

DIGITAL PHOTO EDITING WITH PHOTOSHOP

BELOW ARE STANDARD PROCEDURES FOR EDITING AND OPTIMIZING DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHS USING PHOTOSHOP. IF YOU FOLLOW THESE PROCEDURES, IN THE ORDER LISTED, YOU WILL END UP WITH HIGH QUALITY IMAGES FOR PRINTING AND/OR THE WEB.

WORKING IN RAW FORMAT:

SHOOTING IMAGES IN THE RAW FORMAT OFFERS MANY ADVANTAGES PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHERS AND ADVANCED AMATEURS ALIKE SEEK. ADOBE HAS ADDRESSED THIS NEED WITH ADOBE CAMERA RAW. WE WILL BE LOOKING AT ADOBE CAMERA RAW IN A FOLLOWING CLASS. FOR NOW LET'S LOOK AT OPTIMIZING DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHS USING PHOTOSHOP.

ADJUSTING IMAGES IN PHOTOSHOP:

1. CROP IMAGE IF NECESSARY. YOU CAN DO THIS NOW OR AT ANY LATER TIME.
2. DUPLICATE THE LAYER BY DRAGGING IT TO THE NEW LAYER ICON.
3. USE THE CLONE TOOL TO REMOVE OR TOUCH UP THE IMAGE.
4. CREATE A LEVELS ADJUSTMENT LAYER BY GOING TO THE LAYER PALLET AND CLICKING ON THE "ADJUSTMENT LAYER" ICON (THE SMALL HALF BLACK, HALF WHITE CIRCLE AT THE BOTTOM OF THE LAYERS PALETTE) AND SELECTING "LEVELS".
5. **ADJUST LEVELS:**
 - A. WITH THE NEW ADJUSTMENT LAYER SELECTED, MOVE THE WHITE POINT SLIDER AT THE BOTTOM RIGHT OF THE HISTOGRAM TO THE LEFT UNTIL IT MEETS THE RIGHT EDGE OF THE FIRST SIGNIFICANT DATA ON THE HISTOGRAM.
 - B. MOVE THE BLACK POINT SLIDER AT THE BOTTOM LEFT OF THE HISTOGRAM TO THE RIGHT UNTIL IT MEETS THE LEFT EDGE OF THE FIRST SIGNIFICANT DATA ON THE HISTOGRAM.
6. **ADJUST CURVES:**
 - A. THIS ADJUSTS THE BRIGHTNESS OF THE IMAGE
 - B. CREATE A "CURVES" ADJUSTMENT LAYER USING THE SAME METHOD AS ABOVE.
 - C. CLICK AND HOLD ON THE CENTER OF THE CURVES LINE. IF THE IMAGE IS TOO LIGHT, DRAG THE LINE STRAIT DOWN UNTIL THE IMAGE LOOKS RIGHT. IF THE IMAGE IS TOO DARK, DRAG THE LINE STRAIT UP UNTIL THE IMAGE LOOKS RIGHT.
 - D. EDIT THE LAYER MASK TO CONTROL THE PROPORTIONS OF THE IMAGE AFFECTED BY THE CURVES ADJUSTMENT LAYER. PAINTING BLACK WILL HIDE THE EFFECT; PAINTING WHITE WILL BRING BACK THE EFFECT.

AT THIS POINT, IF THE IMAGE WAS REASONABLY EXPOSED, IT SHOULD LOOK PRETTY GOOD. IF THE IMAGE COLOR OR SATURATION IS OFF, IT CAN BE ADJUSTED BY CREATING A "COLOR BALANCE" ADJUSTMENT LAYER AND/OR A "HUE AND SATURATION" ADJUSTMENT LAYER USING THE METHOD DESCRIBED ABOVE.

7. SAVE A WORKING FILE:

GO TO THE "FILE" PULL-DOWN MENU AND CLICK ON "SAVE AS". GIVE YOUR IMAGE A NEW NAME AND INDICATE WHERE YOU WANT TO SAVE IT. BE SURE TO DO A "SAVE AS" AND NOT A "SAVE" SO YOU PRESERVE YOUR ORIGINAL IMAGE FILES AS UNCHANGED. BE SURE TO SAVE YOUR FILE IN THE PHOTOSHOP FILE FORMAT. THIS IS YOUR WORKING FILE WITH ALL YOUR LAYERS. IF YOU NEED TO RETURN TO THE IMAGE TO MAKE A CHANGE, THIS IS THE FILE YOU WILL RETURN TO.

