

# Fixing and Enhancing Images with Photoshop

**Digital Media Commons  
Fondren Basement B42**

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# Fixing and Enhancing Images Handout

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## Outline


- Workshop Objectives
- Photoshop tools
  - 1) Crop tool
  - 2) Histogram
  - 3) Brightness/Contrast, Shadow/Highlights, and Levels
  - 4) Dodge and Burn
  - 5) Spot Healing Brush, Patch, and Healing Brush

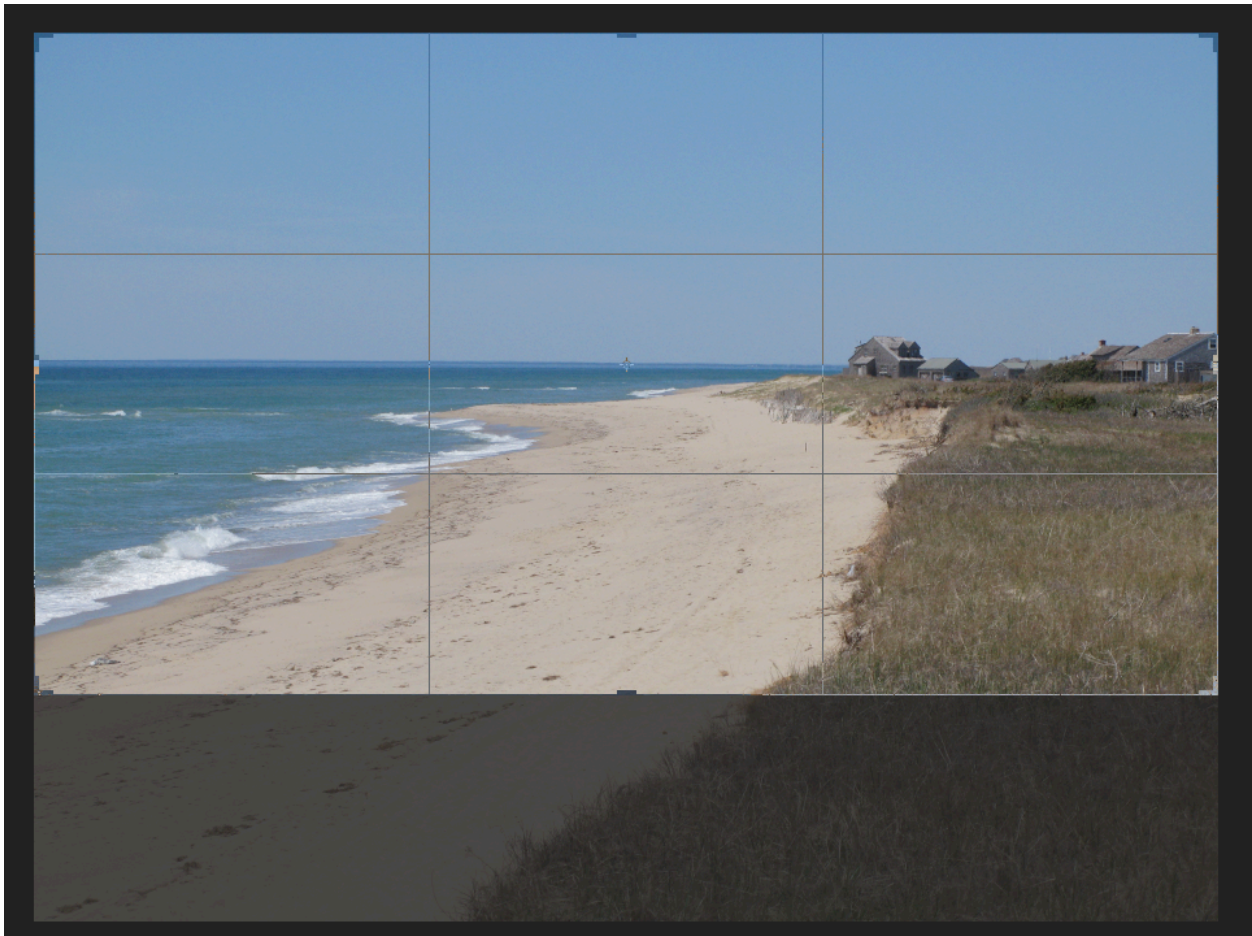
## Objectives

- use the Crop tool to make compositional adjustments
- learn to understand the Histogram
- make image adjustments with Levels, Brightness/Contrast, Shadow/Highlights
- use the Dodge and Burn tools to make small brightness adjustments
- use Patch, Healing Brush, and Spot Healing Brush tools to remove blemishes

