

Digital Photo Image Editing

- using Adobe® Photoshop Elements

Workshop 11: Working with COLOR

Objective

The objective of this to work with various tools to adjust the color in images

Exercise 11-01 - Color Cast

Image: *wedding-before.jpg*

- Open **Lab Images Week 11** and select the *wedding-before.jpg* image
- The wedding image has a blue color cast. We will use several methods to improve color and save each result to a desk top folder so we can compare results.
- Open image, then set up palette bin to show **Undo History: Window > Undo History**. Also do **Window > Images > Cascade**.
- Even though color is the problem, we will adjust color using Levels adjustment. Go to **Enhance > Adjust Lighting > Levels**. On right are **3 eyedroppers** and an **AUTO** button. Try the auto button; results are not good, so hit **Reset**. Now hover over the right most eyedropper; text box appears reading: **“Set White Point”**. Click eyedropper and move the eyedropper over image to whitest part of image (not the bride’s dress as you might expect, but upper right part of book) and Click. Next select the **“Set Black Point”** eyedropper and move mouse to groom’s tux (just below ribbons of bouquet) and Click. Next select the **“Set Grey Point”** eyedropper and Click on area under the eaves. Try several spots until you get something you like. When satisfied, Click **OK**.
- Go to **File > Save As > Desktop > Click “Create New Folder”** Icon and name the folder with your name (e.g. Bill’s Edits) hit enter, then double click folder to make it active. Change file name to **Levels** and Click **> Select quality 12** and Click **OK**.
- At **Undo History**, Click on **Open** to revert back to original, uncorrected image. Go to **Enhance > Adjust Color > Remove Color Cast**. Try different White, Black Grey areas. **File > Save As > same folder as before > file name: Color Cast**.
- Again revert using **Undo History**. Go to **Enhance > Adjust Color > Adjust Color for Skin Tone**. Click on Bride’s check and/or arm. Note: changes not only skin color but re-colors entire image. Play with the 3 sliders for additional corrections. Reset and start over at any time. **File > Save As > same folder as before > file name: Skin Tone**.
- Again revert using **Undo History**. Go to **Enhance > Adjust Color > Color Variations**. Since image is clearly too blue, Click **Decrease Blue** once then twice. Twice was perhaps too much so Click **Increase Blue** to make the change a net of 1X decrease. Click Increase **Red 1X**, then **2X**, then **Decrease Red 1X**, again a net increase of 1X. But notice the **Adjust Color Intensity Slider**: reduce amount from 50% to 25%, then Increase **Red 1X** but this time the effect is better. You can reset image any time and try your own adjustments. When done, Click **OK, File > Save As > same folder as before > file name: Color Variations**.
- While **Color Variations** effect is still visible, go to **File > Open Recently Edited File** and open each of the other saved variations. We need more desk space, so **close palette bin** on right & **minimize project bin** at bottom. Resize each image so all 4 images are visible, then adjust sliders so minister, bride & groom are visible. Compare results. Which is best? Which was easy to use?
- **WARNING:** What was best for this picture may not be best with a different image!

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Exercise 11-02 - Color Cast

Image: *End of rail.jpg*

- Open **Lab Images Week 11** and select the *End of rail.jpg* image.
- The lighting is not good, so go to **Enhance > Adjust Lighting > Levels**. Notice **Histogram**. You will see that the histogram does not extend all the way across, but is bunched up in the middle.
- Hit the **Auto** button, and now the histogram has spread closer to the ends, and looks like a comb. Also the photo has improved somewhat.
- Without hitting the OK button, we will continue to use Levels.
- Choose **Red** from the Channel pop-up menu above the histogram. Now only the Red channel information is displayed. Slide the **white slider** on the right to about 170. Move the **black slider** on the left to about 25.
- Choose **Green** from the pop-up menu. Change the left & right Input Levels by using the sliders until they read 25 and 205.
- Choose **Blue** from the pop-up menu. Change the left & right Input Levels by using the sliders until they read 35 and 175.
- Switch to the **RGB composite** image from the Channel menu. Note the revised histogram. If you want to lighten the overall image, move the **middle slider** to 1.10 or so. Then click **Preview Button** to compare before and after.
- Save in your Desktop Folder as: *end of rail Levels.jpg*
- For extra credit go back to the original photo (Open under Undo History) and instead try using the eyedroppers in the levels command. Pick white from the clouds, black from the shadow of the rail, and grey from the wood sticking into the air.
- Save in your Desktop Folder as: *end of rail Eye Droppers.jpg*
- As before, reopen photos and compare

