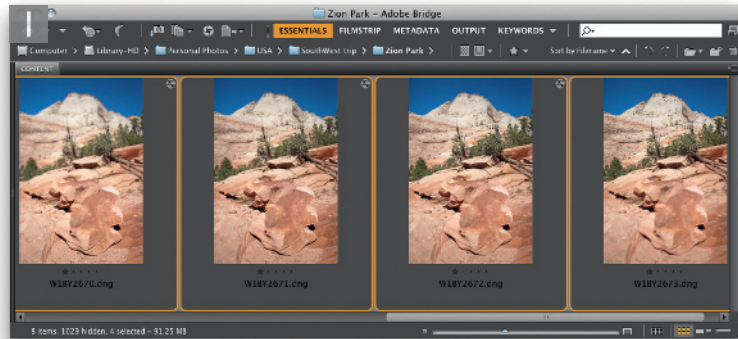


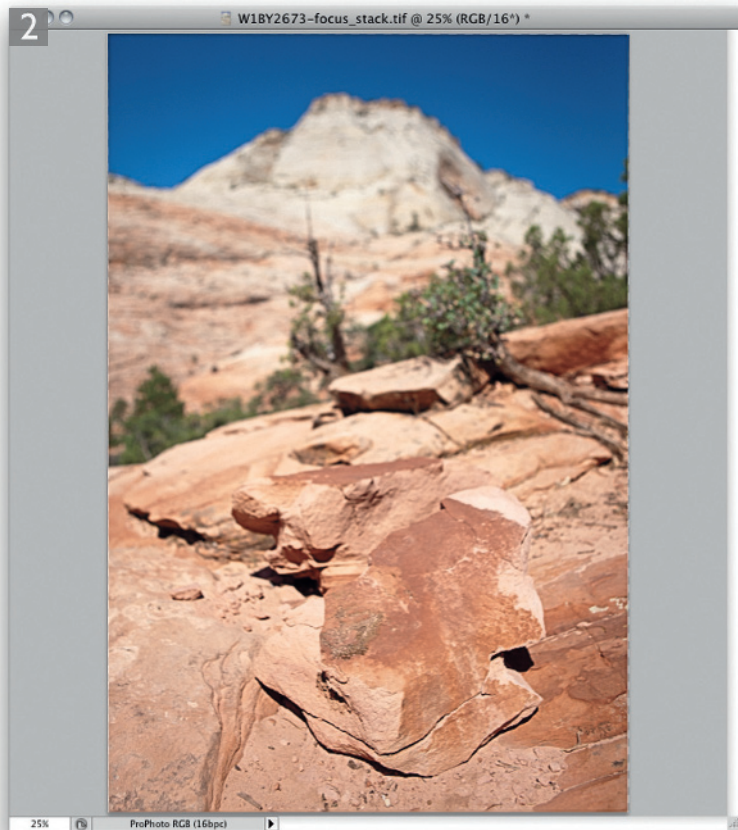
Depth of field blending

The Edit ⇒ Auto-Blend Layers command allows you to blend objects that were shot using different points of focus and blend them to produce a single image with optimal focus.

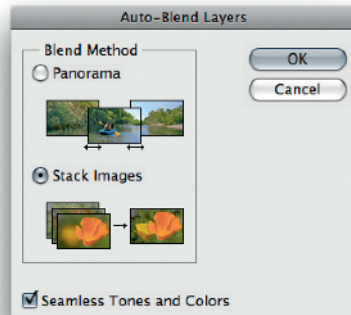
1 I began by going to Bridge and selected a group of photographs that had been shot at different points of focus. I then went to the Tools menu and chose Photoshop ⇒ Load Files Into Photoshop Layer.



2 This opened the five selected photos as a multi-layered image in Photoshop. With all the layers selected, I then went to the Edit menu, chose 'Auto-Align Layers...' and selected the Auto projection option. This aligned the layers as shown here.



3



3 The next step was to merge the layered photos together, which I did by going to the Edit menu again and this time I selected 'Auto-Blend Layers...'. Here, I selected 'Stack Images' and made sure the 'Seamless Tones and Colors' option was checked.

4



4 To get the best results it is important to carry out the Auto-Align step before you apply the Auto-Blend. As you can see, this last step carried out a pixel blending of the individual layers and added layer masks to each based on a calculation of where the sharpest detail was on each layer. The success of this depth of field blending technique is also down to the care with which you shoot the original photographs. The more photos you shoot, bracketed at different focal distances, the better the end result will be.

