

**Stony Brook Camera Club
Basics of Photoshop Elements
Workshop November 15, 2007**

Presenters Paula Currivan Tony Mistretta

FIRST SET COLOR SETTINGS ON YOUR COMPUTER Digital cameras don't always record correct color all the time, therefore creating color cast.

1. **EDIT----** **COLOR SETTINGS** {or press **SHIFT+CTRL+K**}
2. Choose **FULL COLOR MANAGEMENT**
This reproduces a wide gamut of color, excellent for prints.
3. Click the **eyedropper** in the tool bar or the letter **I**
4. **Options bar----** drop down menu **click 3x3 average**
This **value reading** will read **3 pixels across and 3 pixels down** of the surrounding area.
Point sample reads one individual pixel.

HISTOGRAM---- is a graphical representation of light, dark and midtones in between. It will tell you the tonal quality of your image from black to white.

OPEN IMAGE

1. Click Enhance Adjust Lighting **LEVELS** or press **CTRL+L**

SHADOWS	black/dark tones	MIDTONE	gray tone
HIGHLIGHTS	white/light tones.		

COLOR SETTINGS

1. Click Enhance Adjust Lighting **LEVELS** or press **CTRL+L**
2. **SET TARGET COLOR FOR SHADOW AREA** double click on left {black/shadows} eyedropper on right side of dialog box.
Color Picker Select target shadows color
Under channels **RGB** drop down menu press tab to move from field to field
CHOOSE R ENTER 10
CHOOSE G ENTER 10
CHOOSE B ENTER 10
Click **OK**

This balances the color, so shadow areas will not have too much color, which is known as color cast.

3. **SET TARGET COLOR FOR HIGHLIGHT AREA** double click on right {white/highlights} eyedropper the right side of the levels dialog box.
Color Picker Select target highlights color
Under channels RGB drop down menu press tab to move from field to field

CHOOSE R ENTER 240

CHOOSE G ENTER 240

CHOOSE B ENTER 240

Click OK

This balances the color, so highlight areas will not have too much color, which is known as color cast.

4. **SET TARGET COLOR FOR MIDTONE AREA** double click on the [gray/midtone] eyedropper in the middle of the levels dialog box.

Color Picker Select target midtone color

CHOOSE R ENTER 128

CHOOSE G ENTER 128

CHOOSE B ENTER 128

Click OK

This balances the color, so midtone areas will not have too much color, which is known as color cast.

5. **ADOBE PHOTOSHOP ELEMENTS dialog box** Save the new target color as defaults.

CLICK YES

Now you don't have to enter these values each time.

SHADOW-----MIDTONE-----HIGHLIGHT AREAS

6. **FIND SHADOW AREAS** {black/darkest area} **open image**
 1. Layers palette
 2. Click **half black, half white circle under layers** create adjustment layer
 3. Click **Threshold**
 4. Drag threshold slider all the way to the **left**, image **turns white** slowly drag slider to the **right**, as soon as image reappears, that's the **shadow area**.
 5. **MAKE A MENTAL NOTE OF THIS AREA**, You will need to know it later.
7. **FIND HIGHLIGHT AREAS** {white/lightest area}
 - 1 & 2 repeat previous steps
 3. Drag threshold slider all the way to the **right**, image **turns black** slowly drag slider to the **left**, as soon as your image reappears that's the **highlight area**.
MAKE A MENTAL NOTE OF THIS AREA You will need to know it later.
 4. Click **cancel**.

SET NEUTRAL COLORS

8. **PRESS CTRL L** Levels dialog box
 1. Click on **shadow eyedropper** {1/2 filled with black} move your cursor over the image to the darkest area, {remember the mental note} Click to see the shadow areas correct.. **This reassigns your new neutral shadow color you set earlier.** If wrong **PRESS RESET** try again, click the darkest areas until you get it right.
 2. Click on **highlight eyedropper** [1/2 filled with white] move cursor over image to the lightest area [remember the mental note] Click there to see highlight areas correct. **This reassigns your new neutral highlight color you set earlier.**
 3. **Set midtone** there is no threshold adjustment layer that will work for setting the midtone In same levels dialog box, move **middle slider** to the left to lighten image this is a **visual adjustment.** If it looks right **Click OK** if not right press reset and repeat step 8.
This corrects color cast and brightens the image in the shadow, midtone and highlight areas.

FINDING FILES AND FOLDERS

CREATE SHORTCUT FOR WINDOWS EXPLORER

This is where files and folder can be found on your computer.

Click **START ALL PROGRAMS ACCESSORIES WINDOWS EXPLORER** right click on windows explorer click **CREATE SHORTCUT** windows explorer (2) will appear at the bottom of the drop down menu drag & drop to desktop.

