

COLOR

Scanning / Correction

New Page

To start a new (blank) page in Photoshop
FILE - NEW {command + N}

Set HEIGHT / WIDTH in INCHES
Set RESOLUTION - "X" (pixels per inch)
Will determine file size

Set MODE - (Bitmap / Grayscale / RGB / CMYK / LAB)*
Will determine type of color model

Set CONTENTS - White / Color of your choice / Transparent
Will determine background

OK

You are now ready to start an original image!

*More later.

Scanning

To get a printed image digitized so it can be manipulated with Photoshop it must be processed by a scanner. Scanners can be operated through Photoshop under the IMPORT function.

FILE - IMPORT will give you the scanner control window.

Place image on scanner

Pre-scan to determine exact placement. Then adjust cropping parameters.

Set DPI and color set up (Dots per Inch). 300 dpi is "average" high resolution.

(Scanning at HIGH resolution will always help maintain image quality especially if your intended end resolution is LOW for web use(72dpi)).

Color Set up is usually Grayscale (B&W) or RGB color (Red, Green, Blue)

SCAN

This will create an "untitled" window with your image in it.

FILE - SAVE {command + S}(keep file names short, simple and recognizable).

image.tif

You now have an image ready to prep!

COLOR CORRECTION

Step 1:

The first thing an image needs after scanning is balancing of the Highlights, Midtones and Shadows.

Highlights are the bright white areas.

Midtones are the midrange tones.

Shadows are the dark black areas.

These areas have numeric values that need to be constant in order to get a quality image when output. These values are checked and adjusted in the RGB Mode in CURVES.

IMAGE - ADJUST - CURVES {Command + M}

Image!!!

Channel - allows you to adjust all three colors at once or select individual colors to make further adjustments.

Using your mouse you can click on the graph line and make changes to the curve. The end-points can also be adjusted.

Curves can be saved (SAVE) and recalled later (LOAD) to be applied to other images.

CMYK and LAB adjustments can be made from this same window when the image is in that mode.

To monitor the adjustments open Photoshop's INFO window

WINDOWS - SHOW INFO

This window displays the RGB numeric values as the change in real time.

Set the "Eyedropper" in the INFO OPTIONS window to 3x3.

In RGB the numeric value 255 is no color (white with no detail) and 0 is total color (Black with no detail). Each of the colors should have a numeric value equal to or close to the others

HIGHLIGHTS - Value should read between 245 - 250 for clean white with detail

MIDTONES - Value should read 90 points below the HIGHLIGHTS.

SHADOW - Value should read between 10 - 25 for black with detail, depending on contrast desired.

By moving the end points and center, depending on which tone you are adjusting you can quickly balance the image. Once it is balanced, OK the curves and do a FILE - SAVE AS so as not to write over your raw scan.

STEP 2:

Now that you have a nicely balanced image a small contrast move is often needed.

Return to CURVES

IMAGE - ADJUST - CURVES {Command + M}

Place the cursor on the center of the graph and click once, this “anchors” the midtones. the move up to 3/4 point on the graph click and hold on the line and move it up slightly, you will notice that the 1/3 point will move slightly down at the same time, this is what is supposed to happen. A little move here goes a long way. OK the curves window.

STEP 3:

Next we will give the image a little “weight”, this is done by boosting the color SATURATION.

IMAGE - ADJUST - HUE/SATURATION {Command + U}

Set the SATURATION level desired by moving the sliding control or typing the number into the indicator box.

Click OK

STEP 4:

In this, the final step we are going to add sharpness to the image. Sharpening is best done in the LAB color mode.

IMAGE - MODE - LAB

We only want to sharpen the BLACK plate, because sharpening is a function of increasing contrast where highlights and shadows meet. To get the BLACK plate:

{Command + 1} *(don't freak out! YES, your image will appear as a light grayscale)

SHARPENing is a FILTER so:

FILTER - SHARPEN - UNSHARP MASK

STEP 4: (cont...)

The AMOUNT of sharpening is a matter is personal taste, but a value between 50 and 150 will make a noticeable effect.

Keep the RADIUS low. 1.0 is fine for this process. THRESHOLD should be 0.

OK.

DO NOT SHARPEN TOO MUCH! Your image will get the “jaggies”. Now return to the image to the RGB mode.

IMAGE - MODE - RGB

Now FILE - SAVE AS - image1.tif

CONGRATULATIONS! You have prepared an image for manipulation.