

Photoshop Basic Photo Editing Workflow

Objective

To introduce a 10 Step Workflow for making your digital photographs look better in Photoshop. The workflow will be reviewed then applied to a variety of images. As you'll discover, each step can be approached in different ways and some steps are optional.

This basic workflow will provide you with a framework for approaching your own photo editing needs. You will have a framework to know "what to do when" in Photoshop to make your images better.

1. Save Original & Make a Copy to Edit
2. Create a Plan of Attack
3. Crop and Straighten
4. Fix Global Exposure or Color Cast Problems
5. Fix Local Color or Tonal Problem Areas
6. Zoom in for Retouching
7. Save/Archive
8. Resize
9. Sharpen
10. Save As - Choose a Format to Match the Output

Detailed related sources for each step of the 10 Step Workflow

1. Save Original & Make a Copy to Edit

- Workflow for the Photographer in Photoshop CS – their 9 step process reviewed then details on opening, saving copies, creating new folders and closing files
http://www.americanphotomag.com/article.asp?section_id=6&article_id=3357
- Destructive vs. Non-destructive edits
<http://www.myjanee.com/tuts/filter/filter.htm#nondestruct>

2. Create a Plan of Attack

- Digital Darkroom Considerations
http://www.lunacore.com/articles/art001_darkroomconsiderations.htm
- Photoshop How-To: Using Adjustment Layers
<http://www.creativepro.com/story/feature/22295.html>

3. Crop and Straighten

Using the Crop Tool from a Technical Point of View
http://www.skeller.ch/ps/crop_tool.php

4. Fix Global Exposure or Color Cast Problems

- Video: Open Up Shadows Using Shadow/Highlight with Colin Smith (please note, the video picture doesn't appear for a few seconds)
<http://www.dreamweavercafe.com/photoshopCD/clips/shadowhl.htm>
- Video: Introduction to the Variations Color Correction Tool in Photoshop with Deke McClelland
<http://digitalmedia.oreilly.com/2005/12/05/variations-color-correction.html>

5. Fix Local Color or Tonal Problem Areas

Dodging and Burning in Photoshop

http://www.dpchallenge.com/tutorial.php?TUTORIAL_ID=30

6. Zoom in for Retouching

- Beautify a Face
<http://www.lunacore.com/photoshop/tutorials/tut018.htm>
- Remove Unwanted Areas From Photos (Spot Healing Brush)
<http://www.informit.com/guides/content.asp?g=photoshop&seqNum=255&rl=1>
- Adobe Photoshop's Rubber Stamp Tool (Also known as the Clone Tool)
http://www.lonestardigital.com/rubber_stamp.htm
- Video: Photoshop's Red Eye Tool
<http://simplephotoshop.com/photoshop-cs2/red-eye-tool.htm>
- Red eye effect - people and animals (good explanation of why this happens)
http://www.colorpilot.com/redeye_effect.html

7. Save/Archive

- Archiving Images - Approaches to Storage & Retrieval
<http://luminous-landscape.com/tutorials/hd-back.shtml>
- Best CD-R for Photo Archiving? (discussion)
<http://www.betterphoto.com/forms/qnaDetail.asp?threadID=12804>

8. Resize

- Resizing and Resampling (short and sweet)
http://www.graphicsguy.org/graphicsguy/gg03-03/gg03_03.html
- How To Resize Images And Maintain Original Sharpness (tutorial for versions CS and later)
<http://www.photoshopsupport.com/tutorials/jennifer/bicubic.html>

9. Sharpen

- (Almost) Everything You Wanted to Know about Sharpening in Photoshop but Were Afraid to Ask by Bruce Fraser
<http://www.creativepro.com/story/feature/11242.html>
- Video: Smart Sharpen Filter — Photoshop CS2 (Photoshop 9) with Deke McClelland
<http://www.photoshopsupport.com/tutorials/tt-cs2/smart-sharpen.html>

10. Save As - Choose a Format to Match the Output

- Image File Formats
<http://www.yourhtmlsource.com/images/fileformats.html>
- Saving for Web or E-Mail Delivery with Matt Kloskowski
<http://www.informit.com/guides/content.asp?g=photoshop&seqNum=183>
- Saving for Printing with Matt Kloskowski
<http://www.informit.com/guides/content.asp?g=photoshop&seqNum=182>

References

Based on the article "Photo Editing Workflow" by Jan Kabili for the July/August 2005 edition of *Photoshop User* magazine

More about Jan Kabili at <http://photoshopcourse.blogspot.com/>

More about *Photoshop User* magazine at <http://www.photoshopper.com/psuser.htm>

CSU Software Cellar <http://softcell.colostate.edu/>

Adobe Downloads <http://www.adobe.com/support/downloads/main.html>

CTSS Computer Lab http://www.ctss.colostate.edu/computer_lab_home.asp