

Photoshop Week 5: Basic Color Correction

Most retouching follows these general steps:

- Duplicating the original image or scan. (always work with a copy of your image so as not to damage the original)
- Checking the output ppi and making sure that the resolution is appropriate for the way you will use the image
- Cropping the image to final size and orientation
- Repairing flaws in scans of damaged photos (rips, stains, dust)
- Adjusting the color and tone to bring out highlights, mid-tones, shadows, and desaturated colors
- Sharpening the overall focus

Get Started

1. Double click on image in Bridge. It will automatically open in Photoshop. If this doesn't work, drag and drop the image you want to open onto the Photoshop icon in your Dock.
2. Immediately rename the picture. File > Save As to name file. Always use your last name... ex. **yontz_portrait001.psd**
3. Image > Image Size > (our printer outputs at 150 dpi for other output situations adjust accordingly. Computers use 72 dpi). Keep in mind that the higher the image resolution, the larger the file size, and the longer the file takes to load.
4. If your image size is 150 or larger leave it alone. If your image size is less than 150, Unclick "resample Image" and change size to 150. Photoshop will automatically keep the ratio the same. Notice the size of the image will get smaller. There is a relationship between resolution and size of image.
5. **Cropping an image:** > Crop Tool from toolbar. Draw a crop marquee around the image. As you drag, the marquee tool creates a live area...dotted line. When you deselect a window with handles appears so you can enlarge or reduce. Press Return and the image is cropped to the area indicated. Image > Save.
6. **Color Corrections:**

Choose Image > Adjustments > Auto Color.

Choose Image > Adjustments > Auto Tone.

Choose Image -- Shadow/Highlights in adjustment menu.

(try shadow 46% and Highlight 9% then adjust to what looks best. Make sure Preview is checked)

Image > Save

You may also need to lighten or darken the image.

7. **Black & White**—there are two ways to change a color image to B&W.
 - **Use the Hue/Saturation choice in the adjustment menu**
 - **Click on B&W in adjustment menu**

8. Using **the Dodge Tool** to lighten highlights and bring out detail. Dodging is a traditional photographer's method of holding back light during and exposure to lighten an area of the image.

If you have an area of your photo that is too dark use the Dodging tool.

 - a. Select the Dodge tool from the tool box.
 - b. In the tool box options bar make these settings: selected brush 27 (a large feathered brush).
 - c. Choose Range > Highlights.
 - d. Set exposure to 15%
 - e. Using vertical strokes, drag the Dodge tool over the area to bring out the highlights.
 - f. If you want to Undo what you just did choose Edit > Undo and try again.

File > Save

9. Applying the **Unsharp Mask filter** is the last task you do when retouching a photo. The Unsharp mask filter adjusts the contrast of the edge detail and creates the illusion of a more focused image.
 - a. Choose Filter > Sharpen > Unsharp Mask.
 - b. In the dialog box make sure that Preview Box is checked. You can drag inside the preview to see different parts of the image or use + or – to enlarge or reduce.
 - c. Drag the Amount slider to about 62% (this is an estimate...you experiment)
 - d. Drag the radius slider to determine the number of pixels surrounding the edge pixels that will affect the sharpening. The higher the resolution, the higher the Radius setting should be. (default is 1)
 - e. (Optional) adjust the Threshold slider. Default is 0, which sharpens all pixels in the image. Try 4 or 5 and see what happens.
 - f. When you are satisfied with the results, click OK to apply.
 - g. File > Save

Important notes about image correction...

It is tempting to make radical adjustments to your image in an attempt to make it “more interesting”. The thing we are attempting to do in this class is to take interesting photos to begin with. The image corrections should be used to enhance an interesting image, not make an uninteresting image interesting.

I want to see your original image and your corrected image for final grading.

IMPORTANT: The end of Every class:

At the end of every class you will need make sure all the changes you have made to your photo files are saved to an external hard drive you have brought for this purpose. If you keep everything in the original folder you created at the beginning of class, it will be easy to move the files. No student files should be left on the computers. **We cannot guarantee your work will be on the computer when you return next week.**

Remember that your grades are based on my being able to see your process. When you turn in your project for grading I will be collecting your folder. If it is not clear which are your original photos, your corrected photos, and your final photos, I won't be able to grade you accordingly. Also, remember your grade is not based only on the final pictures. I am looking for your process, notes, thoughts on artists we discussed, etc.

I want to see your original image and your corrected image for final grading with clear labeling so as to identify each.