## Photoshop Tools

### 1. Crop Tool

- 1) Open the file named beach.jpg.
- 2) Click on the Crop tool  in the toolbar on the far left.
- 3) The crop area will initially encompass your entire image.
  - i. If not, drag your cursor over the area you want to crop.



- 4) You can then drag in the edges to adjust the selection box as you like.
- 5) Hit the Enter key on your keyboard to crop.


## 2. Reading the Histogram

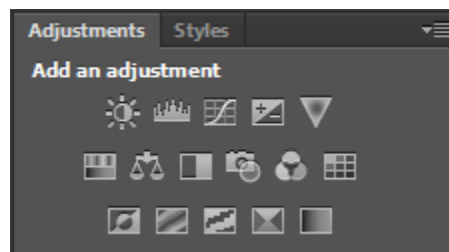
- 1) At the top, choose Window > Histogram.



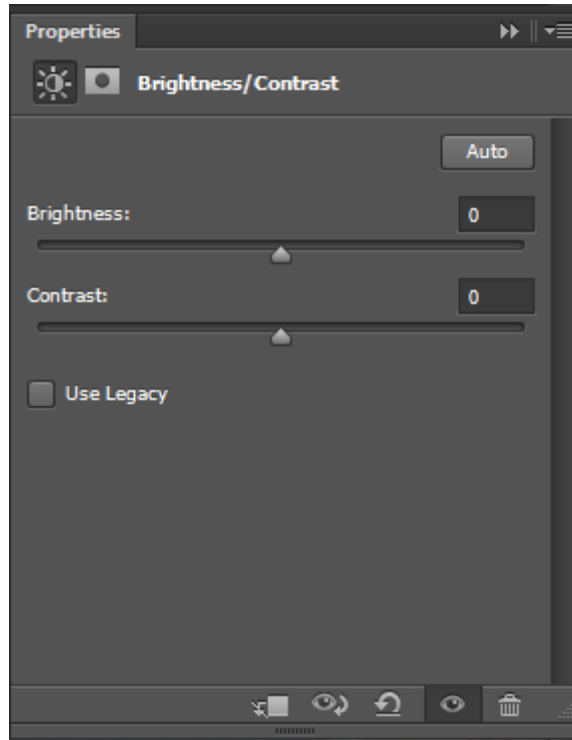
- 2) The Histogram panel will pop up on the right side of the screen.
  - i. If your histogram doesn't look like this, click the drop down menu in the top right corner of this panel and choose Expanded View. Then change the Channel to RGB.
- 3) Just from looking at the photo of the beach, we can see that the image is pretty flat. There's barely any contrast.
- 4) The histogram is a graphical representation of the photo's tonal range, ranging from pure black on the left to pure white on the right.
- 5) The histogram shows you the tonal elements that are missing from your photo. The large gaps between the edges of the box and the graph itself indicate a lack of that element, reflecting the lack of contrast.
- 6) An image with a good tonal range would have a histogram that spans the entirety of the box.

## 3. Brightness/Contrast, Shadow/Highlights, Levels

- 1) As we've seen, beach.jpg is an image with a fairly low dynamic range.
- 2) At the top, choose Layer > New Adjustment Layer > Brightness/Contrast
  - i. Alternatively, you can choose Brightness/Contrast  from the Adjustments tab on the right.

