

So What is the Orton Effect ?

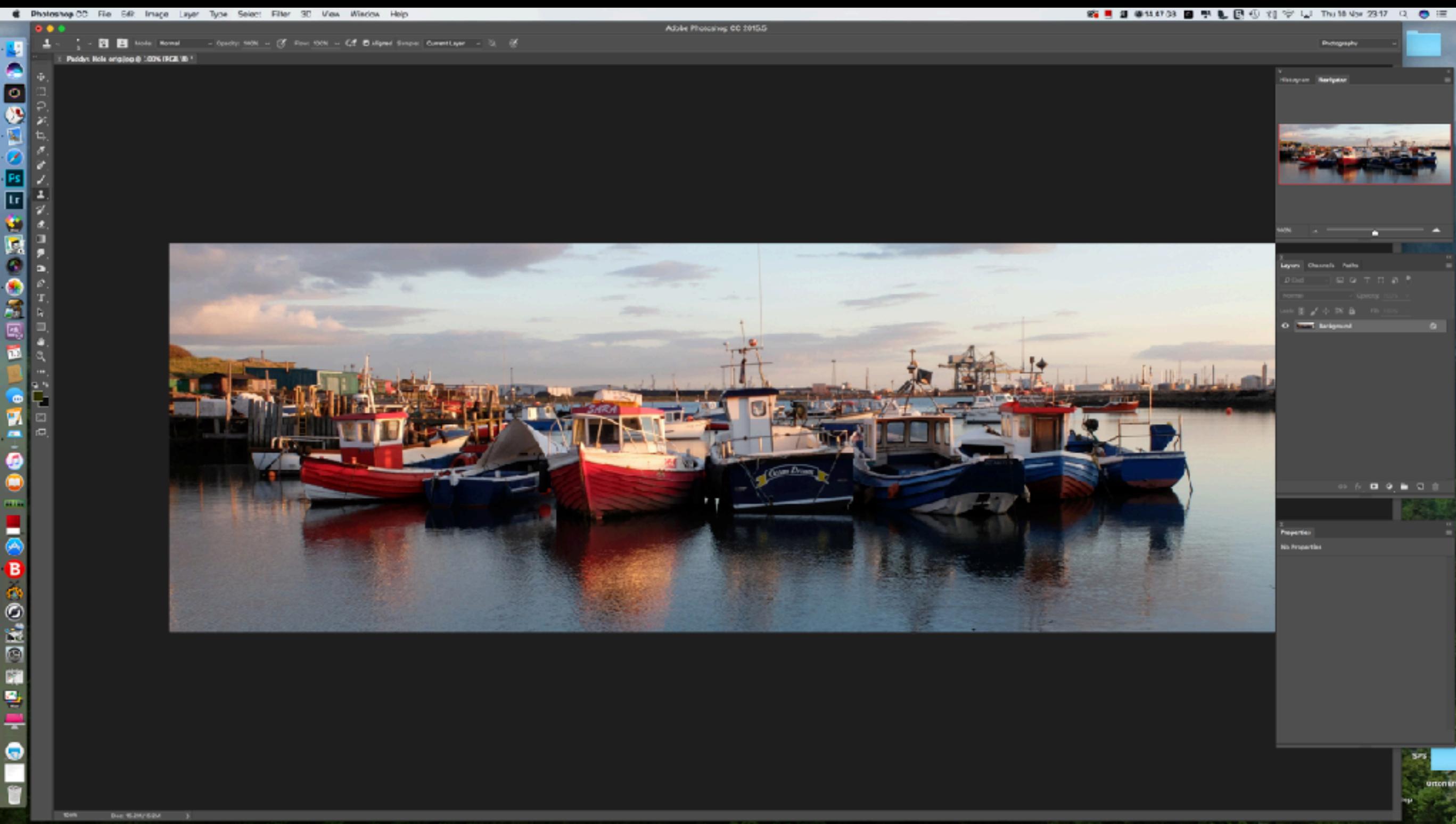
The technique was devised by Michael Orton before the age of digital photography

He would take a normal photo on slide film and then take it again but this time out of focus.