QUICK FIX

OPEN PHOTOSHOP ELEMENTS click **EDIT & ENHANCE PHOTOS**
FILE OPEN
in open dialog box **LOOK IN** drop down menu **MY PICTURES** find folder **DOUBLE CLICK** to open it **DOUBLE CLICK ON IMAGE** to open it
In the right hand corner click **QUICK FIX**
ADJUST LIGHTING, COLOR AND SHARPEN

STEPS TO IMPROVE YOUR IMAGES

It is not necessary to use all these steps all the time
also try some settings of your own.

INTERFACE/WORKSPACE File Open Find your image look in my pictures my documents Double click on the image you want to enhance. Click Layers {on right arrow will be pointing down} drag background up to icon on left create a new layer always work on background copy

NEVER WORK ON ORIGINAL.

Click windows **UNDO HISTORY** creates a floating dialog box, drag to right and place under layers'

VERY DARK IMAGES use layers under normal click **SCREEN** if not right change opacity

VERY LIGHT IMAGES use layers under normal click **MULTIPLY** if not right change Opacity

If you need to make changes click cancel, reset or click edit undo or redo.

1. Enhance Adjust Lighting **LEVELS** {CTRL L key}
HISTOGRAM Use sliders to adjust shadow, midtone and highlight; also you could use Channels Adjust Red Green Blue don't go over 10
2. Enhance Adjust Color **ADJUST HUE/SATURATION** {CTRL+ U key}
Hue \ Saturation don't over saturate {under 25}
Lightness
Edit Master channels if needed keep setting under 10
Click OK
3. Enhance Adjust Lighting **BRIGHTNESS/CONTRAST**
Contrast adjust first around 6
Brightness
Click OK
4. Enhance Adjust Lighting **SHADOWS/HIGHLIGHTS**
Lighten shadows set at 50% by default adjust
Darken Highlights
Midtone contrast
Click OK

5. Filter Noise **REDUCE NOISE**
 Settings Magnify for detail
 Strength 6 higher numbers could blur image
 Preserve Details around 75 to 100
 Reduce Color Noise around 25 to 65
 Place cursor on image, hold left button down to see original, release to see adjustment.
6. Filter **SHARPEN** Unsharp Mask
 Settings Magnify for detail
 Amount around 50% to 200%
 Radius 1 pixel determines how many pixels from edge to be sharpened.
 Threshold 3 to 20 levels lower numbers intense sharpening try 0
 watch for noise----Do not over sharpen or you will get halos around objects.
 There are no rules that can't be broken
7. **CROP** Set width and height click crop tool draw area to crop click crop
 click magnifying glass then click fit to screen
8. Layer **FLATTEN** **DON'T FORGET TO FLATTEN**
9. File **SAVE AS** Type file name jpeg or save as PSD file, which is a Photoshop file, you can open and work on it again. Don't flatten until finished.

QUICK LIGHTING AND COLOR CORRECTION

First create a duplicate layer by choosing from the menu **LAYER, DUPLICATE LAYER**

Auto-Levels: SHIFT+CTRL+L

Advantage: It's quick and easy. **Disadvantage:** It may not give you the best results.

ADJUSTMENT LAYERS:

From the menu, choose **LAYER, NEW ADJUSTMENT LAYER** and then choose from **LEVELS, BRIGHTNESS/CONTRAST, HUE/SATURATION, GRADIENT MAP, PHOTO FILTER, THRESHOLD, INVERT or POSTERIZE.**

An adjustment layer will act upon all layers beneath the adjustment layer.

Advantage: This option masks your layer so that you can apply changes selectively and to varying degrees to parts of your image. **Disadvantage:** It takes more practice, time and effort.

APPLY CHANGES SELECTIVELY:

In the layers palette, click on your mask to make it active. This should change your foreground color and background color to black & white. Now use either the paintbrush or gradient tool to apply changes to the mask.

Using the **PAINTBRUSH** tool (B on the keyboard), set the size of your brush with the [] keys. The left bracket { reduces the brush size and the right } increases the brush size. Set the opacity to about 20% and hardness (under options) to 0%. Paint with black to mask your image. The mask hides or reduces the effect of the layer adjustment. Paint with the white to remove the mask. Click X on the keyboard to alternate between black and white.

Or using the **GRADIENT** tool (G on the keyboard), set foreground color to white and background color to black. On the tool options bar, select the type of gradient (either **LINEAR** or **RADIAL** will work with most instances). Apply gradient by clicking on where you want the white part of the mask and dragging to where you want the black part of the mask. (Alternatively, you could click and drag from black to white by setting the foreground color to black and the background color to white).

