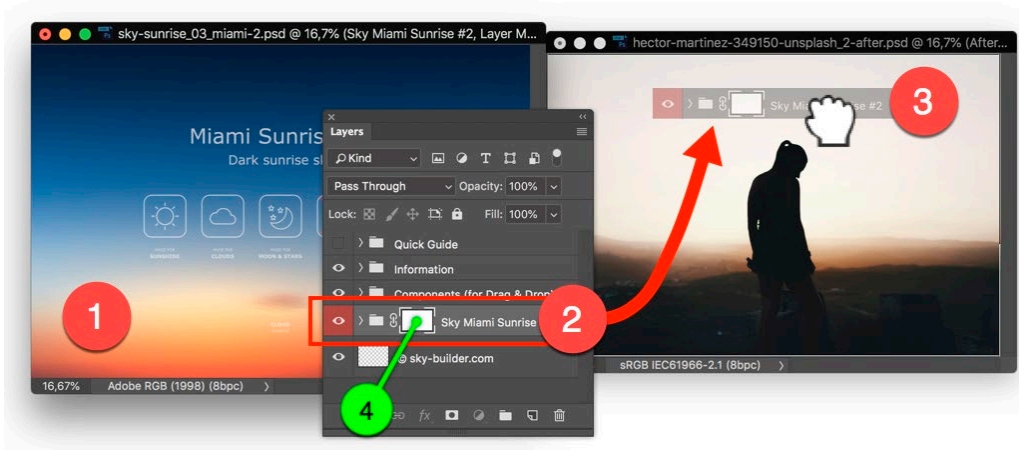# Sky Gradients by FEINGOLD
PDF Guide

Photorealistic and customizable skies for image editing.
Perfect to replace any sky.