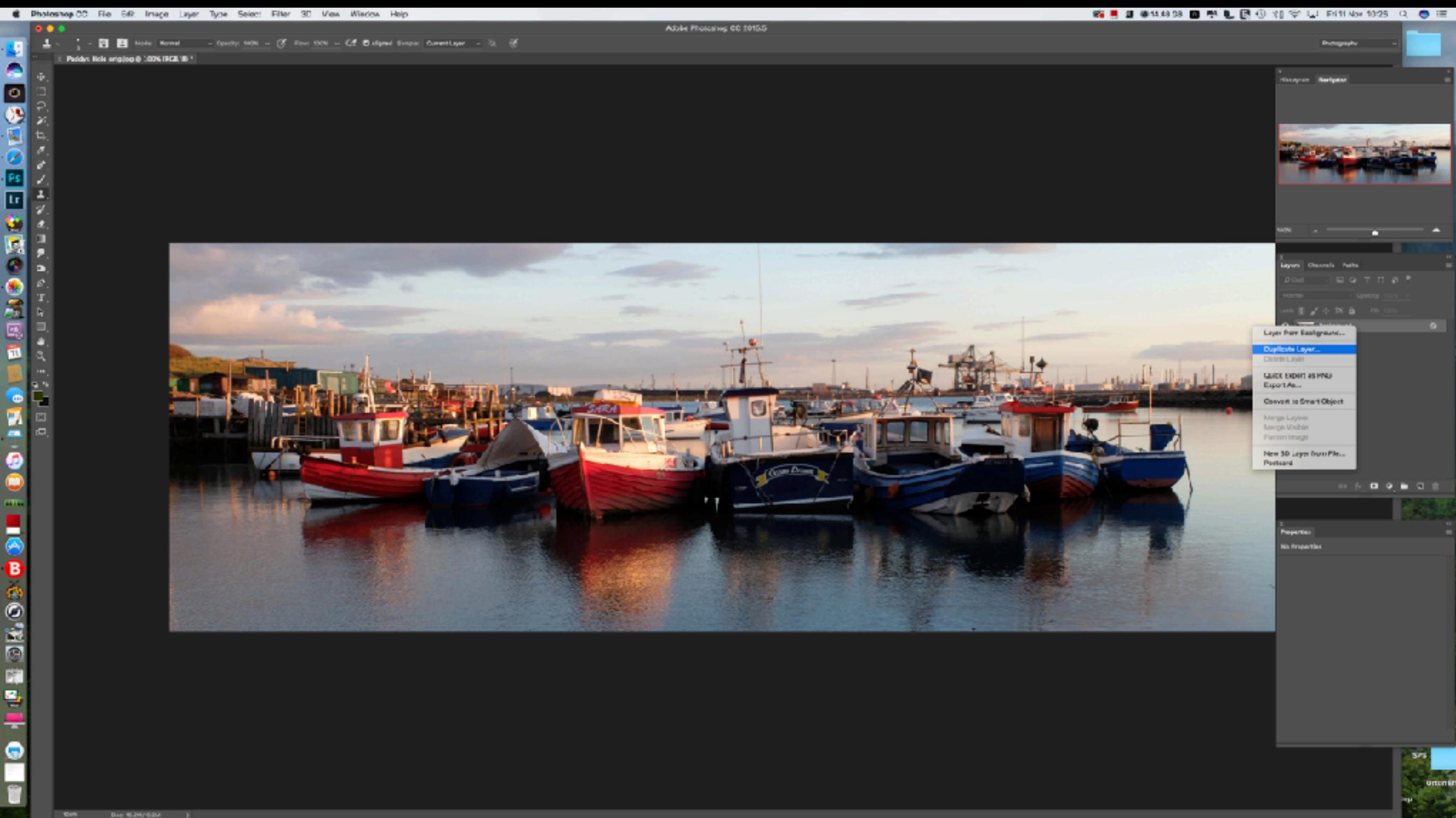
After development he'd sandwich the two slides together so the sharp image, overlaid by the blurry one, had a fuzzy glow around sharp objects.

With digital we don't need to shoot twice, we can copy the sharp shot in Photoshop and then blur the copy before combining the two images.

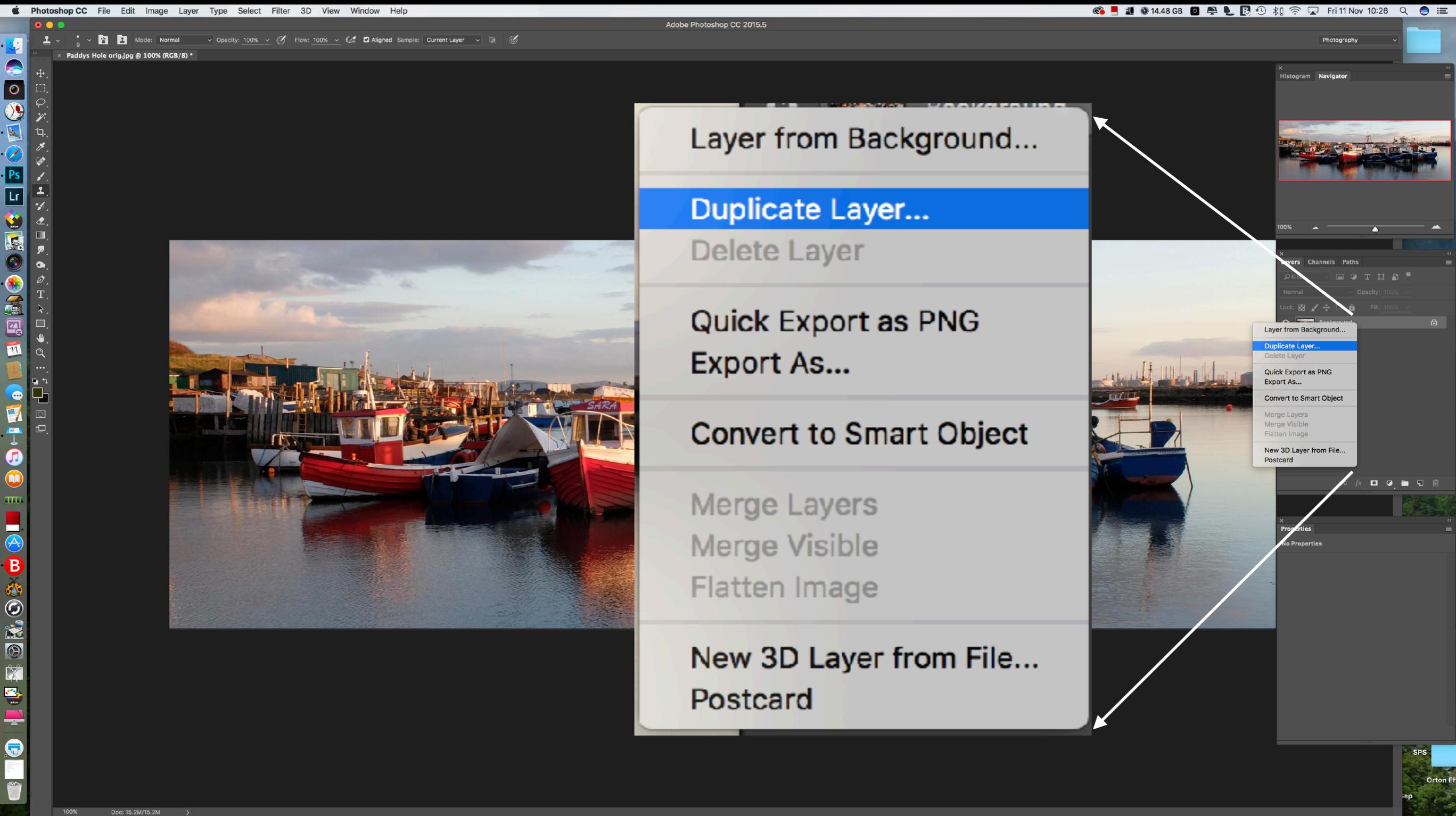
As well as that we can adjust how the two images mix together so we can create a multitude of different effects.