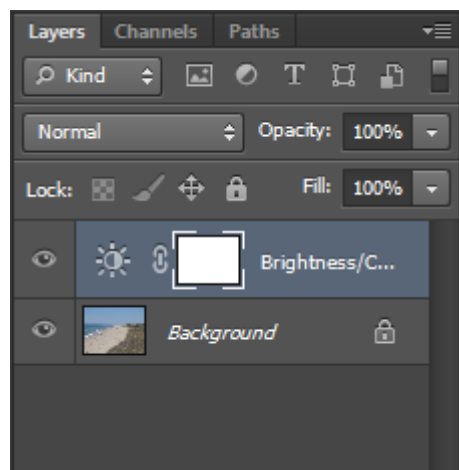


3) The Brightness/Contrast sliders will pop up.



4) You can adjust these sliders to alter the brightness and contrast of the image to your liking.

5) Also, it's worth noting that the Brightness/Contrast adjustment will act as



its own layer in the layer window.

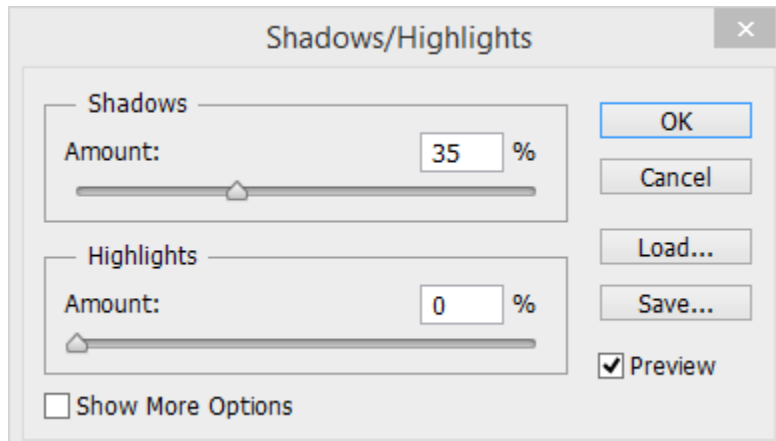
6) Now we'll take a look at the Shadow/Highlights adjustment.

7) Delete or hide the Brightness/Contrast layer.


8) Make sure the Background layer is selected.

9) At the top, choose Image > Adjustments > Shadows/Highlights.

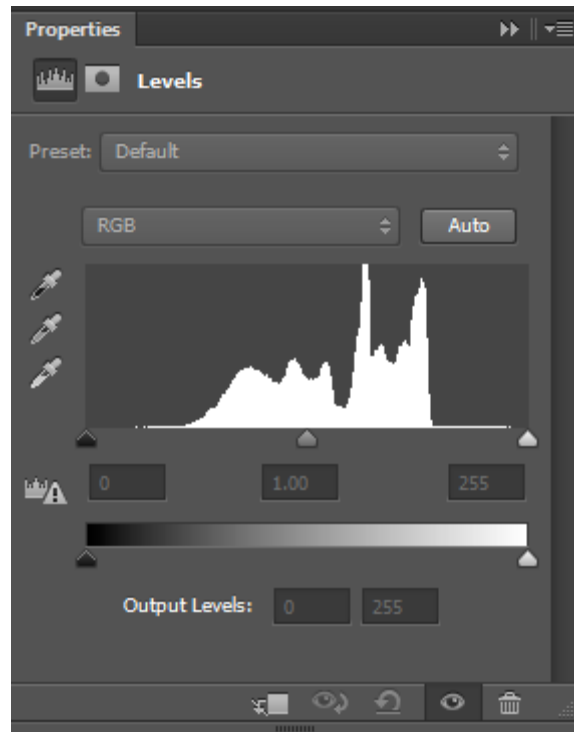
- 10) A dialog box will appear and the corrections you make will be displayed