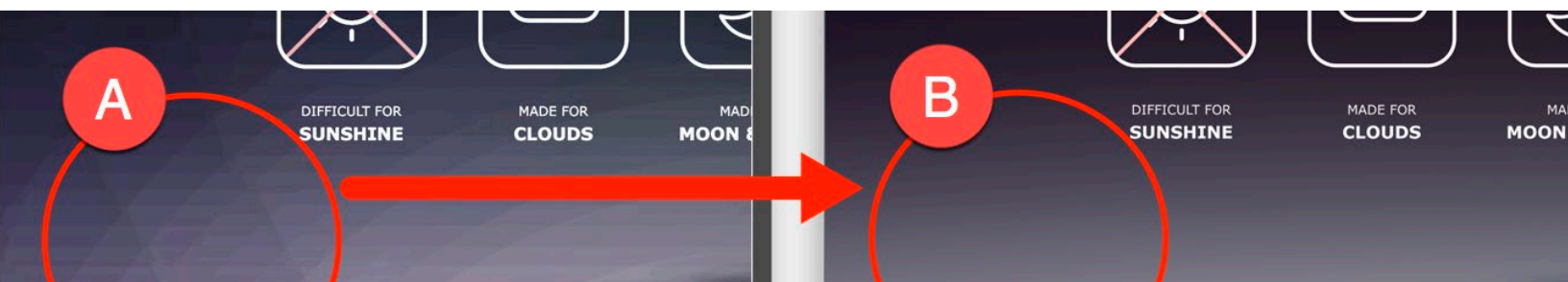Learn more at www.sky-builder.com

Quick use

1. Drag & drop the folder containing the sky (sky folder) from the layer panel **(1, 2)** on to your photo **(3)**.
   If you see banding (visible steps & artifacts) in the gradient, please read the next paragraph about "How to avoid banding".
2. Use "free transform" (***Edit > Free Transform***) on the sky folder to make the sky fit your photo.
   You can transform the sky folder as often as you like - there will be no loss in quality.
4. Use a layer mask **(4)** on the sky folder to blend in the new sky and adjust it suitable for your photo.
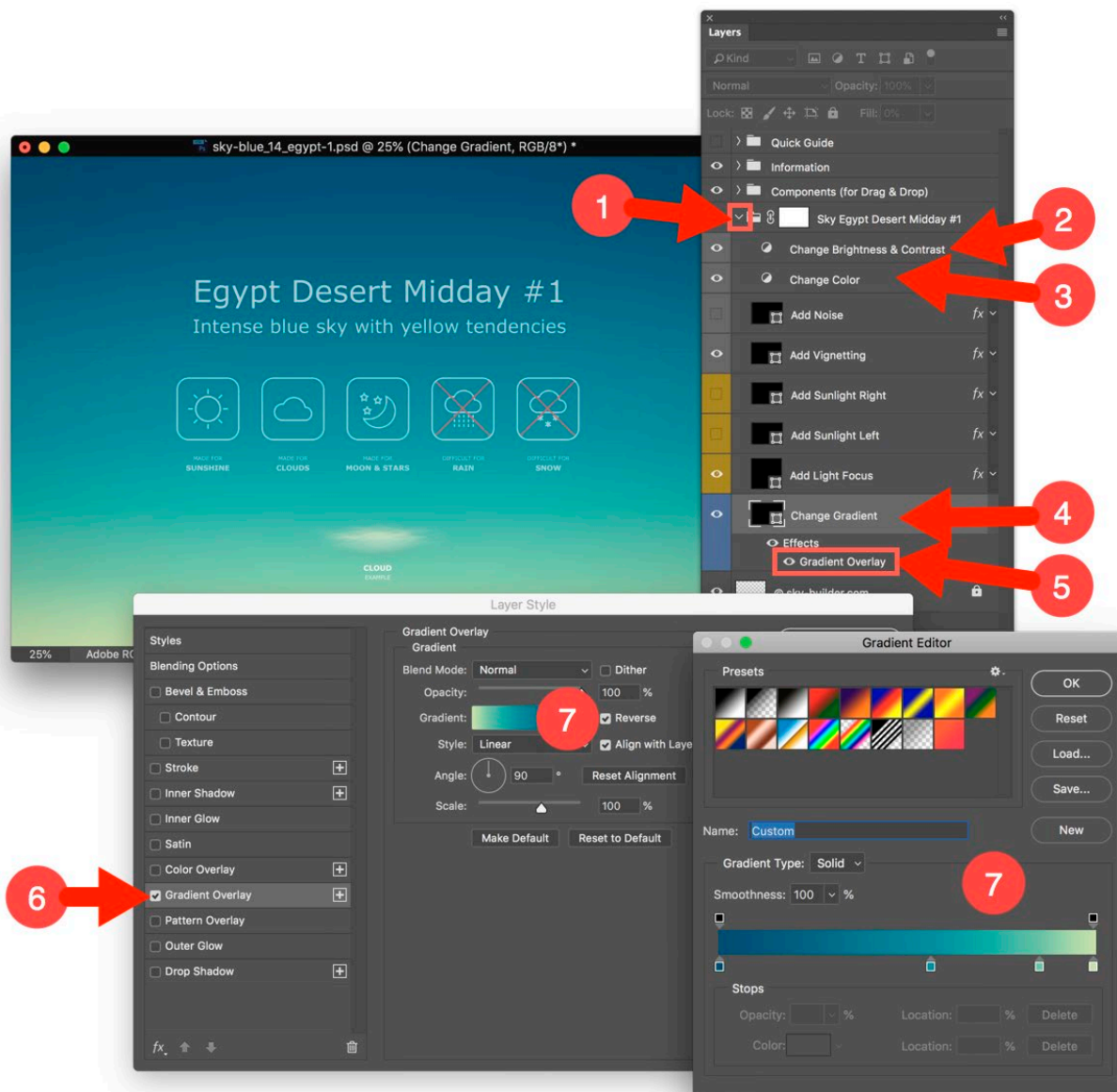