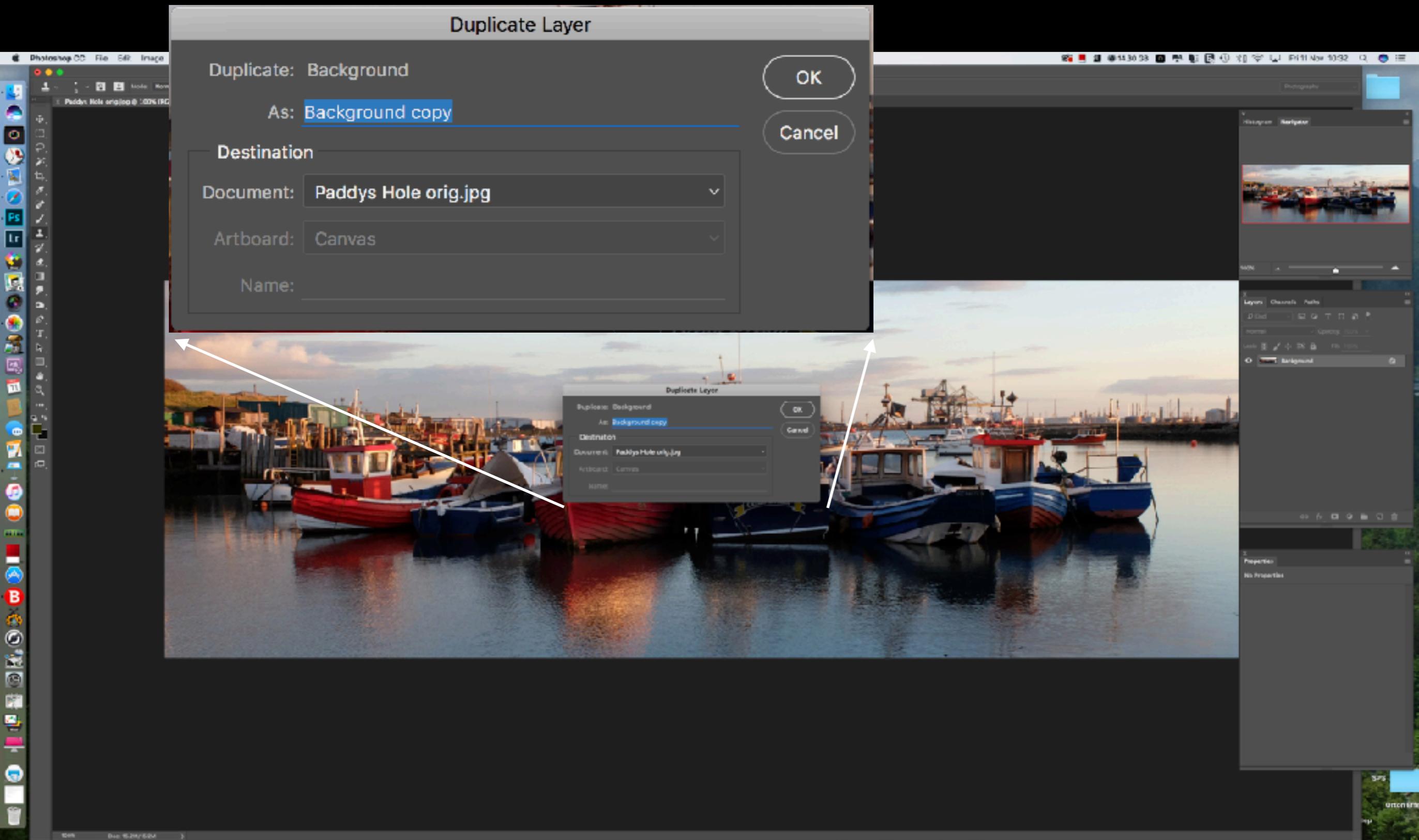
First open your image in Photoshop



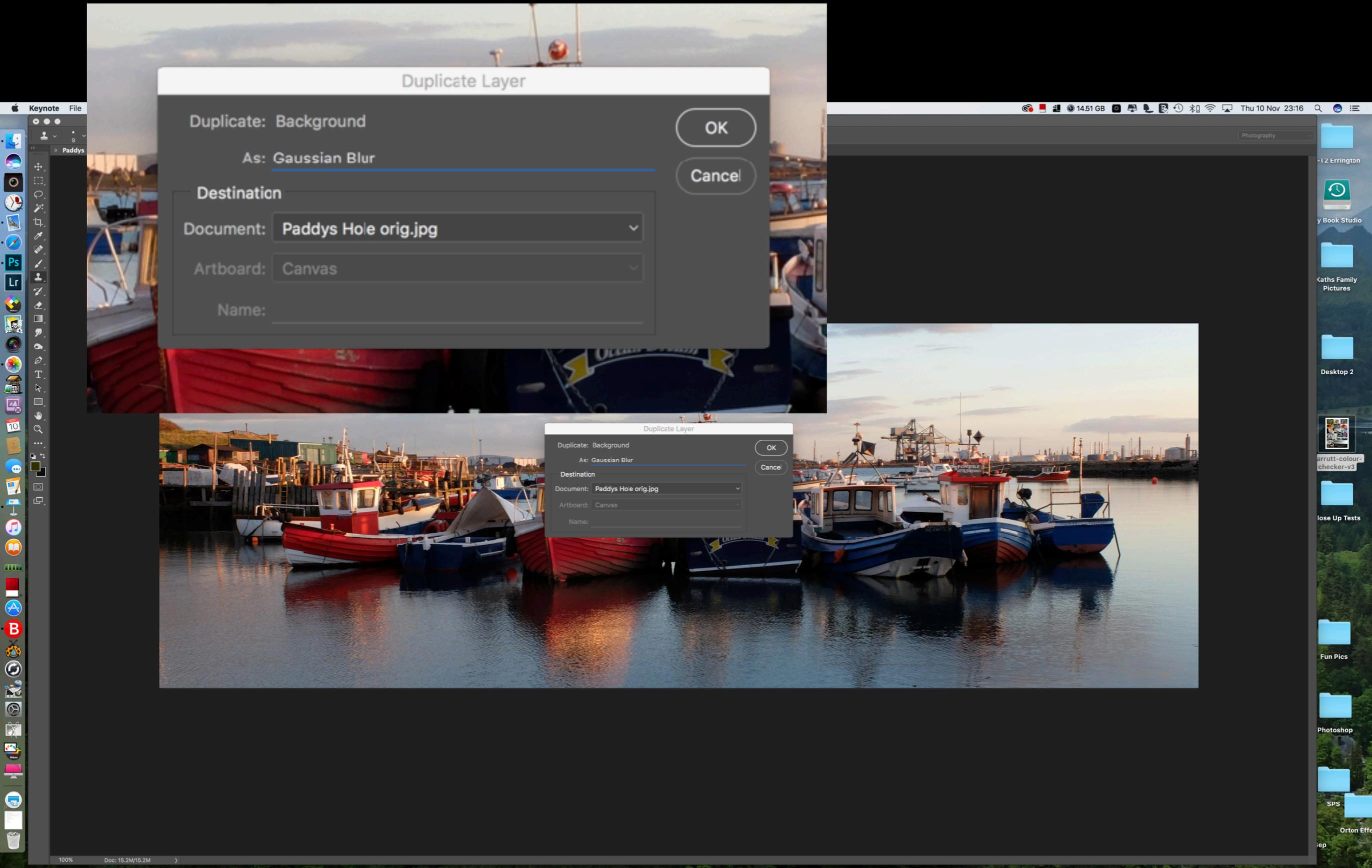
Right click on the Background layer