COPY AND PASTE

Select all part of an image that you want to copy from. CTRL+A selects the entire image. Use selection tools **MARQUEE** (M on the keyboard), **LASSO** (L), **MAGIC WAND** (W), or the **SELECTION BRUSH** (A) to select part of the image. Once you've made a selection, you may wish to **FEATHER** or **MODIFY** (under the **SELECT** menu).

CTRL + C copies your selection. Now go to the image that you want to copy to. CTRL-V pastes your selection into a separate layer. Now you can **MOVE** the pasted selection with the move tool, resize and/or rotate the pasted selection with the handlebars that automatically appear. Click **ENTER** when you are done with any resizing.

IMAGE RESIZING

From the menu, choose **IMAGE, RESIZE, IMAGE SIZE**, Set **PIXEL DIMENSIONS** for images that are to be e-mailed, posted to a website or displayed at SBCC. Set **DOCUMENT SIZE** for images that are to be printed

For e-mail, it is often best to limit your maximum dimensions to 600. For SBCC's projector, limit your width to 1024 pixels and your height to 768 pixels. Make sure that all three boxes at the bottom (**SCALE STYLES**, **CONSTRAIN PROPORTIONS** and **RESAMPLE IMAGE**) are checked. Choose **BICUBIC**, **BICUBIC SMOOTHER** or **BICUBIC SHARPER** for the **RESAMPLE IMAGE** option.

For images to be printed, you should set your resolution under **DOCUMENT SIZE** to at least 240, 270 is better and 300 is best. However, your image will become pixelated if you increase the overall image by too much in one action. Here is what Photoshop expert Scott Kelby recommends:

Uncheck the **RESAMPLE IMAGE** box and set your resolution to between 240 and 300. The document width height will automatically be scaled to whatever the existing pixels allow, without changing the image. Now bring back the resize image dialog again (**IMAGE, RESIZE, IMAGE SIZE**) and **check all three boxes** at the bottom Set your document width and height to 110%, leaving the resolution as is. Do this as many times as you need until the document size is as large as you want to print.

TRY THESE BASIC SHAPENING TECHNIQUES

By Scott Kelby, Photoshop Elements Editor

MAGNIFY FOR DETAIL 100%

use zoom Filter Sharpen Unsharp Mask

ALL PURPOSE SHARPENING

Can apply twice once should do it Press CTRL F if you want to apply sharpening again

Amount 85%

Radius 1 pixel be careful of digital noise

Threshold 4 levels

SOFT SHARPENING **Flowers Puppies people**

Amount 150%

Radius 1 pixel

Threshold 10 levels

PORTRAITS head and shoulder close ups

Amount 75%

Radius 2

Threshold 3

LANDSCAPE **Home interiors and exteriors**

Amount 225%

Radius 0.5 pixels

Threshold 0 level

MAXIMUM SHARPENING

well defined lines building cars machinery

Amount 65%

Radius 4

Threshold 3

USING THE TOOL BAR

RED EYE REMOVAL TOOL press Y key

1. zoom in on eye/eyes press Z key
2. left click on red eye removal tool
3. set pupil size set darken amount
4. left click on eye/eyes

CLONE TOOL press S key

1. zoom in on area you want to clone click on the clone tool press S key
2. set brush size left bracket key "[" makes brush smaller----right bracket key "]" makes the brush larger, located on the right side of the letter "P" on the keyboard.
3. hold the alt key and click once ; now drag the cursor over the area

HEALING BRUSH TOOL press J key

1. zoom in on area you want to correct press Z key
2. left click on spot healing brush adjust brush size with bracket keys
left bracket smaller brush right bracket larger brush
3. Click on spot you want to remove

CROP press C key

Make sure image is fit to screen before cropping press CTRL+0

1. left click on crop tool
2. set width and height
3. drag mouse across image drag out at corners to make larger or grab with hand tool to move around
4. click on crop tool click crop

PHOTOSHOP ELEMENTS KEYBOARD SHORTCUTS

MOVE	V
ZOOM/MAGNIFIER	Z
HAND	H
EYEDROPPER	I
MARQUEE	M
MAGNETIC LASSO	L
MAGIC WAND	W
SELECTION BRUSH	A
TYPE	T
CROP	C
COOKIE CUTTER	Q
RED EYE REMOVAL	Y
HEALING BRUSH	J
CLONE STAMP	S
PENCIL	N
ERASER	E
BRUSH	B
PAINT BUCKET	K
GRADIENT	G
CUSTOM SHAPE	U
BLUR	R
SPONGE	O
FOREGROUND & BACKGROUND COLOR	
SWITCH COLORS	X

To the Stony Brook Camera Club Family,

Our sincere thanks to you for attending our workshop We hope it was a great learning experience. If we can be of any further assistance, please e-mail one of us, with the problem.

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