

## Digital Photo Editing with Photoshop Elements – Workshop Exercise 3

We will start using the Full Edit mode. We will try enhancing photos by using the different lighting and color adjustment tools available in PSE.

**Start Full Edit:** Start PSE and the Organizer. Select *wedding-before.jpg* and open it in Full Edit. You can do this either by choosing the pull-down Edit menu or typing Ctrl+I. Once Full Edit opens you will see the wedding photo.

**Full Edit Workspace:** Along the left side of the workspace is the vertical Toolbox. The 3<sup>rd</sup> from the top is the Hand. Click on it. As soon as you do the Options bar just above the Image Window (the photo and its file name) shows a hand icon along with 3 option boxes: Actual Pixels, Fit Screen, and Print Size. Click on these to see what happens, and go back to Fit Screen. On the right hand side of the workspace is the Palette Bin. If Undo History does not appear, go to the Window pull down menu and check Undo History. When it appears choose More in the upper right and check Place in Palette Bin when Closed. Then click the red X, and it should appear in the Palette Bin. Check that Window > Image > Cascade is checked under that menu. We will become familiar with more of the workspace and tools as we work the examples.

**Levels to adjust color cast:** Go to Enhance > Adjust Lighting > Levels or type Ctrl+L. What appears is a histogram of this photo in the box, and below it are sliders. On the right are the usual buttons along with 3 eyedropper icons. Make sure the Preview box is checked. First let's try pushing the Auto button. The results are not good, so hit the Reset button. Now go to the right most eyedropper and put the mouse there for a moment. The text box should pop up and say "Set White Point". So go ahead and click on this eyedropper, and then move over to the whitest place on the minister's color and click there. Note the change. Next go to the left eyedropper to "Set Black Point", click on it, and then find the blackest part of the groom's tux and click on it. Next go to the middle eyedropper for "Set Grey Point", click on it, and then click on the groom's grey tie. Click on the OK box to accept these changes. For added credit go to Enhance > Adjust Color > Remove Color Cast and try this tool. It does not work as well.

**Adjust Color for Skin Tone:** Let's see if we can improve some more on the wedding photo. Go to Enhance > Adjust Color > Adjust Color for Skin Tone. Pick a point on the bride's shoulder and click there. After a moment note the changes to everyone's skin tone, and the tone of the entire photo. Try reducing the Tan slider and increasing the Blush slider. Note the subtle changes you can accomplish in the skin tones. The Temperature Slider can also warm the photo. Go ahead and accept what you like by hitting OK. Use the blue arrow keys or click in the Undo History box to compare the changes you have made to the original photo. If you were working at home you would want to Save these changes, but here in the Lab you probably want to just click the close button X in the upper right corner of the image window (not the program X button).

**End of Rail: Color Correction with Levels.** Open *End of rail.jpg* in Full Edit. Go to Enhance > Adjust Lighting > Levels or type Ctrl+L. We are going to learn more about the power of the Levels command. You will see that the histogram does not extend all the way across, but is bunched up in the middle.

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 into where it reads 168. Slide the black slider on the left in to where it reads 30. Move the center grey slider until it reads 1.23. (These do not need to be exact. They are just guides.)

Choose Green from the pop-up menu. Change the three Input Levels by using the sliders until they read 36, 1.25, and 205.

Choose Blue from the pop-up menu. Change the three Input Levels by using the sliders until they read 50, 1.26, and 187.

Switch to the RGB composite image from the Channel menu. Set the middle Input Level to 1.13 to lighten the midtones across all color channels. Then click OK. Now compare before and after.

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.

**Shadows & Highlights:** Open *StPeters.jpg* in Full Edit. Go to Enhance > Adjust Lighting > Shadows/Highlights. Move the Lighten Shadows slider back and forth to where you can see detail in the ceiling and walls. To help see this click on the Zoom tool above the Hand in the toolbar. Go anywhere in the photo and click to zoom in. Use Alt-click to zoom out. Hold down the space bar and use the mouse to move around the photo. The Darken Highlights slider does not have much effect in this photo. The Midtone Contrast does improve the photo some, so try it.

**Hue & Saturation:** *rfox-before.jpg* in Full Edit. Go to Enhance > Adjust Lighting > Levels. Click the Auto button and OK. Then go to Enhance > Adjust Color > Adjust Hue/Saturation. In the top box choose Reds instead of Master. Move the slider bar for Saturation a bit to the right until you make the fox as red as you like.

**Extra Credit:** In the folder *PSE Lab Images, Lesson 03* open the 3 images called *wntpondok.jpg*, *wntpondover.jpg*, *wntpondunder.jpg*. You will see that the names indicate that one is correctly exposed, one is overexposed, and the other is underexposed.

Using Levels try to make them all appear the same. Use the Red, Green, Blue sliders.

In the *Lesson 01* folder open *Flymetothemoon.jpg* and then use Levels followed by Adjust Hue Saturation to get the best image you like. Then try to improve *Egret.jpg* and *Sunrise1.jpg*.