How to avoid banding (visible steps & artifacts) in dark areas of gradients

1. Open the PSD file of the sky in Photoshop and make your changes to the sky if necessary **(A)**
2. Change from 8bit to 16bit color mode by selecting ***Image > Mode > 16 Bits/Channel***
3. Choose ***Layer > Flatten Image*** to flatten the sky to one layer **(B)**
4. If you can still see banding, add some noise to the gradient of the sky using ***Filter > Noice > Add Noice***.
   Set the amount to something between 1 and 2, choose "Gaussian" and click "OK".
5. You're done, you can switch back to 8bit color mode now by selecting ***Image > Mode > 8 Bits/Channel***.
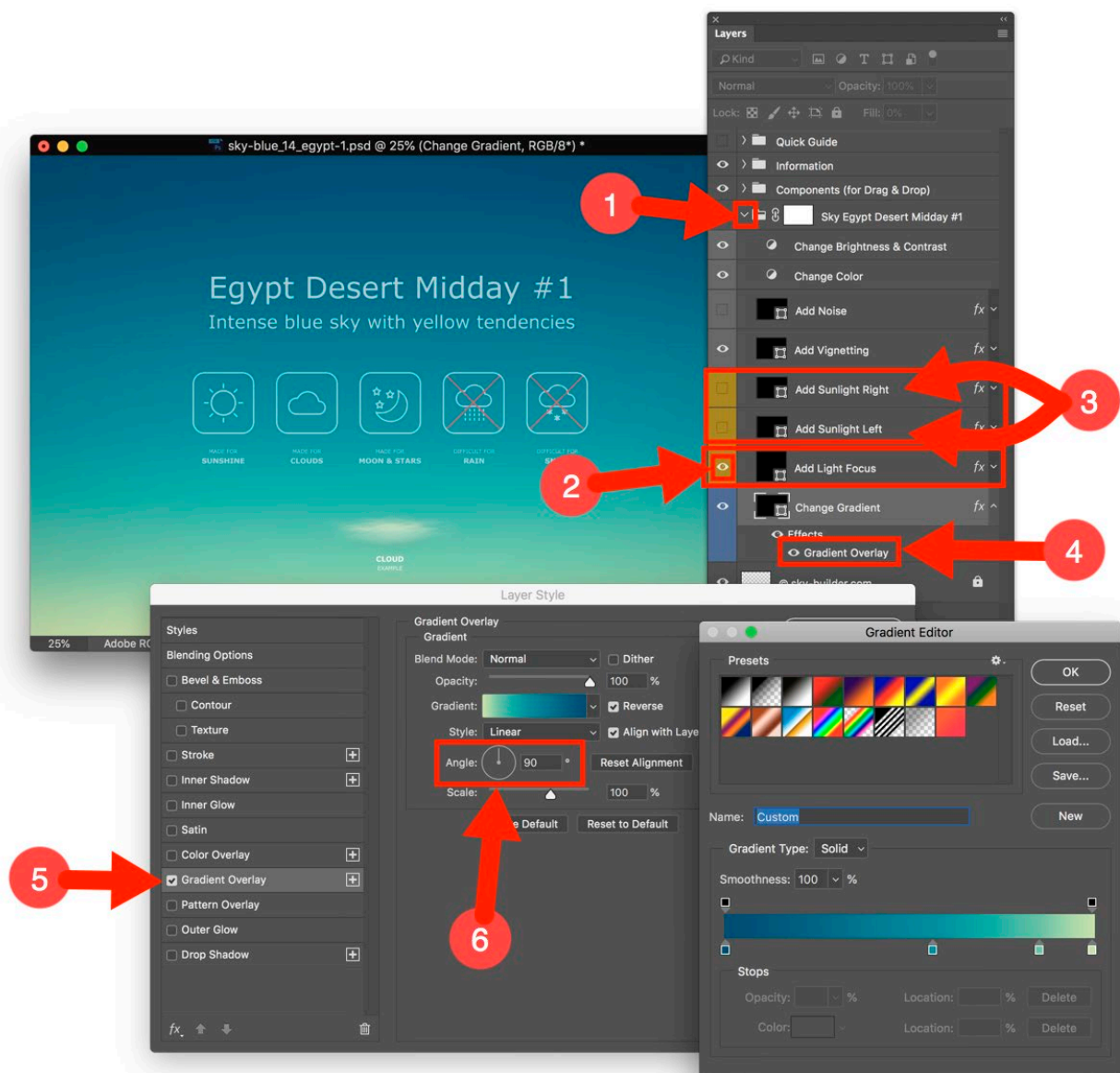
Change brightness & color

- Open the sky folder by clicking on the arrow next to it **(1)**.
- For **quick** corrections in **brightness & contrast** use the prepared "*Change Brightness & Contrast*" *layer* **(2)**.
- For **quick color** changes use the prepared "*Change Color*" *layer* **(3)**.

- **More advanced changes** can be made by editing the **layer style (5)** of the
  "*Change Gradient*" *layer* **(4)** (*Gradient Overlay* **(6)** *> Gradient* **(7)**).

Change light

- Open the sky folder by clicking on the arrow next to it **(1)**.
- Add a centered light focus by activating the "Add Light Focus" layer **(2)**.
- Add a light direction from left or right by showing/hiding the "Add Sunlight from Lest/Right" layers **(3)**.
  This option is not available for every sky
- For more intense changes in light direction, edit the layer style **(5)** of the
  "Change Gradient" layer (Gradient Overlay **(5)** > Angle **(6)**).

Add a photographic finish

- Open the sky folder by clicking on the arrow next to it **(1)**.
- For improved softness of the color gradients and more realistic sensor noice, please use the "Add Noice" layer **(2)**.
- Use the "Add Vignetting" layer **(3)** to simulate light fall-off towards the edges.

*If you have any **questions** just drop me a message, I am always happy to help.*

Contact

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