Exercise 11-03 - Adjust Hue / Saturation

Image: *Egret.jpg*

- Open **Lab Images Week 11** and select the the *Egret.jpg* image
- Then go to **Enhance > Adjust Color > Adjust Hue Saturation**, and begin by moving the **Hue slider** back and forth. You will see so clearly the effect is to transform colors from one hue to another. Bring the **Hue slider** back to its midpoint (with a value of 0).
- Try the same thing with the **Saturation slider**. Taking it to the left reduces the image to gray scale, while moving it to the right makes the colors more brilliant. Bring the **Saturation slider** back to the middle (you can type the number 0 into the value box), and then try the same with the Lightness slider. You can make the image go completely black on the left, or completely white on the right.
- I don't think you will like the results. However, make a selection of just the egret's orange bill using the **Quick Selection Tool**. Then once again go to **Enhance > Adjust Color > Adjust Hue Saturation** and try adjusting Hue and Saturation in order to emphasize the egret's bill. Try making his bill almost glow like neon. Cancel this, because you probably won't like it anyway.
- Also click on the **Hand** tool to deactivate the selection tool.

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Exercise 11-04 - Hue / Saturation:

Image: *flymetothemoon.jpg*

- Open **Lab Images Week 11** and select the *flymetothemoon* image.
- Go to **Enhance > Auto Color Correction**. Use the **Undo History** palette to move back and forth between the original and modified image and carefully compare the images.
- Make sure that the **Auto Color Correction** step is still active in the **Undo History** palette.
- Then once again go to **Enhance > Adjust Color > Adjust Hue Saturation** and this time click for a check mark in the **Colorize** box.
- Try playing with the **Hue** to get a tone you find interesting, and then manipulate the **Saturation** slider.
- Cancel this and make sure to go back to the **Open** state in the **Undo History** palette for this image.

Exercise 11-05 - Adjust Color Curves

Image: *flymetothemoon.jpg*

- The *flymetothemoon* image should still be open, and it should be in its original state, if you followed the last instruction.
- Now go to **Enhance > Adjust Color > Adjust Color Curves**, and move this box and the image, so that you can see as much as possible of both of them. In the lower left of the Color Curves box select the **Increase Contrast** option. The before and after images give you a good view of the changes this makes.
- Next try sliding **Adjust Shadows** to the left, **Adjust Highlights** to the right, and **Midtone Brightness** slightly right. These make the image more dramatic.
- At this point you could add to these effects by clicking OK, and then going to **Enhance > Adjust Color > Adjust Hue Saturation**, and increasing the **Saturation**. You can say OK to the changes if you like.

Exercise 11-06 - Adjust Color Curves

Image: *SchoolofAthens.jpg*

- Bring *SchoolofAthens* to the top of the stack, and go to **Enhance > Adjust Color > Adjust Color Curves** once again.
- Work with the sliders to try to brighten the image and increase the contrast somewhat.
- If you want to see what someone else thought that Raphael's painting looked like 500 years ago when it was new, try googling 'School of Athens + Raphael' and look at the Wikipedia image.

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Exercise 11-07 - Adjust Color for Skin Tone

Image: *SchoolofAthens.jpg*

- Although this tool is best applied to a portrait, we can show its effect on the *SchoolofAthens* that we have been working with. If you saved the changes to the image in the previous section, that is a good place to start this section. Otherwise, if the image is in its original state, then go to **Enhance > Auto Color Correction**.
- Now go to **Enhance > Adjust Color > Adjust Color for Skin Tone** and read the instructions in the box. Use the pointer to click on the skin of the man in a blue toga reclining of the steps. There may be an immediate slight change to the overall tone of the image.
- Then slide the **Tan** control to the right. It may take a couple of seconds for the change to take effect, and then click the **Preview** on and off to see what has happened.
- Bring the **Tan** slider back to the center and try the same thing with the **Blush** slider.
- Finally try the bottom **Temperature** slider. You should see fairly subtle changes in the tone of the image.
- You should try this tool on a portrait that you have taken