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 know 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 know 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 know 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 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   [½ 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 pf 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 sparate 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 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 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 pixilated 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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