And left click on “Duplicate Layer”



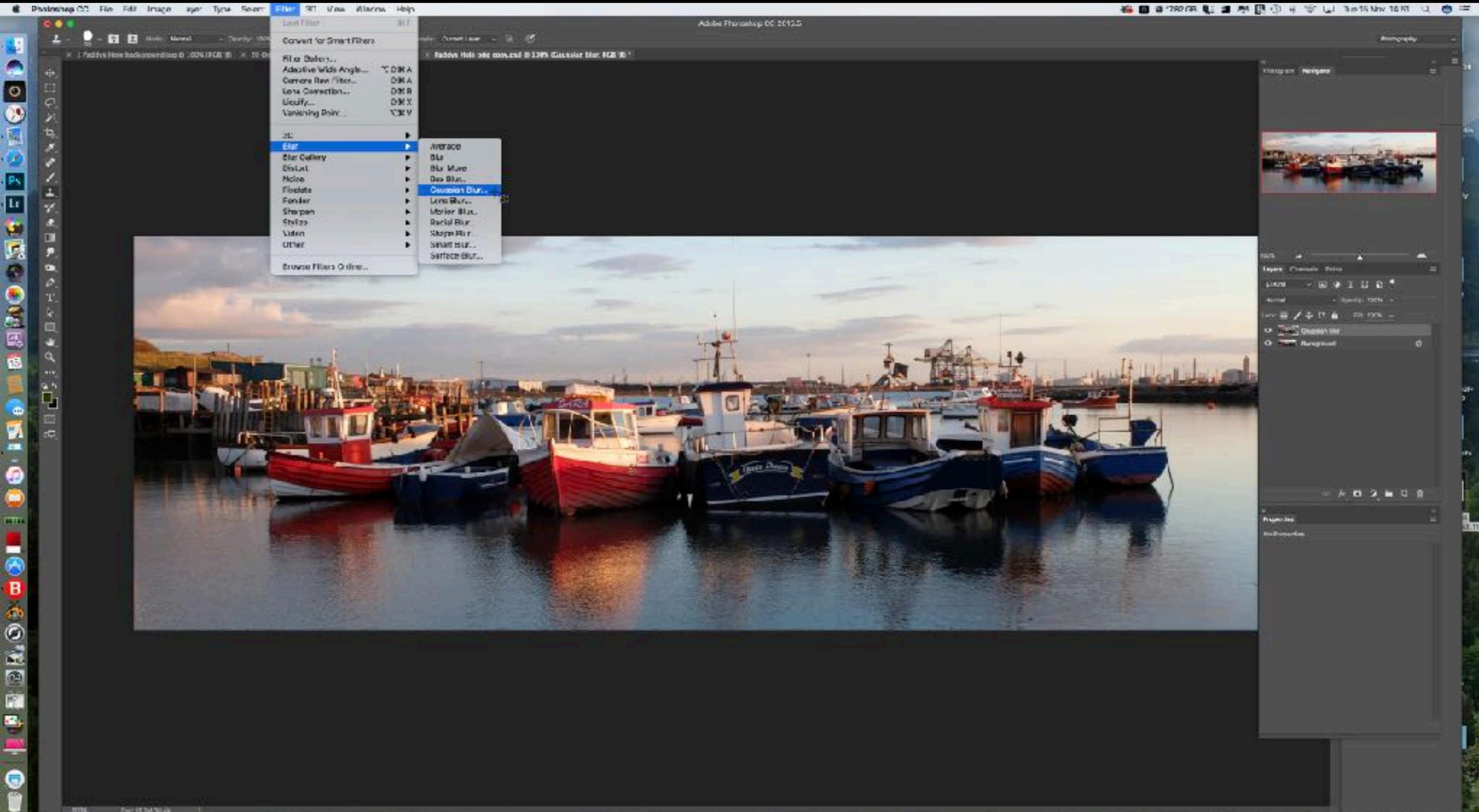
Change “Background copy” to “Gaussian blur”