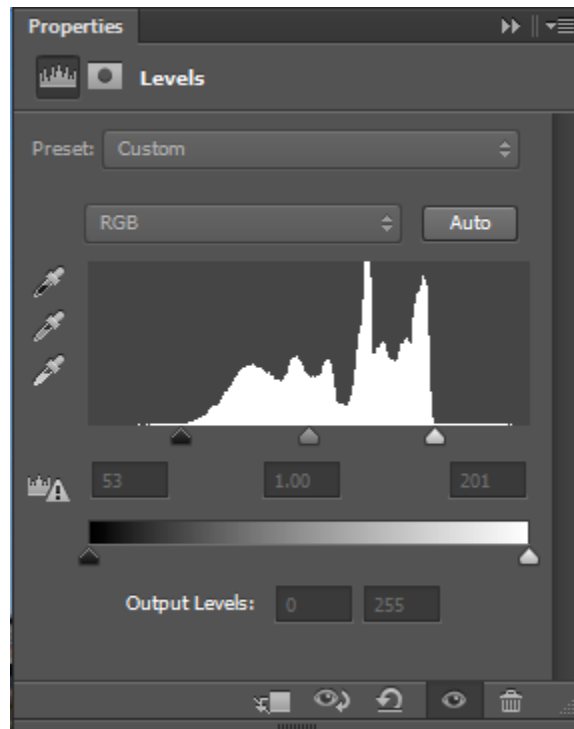
as you make them as long as the Preview box is checked off.

- 11) The higher the percentage, the lighter the shadows will be and the darker the highlights will be.
- 12) You can also click Show More Options for even finer tuning. However, we won't dive into the details here. It's worth experimenting with on your own, though.
- 13) Click OK to apply the Shadows/Highlights adjustment. Notice that, unlike Brightness/Contrast, the adjustment applies directly to the Background layer instead of creating a new layer on top.
- 14) Now we'll take a look at the more powerful Levels adjustment.
- 15) Undo the Shadow/Highlights adjustment by choosing Edit > Step Backward.
- 16) At the top, choose Layer > New Adjustment Layer > Levels.
- i. Alternatively, you can choose Levels  from the Adjustments tab on the right.

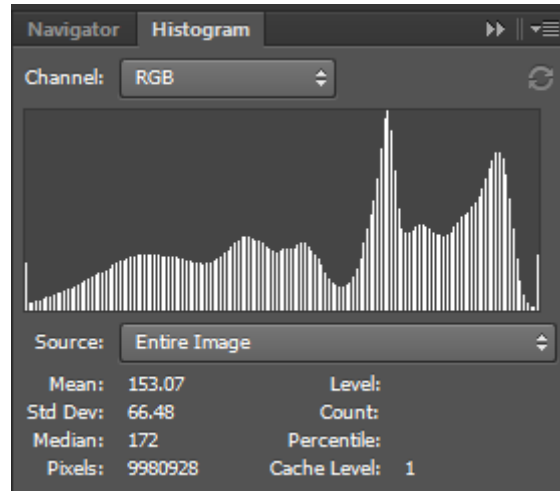
17) A tab will open up containing a histogram.



18) Slide the black and white slider inward until they come in contact with the graph. As you adjust, the image will become more vivid and have higher contrast.





- 19) You can also move the gray slider in the center of the graph to adjust the mid-tones. Left will brighten; right will darken. From here, you're just adjusting to get the look you want.
- 20) When you're done, open up the Histogram panel again as we did earlier by choosing Window > Histogram. It should look something like this.



