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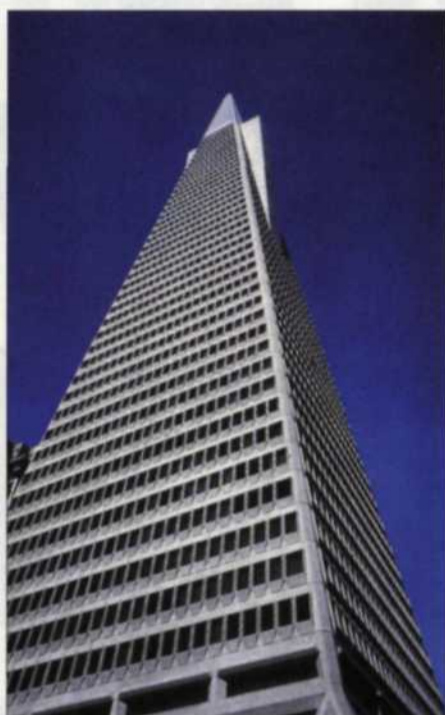
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THIS MONTH'S COVER

Jack and Sue Drafahl



Original image

Recently, we had the pleasure of working with a new editing program from Ulead System called PhotoImpact 4.1. At about the same time, we also received a plug-in program from MetaCreations called KPT5. As we surfed through the PhotoImpact program, we discovered that it would accept these new KPT5 plug-ins, even though they were primarily designed for Adobe Photoshop.



Orb-it screen with default glass spheres

We decided to put them to work, so we pulled up a picture we had shot in San Francisco years earlier. We had saved it because it was a great candidate for special effect applications. We used a magic wand to select the sky, and then proceeded to the plug-in filters section. As we scanned down the list, we saw a plug-in called Orb-it.

When the KPT5 Orb-it screen came up, we found that it created glass spheres with whatever bitmap you wanted as a surface. There were several controls for transparency, size, reflection and number.

In a couple of minutes we had a preview image we liked, so we applied it to the main image. When we switched back to the main editing screen, we were amazed how quick and easy it was to create such an unusual special effect.

Then the last piece of the puzzle fell into place. A quick JPEG version sent via email to *Photo Lab Management* and the cover was a wrap. So, if you think creating special effects is beyond your expertise, think again. It may be as simple as pulling down a plug-in filter and applying it to your favorite image. 