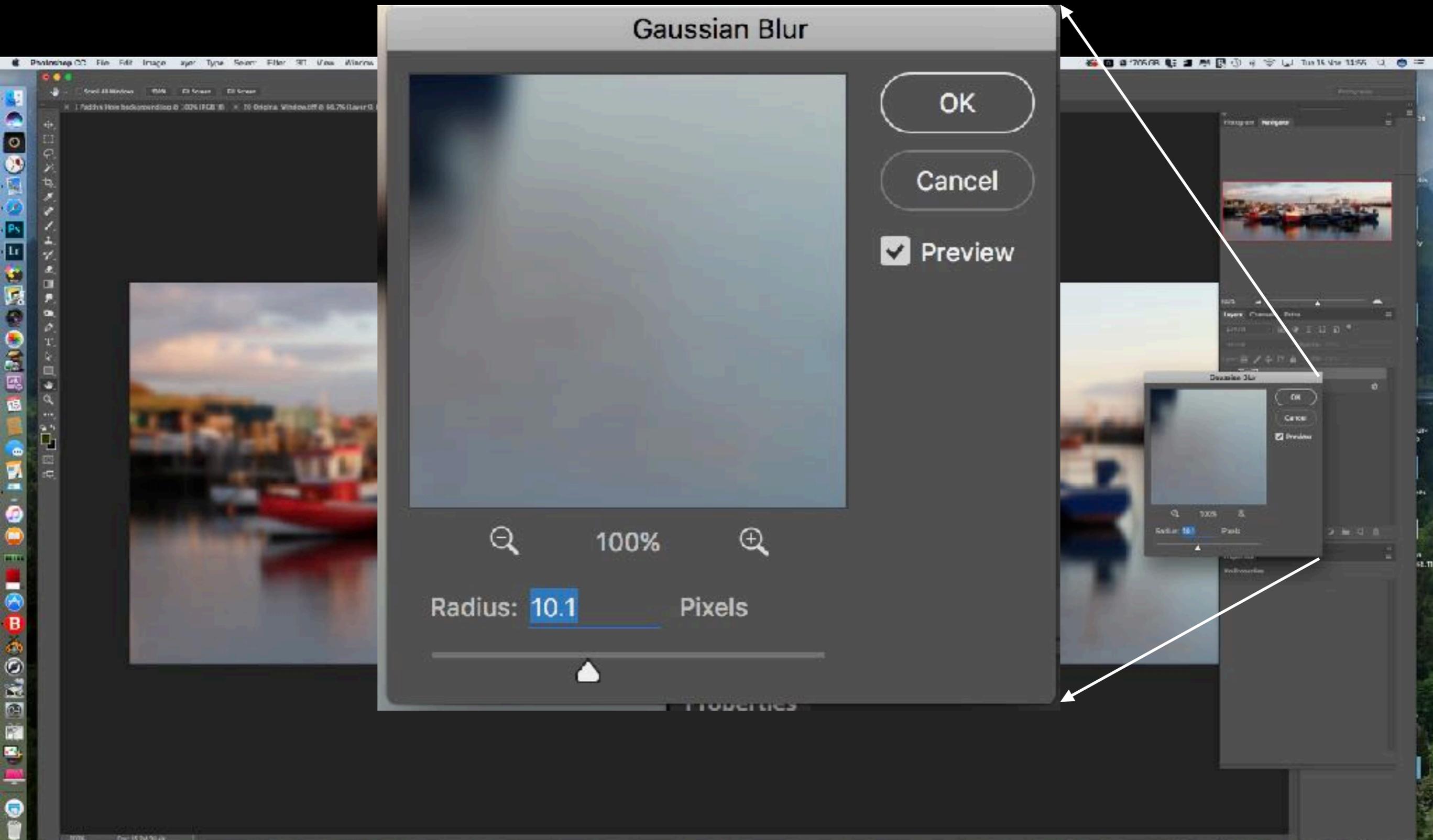
And click "OK"