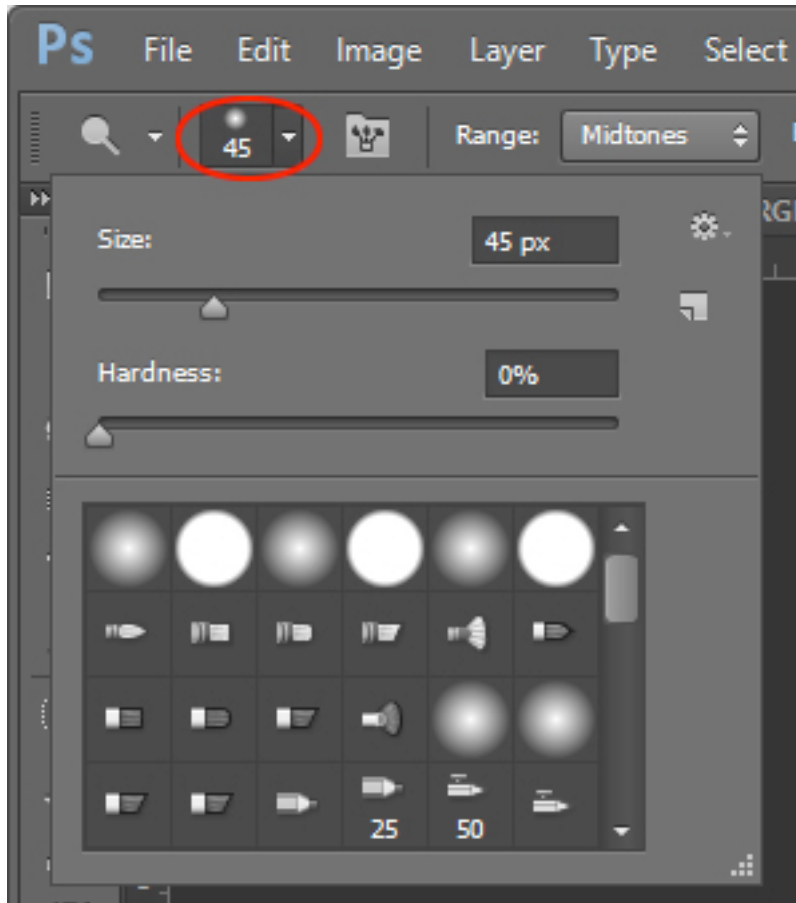
- 21) Notice that the graph now spans the entire box, giving you a confirmation that your photo now has a substantial dynamic range.

#### 4. Dodge and Burn

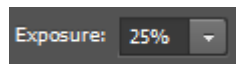
- 1) Open the file named model.jpg.
- 2) The dodge tool  and burn tool  are located on the far left in the toolbar. To access them, click and hold on the icon displayed and a menu will pop up directly adjacent to it, containing the burn, dodge, and sponge tools.
- 3) Select the dodge tool. The dodge tool lightens the area of the image you brush over.



- 4) At the top of your screen, open the brush drop down menu.





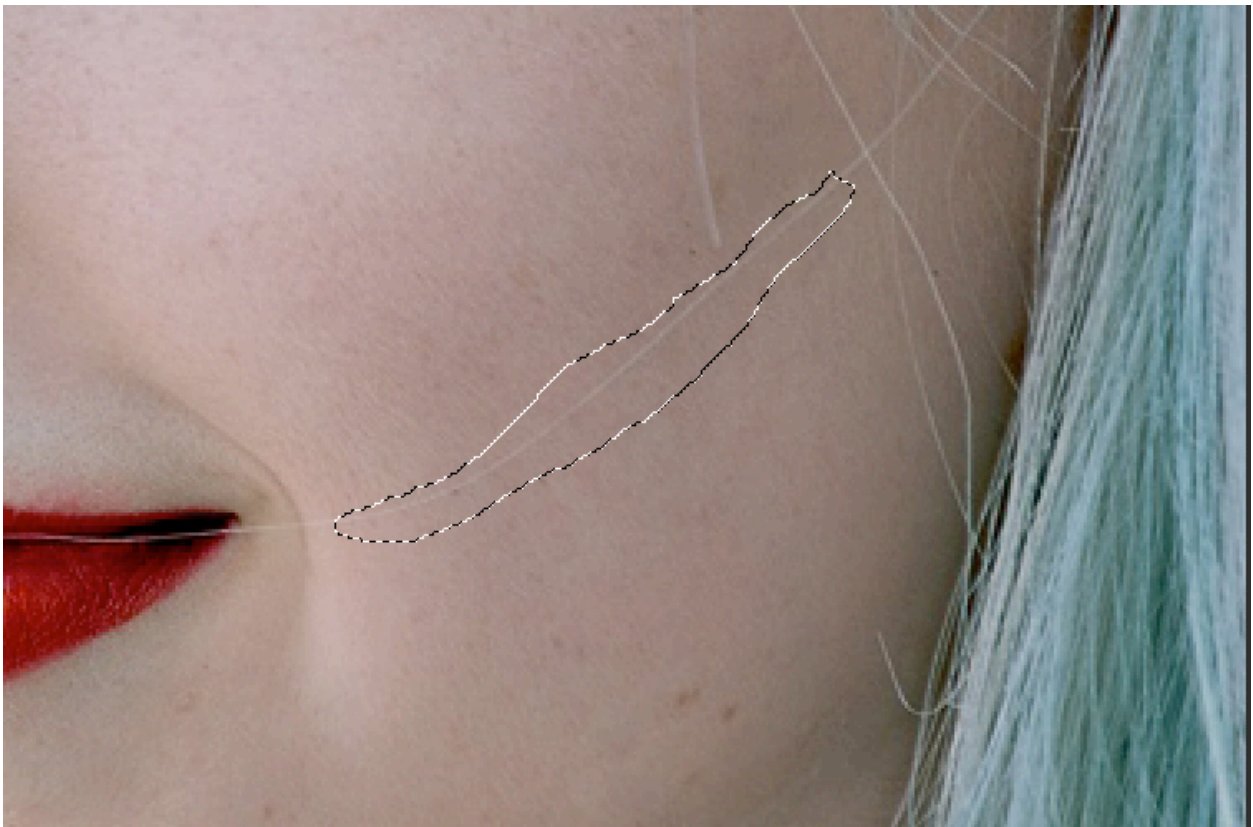
- 5) Adjust the size to about 45 and the hardness to 0. Close the drop down menu.