8. FLATTEN IMAGE:

- A. ONCE THE IMAGE LOOKS GOOD, YOU MUST FLATTEN THE IMAGE BY GOING TO THE "LAYER" PULL-DOWN MENU AND SELECTING "FLATTEN IMAGE" AT THE BOTTOM OF THE MENU LIST.

9. ADJUST IMAGE SIZE:

- A. GO TO THE “IMAGE” PULL-DOWN MENU AND SELECT “IMAGE SIZE”.
- B. BE SURE THAT THE “CONSTRAIN PROPORTIONS” AND THE “RESAMPLE IMAGE – BICUBIC” BOXES ARE CHECKED.
- C. IN THE “IMAGE SIZE” DIALOG BOX FIRST SET YOUR RESOLUTION (72 PPI FOR WEB, E-MAIL, OR SCREEN PRESENTATION, 300 PPI IF TO BE PRINTED).
- D. NEXT SET THE IMAGE DIMENSIONS IN EITHER PIXELS OR INCHES.
- E. CLICK THE “OK” BUTTON.

10. SHARPEN THE IMAGE:

- A. ALWAYS DO THIS STEP LAST.
- B. IT IS A GOOD IDEA TO VIEW YOUR IMAGE AT 100% BEFORE USING THIS FILTER SO THAT YOU CAN TOGGLE THE PREVIEW OPTION ON AND OFF TO BEST SEE THE FILTER’S EFFECT.
- C. GO TO THE “FILTER” PULL-DOWN MENU AND SELECT “SHARPEN” THEN “UNSHARP MASK”.
- D. MAKE SURE THE “PREVIEW” BOX IS CHECKED SO YOU CAN SEE THE RESULTS ON YOUR IMAGE AS WELL AS IN THE MAGNIFIED SAMPLE. CLICK THE “PREVIEW” ON AND OFF TO SEE THE DIFFERENCE WITH AND WITHOUT SHARPENING.
- E. **AMOUNT** - HOW MUCH CONTRAST WILL BE INCREASED. **RADIUS** - HOW WIDE A HALO WILL BE USED - USE SMALL INCREMENTS (.5 MAYBE UP TO 1.5). **THRESHOLD** - HOW CLOSE TWO TOUCHING SHADES HAVE TO BE FOR SHARPENING TO KICK IN - START WITH 0 AND LEAVE IT THERE IF YOUR IMAGE IS RELATIVELY NOISE-FREE.
- F. DO NOT OVER SHARPEN

11. **LAST . . .** GO TO THE “FILE” PULL-DOWN MENU AND CLICK ON “SAVE AS”. GIVE YOUR IMAGE A NEW NAME AND INDICATE WHERE YOU WANT TO SAVE IT. BE SURE TO DO A “SAVE AS” AND NOT A “SAVE” SO YOU PRESERVE YOUR ORIGINAL IMAGE FILES AS UNCHANGED. IF SAVING FOR A PRINT, SAVE YOUR CORRECTED IMAGE AS A TIFF SO THAT THE FILE IS NOT DAMAGED IN COMPRESSION. IF SAVING FOR THE WEB OR FOR E-MAIL, SAVE YOUR CORRECTED IMAGE AS A JPEG SO THAT THE FILE WILL BE SMALLER DUE TO COMPRESSION. SLIDING THE COMPRESSION SETTING WILL BALANCE FILE SIZE WITH IMAGE QUALITY.

COLOR MANAGEMENT

TO ENSURE PROPER COLOR IN YOUR PRINTS:

- SET COLOR SPACE ON ALL DEVICES TO “ADOBE RGB 1998”.
- CALIBRATE YOUR MONITOR USING AN EXTERNAL CALIBRATION DEVICE.
- SET “COLOR MANAGEMENT” TO PHOTOSHOP MANAGES COLOR
- SET “COLOR MANAGEMENT” ON YOUR PRINTER TO “SOURCE” OR “NONE”.
- HAVE PRINTER PROFILES FOR EACH PAPER TYPE YOU USE.
- EVALUATE YOUR PRINTS UNDER A LIGHT BALANCED TO 5000 DEGREES KELVIN.