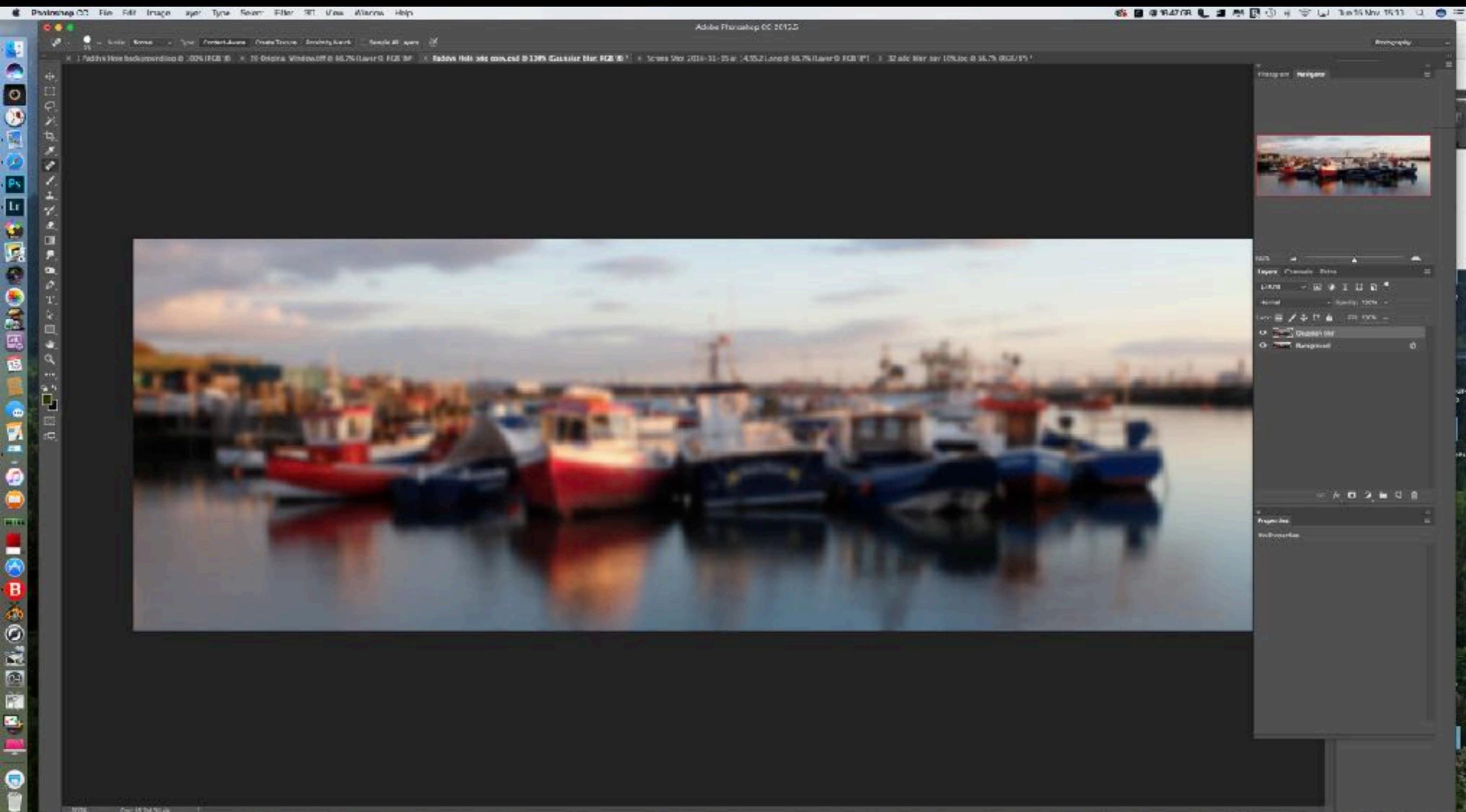
We now want to blur the top layer



Go to Filter / Blur / Gaussian Blur and left click it

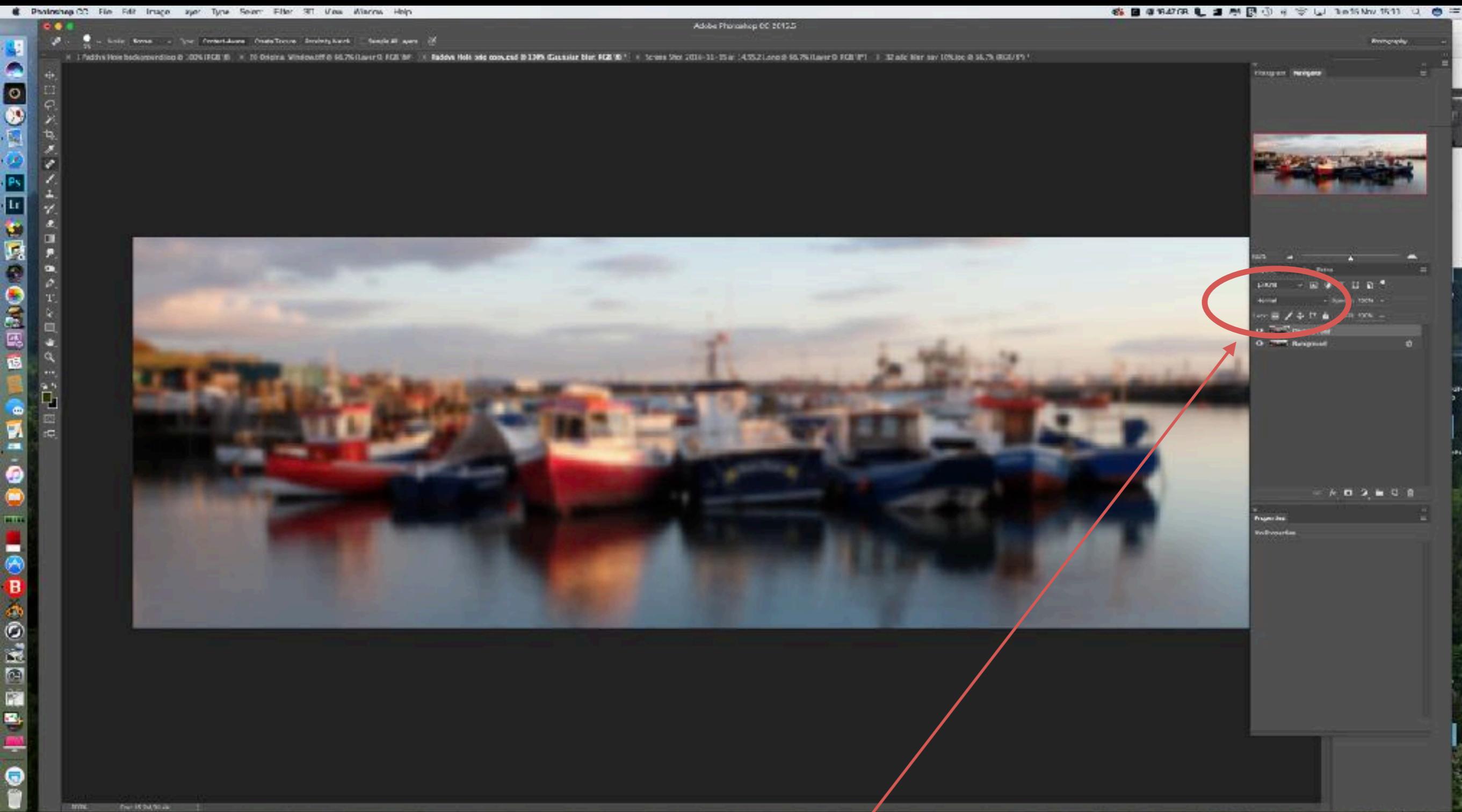


Then adjust the radius to, say, 10. Click "OK"



