Basic Photo Touch Up and Editing

Image used: By Andie Smith



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Basic Photoshop Editing – Digital Touch up of Darkroom Print



This is the original file opened in Photoshop

Rotating image:



Go to Image on the top bar menu, scroll down to Image Rotation and select the proper rotation amount

Straightening image:

You can set up the rulers to help guide your straightening. Go to View on the top bar menu and click on Ruler.



Once that is activated just click and grab at the top or left side of the display space and drag down the aqua colored ruler down to create a straight edge.



Select the image by either going to the top bar menu and Clicking on Select and then from that menu choose All. Or, easier, just press Ctrl and A on the keyboard.



Go to Edit then Transform and select Rotate. Grab the corner of the image and rotate the image to your liking.



Press enter to save the transformation. If ever you want to abanadon a tranformation, just press ESC.

Cropping the Image:

Select the Crop tool from the Left side Tool Bar menu. Crop in on the image to your liking. Press enter.



Adjusting the Contrast on the Histogram using Levels:

To the left of the screen click on the mountain looking icon and the Levels window will pop out. Grab the black, gray or white triangles under the histogram and adjust to your liking.



Dodging and Burning:

Press the Alt key while left clicking the mouse



The layer properties menu will come up

1.001	New Layer	
2.2	Name: Layer 1 OK	
_	Use Previous Layer to Create Clipping Mask Cancel	
7.5	Color: None	
-	Mode: Normal	
	(No neutral color exists for Normal mode.)	
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Change the properties till it is displayed like this below Title the layer in the Name section "dodge & burn"

Change the Mode to "Overlay"

Put a click in the Overlay-neutral color (50% gray)



Click on the paint tool on the left tool bar



Go to the opacity adjustment at the top tool bar and adjust it to a low level in the high teens or low twenties



To change the brush size of the keyboard shortcut is to use the bracket keys



Find the brush color tool on the left tool bar. The one on top indicates the color you will be painting with. For burning in (darkening), use black, for dodging (lightening), use the white. To change between black and white click on the switch arrow symbol to the upper right of the color squares. If your squares are any other color rather than black and white, click on one of the squares and select white or black on the brush color



Now burn in and dodge the areas you wish to, moving the brush tool while holding the left button on the mouse.

If you need a further explanation, please see the tutorial in this folder on how to do Non-Destructive Dodging and Burning.



This image has been Dodged and Burned in using the instructions.

Touching Up Damage:

You need to copy your background layer before doing touch up. The purpose of doing this is, in case you totally mess up on your touch ups, you can just delete the thouch layer. If you touch up on the background layer and you have gone too many steps into your editing, you would have to close the whole file and start over.

Right click on the background and select "Duplicate Layer"





When the dialogue box pops up, type in "Touch up" and then click "OK".

Right click on the band aid symbol on the tools sidebar. This will show you all the touch up tools in this pull out menu. The easiest and most common is the Spot Healing brush. We will start with that tool.



You will need to zoom in on your image. There are several ways to zoom in, but the most efficient is to hold down the Z key and then hold down the left click on your mouse then pull to the right across the image. To zoom out scroll left.

To move the image around while working on it, the best shortcut is to hold down the spacebar on the keyboard and you will see a hand appear on the screen. While holding the spacebar, hold the left click down on the mouse and move the photo around to the desired location.



The next thing you need to do is to get the brush set up correctly. In the upper left of the screen, click on the upside down triangle just to the left of the number with a dot over it. You will see the display you see below. You can adjust the brush size here, but it is much easier to adjust the brush using the bracket bars on the keyboard. What is more important on this display is to adjust the brush hardness. Move the slider to a softer brush (anywhere between 0-25%).



It is usually best to make sure Proximity Match or Content Aware is set.

Now start left clicking with the Spot Healing Brush, changing the size of the brush as needed using the bracket keys on the keyboard, touching up the spots.

There is also the Healing Brush Tool. Please see Mr. Lindroth for an explanation on this. It is easy to use, but difficult shoot screen shots of this technique.

The Patch Tool is good to use for large damaged areas. Right click on the tool sidebar for the touch up tools and select the Patch tool. Then go to area with your mouse you would like to fix and then left click and hold and then move around the area until you come back around to where you started. If you don't like the selection you made, press Ctrl+D to deselect.

Now move the mouse to the center of your selection, left click and hold, then move the damaged area to part of the photo with which you would like to replace the damage then release the left click on the mouse.





After you have touched up the area, move on to other parts of the photo. This is the "after" of the image that started off this section on touch up.



Overlay to increase contrast:

Once the image is completely touched up, you can use an overlay to increase the contrast of your image. This is not a required process, but it is often worth testing just to see if it would help.

Right click on the Background layer to the right of the screen. Left click on Duplicate Layer. Once this is done, you can rename the layer by double clicking on "Background copy" and typing in "Overlay."



Left click on Normal and then click on Overlay. You will see the contrast increase dramatically.



Left click on the Opacity percentage slider and slide it back and forth to see how much of the overlay you would like to have present. If you do not like the overlay on this particular image, just right click on that top layer and select "delete layer"

