

BASIC PHOTO RETOUCHING

Common Steps:

- Duplicate the original image by using File > Save as
- Work at the highest resolution possible (300 ppi)
- Crop and orient the image according to the final image
- Make any color corrections necessary - remove color casts, adjust contrast and tonal range
- Repair any flaws in the image such as scratches, rips, cuts...
- Adjusting the color and tone in specific parts of the image to bring out highlights, midtones, shadows, and desaturated colors
- Sharpen the overall focus of the image
- With these steps in place, you can start manipulating the image - adding new layers, adding filters, adding text... doing whatever will help you realize your final project.

Color Formats: CMYK, RGB

- The **CMYK** color model (process color, four color) is a subtractive color model, used in color printing. CMYK refers to the four inks used in some color printing: cyan, magenta, yellow, and key (black).
- The **RGB** color model is an additive color model in which red, green and blue light are added together in various ways to reproduce a broad array of colors. The name of the model comes from the initials of the three additive primary colors, red, green and blue.

Screen: pixels per inch, ppi

Print: dots per inch, dpi

Screen frequency: lines per inch, lpi

Use **Bridge** in Photoshop to locate the images and open in Bridge

In Bridge use the aperture icon or File > Open in Bridge to open the images in Camera Raw for adjusting tone.

Camera Raw for color and tone adjustment

Select White Balance tool - droplet tool (third tool)

select an area that should be white or gray i.e. white area of graffiti. This “white” selection will be used to help measure the appropriate colors for the image.

Click Basic Icon - Aperture

Toggle between Auto and Default

Use Default to create a boulder image with greater dimension

White Balance: Custom

Temp: -1
Tint: -10
Default
Exposure: -0.05
Contrast: 16
Highlights: -9
Shadows: -25
Whites: -5
Blacks: 5
Clarity: 3
Vibrance: 4
Saturation: -2

Sharpening (2 triangle icon)
Amount: 50
Radius: 0.8
Detail: 25
Masking: 60
Noise Reduction
Luminance 5
Luminance Detail 50

Open Image > **Photoshop**

View Layout and Design Tools:
Rulers - create guides
Grid

Straighten and crop
Size 3.5 in x 2.5 in 200px straighten tool along top edge

Curves (from bottom of Layers Panel, non-destructive)
Curves for adjustment: black peak at the beginning, white peak at the end, middle portion fairly uniform peaks and valleys - representing adequate pixel data in the midtowns.

Color Balance (from bottom of Layers Panel, non-destructive)
-30
11
-6

Hue/Saturation (from bottom of Layers Panel, non-destructive)
Hue: 0
Saturation: -5
Lightness -2
Brightness & Contrast

Replacing Colors in an Image

Under Brush Tool > Color Replacement Tool
set size 12px, hardness 40%, spacing 25%
Set to Find Edges under Hue (color)
Tolerance 20%
Paint from middle to out edges
Make brush smaller for edges

Save File (remember to save as you work)

Clone Stamp tool to fix areas based on a different set of pixels

Content-aware tools

Spot Healing Brush, similar to Clone tool

100% hard; 40px size

The Spot Healing Brush tool quickly removes blemishes and other imperfections from photos. It paints with sampled pixels from an image or pattern and matches the texture, lighting, transparency, and shading of the sampled pixels to the pixels being healed. Unlike the Clone Stamp tool, the Spot Healing Brush doesn't require you to specify a sample spot.

Patch Tool (under Spot Healing tool)

Medium, all layers selected

Content-aware tools take blending a few steps further: Photoshop fills a selection with pixels that match the surroundings. Using the Patch tool in Content-Aware mode isn't like cloning, because you aren't copying part of the image to another part. Really, it's more like magic. You can fill any selection with content similar to the content around it, as if the object you selected never existed.

Filter > Unsharp Mask Filter

The last task you might want to do when retouching a photo is to apply the Unsharp Mask Filter. The Unsharp Mask Filter adjusts the contrast of the edge detail and creates the illusion of a more focused image.

70%

Resize (FYI - common screen and video dimensions)

1024 x 768 4:3 ratio

1280 x 720 16:9 ratio

1280 x 960 4:3 ratio

1600 x 1200 4:3 ratio

1920 x 1080 16:9 ratio (full HD for video)