The top, blurred, layer hides the sharp one below it

We need to blend the two so we can see  
both of them together

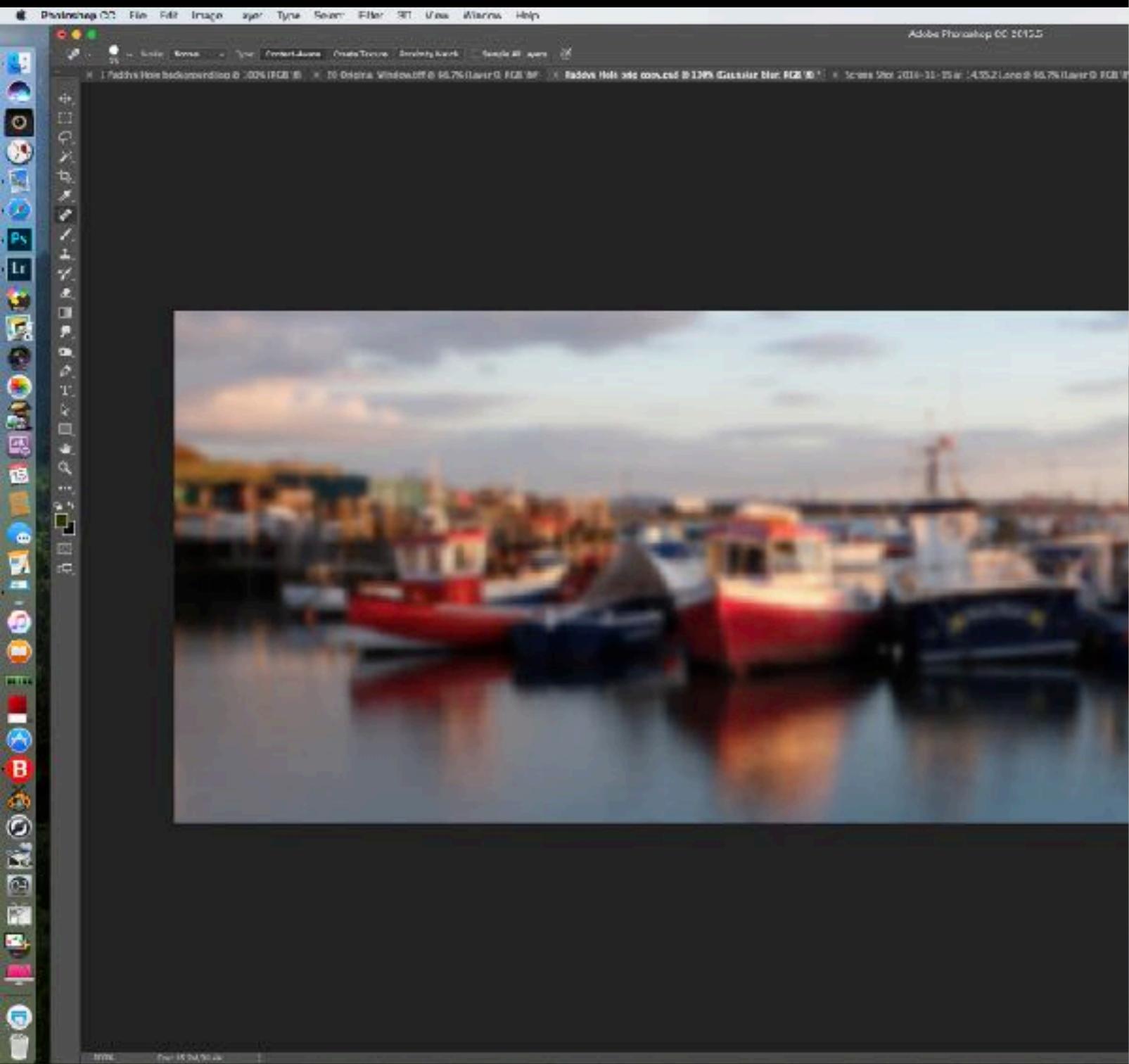


The Blend Mode is found here

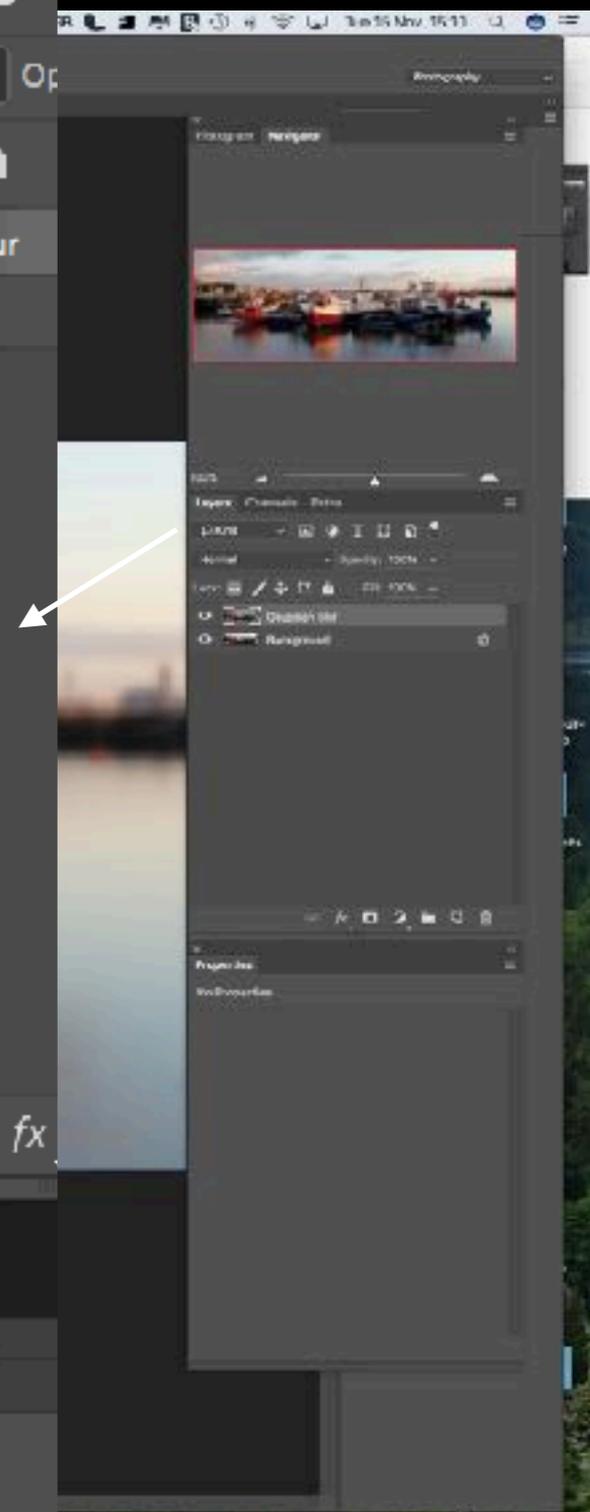
Left click on it and choose a mode from the list

Its default setting is “Normal”, where the top layer completely hides the lower ones

Try some of the others.



- Kind
- ✓ Normal
  - Dissolve
  - Darken**
  - Multiply
  - Color Burn
  - Linear Burn
  - Darker Color
  - Lighten
  - Screen
  - Color Dodge
  - Linear Dodge (Add)
  - Lighter Color
  - Overlay
  - Soft Light
  - Hard Light
  - Vivid Light
  - Linear Light
  - Pin Light
  - Hard Mix
  - Difference
  - Exclusion
  - Subtract
  - Divide
  - Hue
  - Saturation
  - Color
  - Luminosity



Here are a few possibilities ....

Background



Gaussian Blur



Background



Gaussian Blur



Background



Blend Mode Darken



Gaussian Blur



Background



Lighten



Gaussian Blur



Background



Multiply



Gaussian Blur



Background



Screen



Gaussian Blur



Background



Lighter Color



Gaussian Blur



Background



Soft Light



Gaussian Blur



Background



Hard Light



Gaussian Blur



Background



Hard Mix



Gaussian Blur



Background



Difference



Gaussian Blur



Background



Exclusion



Gaussian Blur



Background



Divide



If you like an effect but it's too strong just reduce the opacity from 100% until it's more suitable

The current popularity of the Orton Effect seems  
to be for a lighter, hazier effect

I confess it's not altogether my cup of tea but  
I can see its uses!