- 6) A little over to the right, adjust the exposure to around 25%.
- 7) This sets how intense the dodge will be, and we don't want to overdo it here.
- 8) Now brush over the eyes and lips to brighten those areas.
- 9) Select the burn tool. The burn tool darkens the area of the image you brush over.
- 10) Using the brush drop menu, change the brush size to about 250 and the hardness to 0. You can leave the exposure at 50%.
- 11) Brush over the background on the left side of the image to darken it. This will separate the subject even more from the background.

## 5. Spot Healing Brush, Patch, Healing Brush, and Clone Stamp


- 1) The spot healing brush is perfect for removing blemishes.
- 2) Select the spot healing brush  from the toolbar on the left.
- 3) In the brush drop down menu at the top, set the size to around 20 and the hardness to 100.
- 4) Now you can just click once on each freckle and they'll automatically be removed. Simple as that!
- 5) Next select the patch tool  by clicking and holding the spot healing brush icon.



- 6) Draw a selection around the stray hair on the subject's cheek.
- 7) Next, click and hold within the selection. Drag the selection a little bit below the stray hair and let go. The stray hair will disappear!
- 8) Now select the healing brush tool  by clicking and holding the patch tool icon.
- 9) This next part will take a bit of manual skill and a lot of patience. We're going to get rid of the portion of stray hair that crosses over the mouth.

- 10) First, you will need to hold down the 'Alt' key on your keyboard. Your cursor will turn into a target. Click once right next to area you are about to cover up. Try to match color or texture as closely as you can. So in this case, it will be the red of the lips for the most part.
- 11) Now let go of 'Alt' and click again on the area you want to clear up.
- 12) You can use this process, along with the patch and spot healing brush, to clear up the rest of the stray hair. It make take a few 'undos' to get it right, so don't get disheartened!



- 13) Next will practice using the clone stamp tool on the background.
- 14) Select the clone stamp tool  in the toolbar on the left.
- 15) Set the brush size to 200 and the hardness to about 20. You may have to adjust these as you go to adapt the area of the photo you're working in.
- 16) The clone stamp works a lot like the healing brush; however, it creates of a direct copy of the sample area targeted.
- 17) Hold down the 'Alt' key on your keyboard to change the cursor to a target. Click on a portion of the background that is just the blue texture. Now let go of 'Alt' and click and drag on the area you want to clear up. Do this is relatively small strokes to ensure a precise cleanup.

18) Your final image should look something like this!

