
DIGITAL IMAGING WORKFLOW

Part #4

This workflow is *one* approach in the creation of images for the internet or for printing by an ink jet printer, not for a commercial CMYK printer. It is meant to be a guideline to processing images, not a set of rules to be strictly followed. Many alternative techniques are equally valid and in some cases, are a better approach than detailed here for a specific image.

Basic Workflow:

- Camera Image File + Modifications and Adjustments => Master Image File (psd format).
- Master Image File + versions 1...n of the image's final size, resolution, sharpening & file format => Output Image File versions 1...n.
- Backup your data

Step 3: Master Image Editing

Last Month:

- 1) Pre-Edit
- 2) Correct Orientation
- 3) Shadows/Highlight Filter
- 4) Add a Levels Adjustment Layer to Maximize Dynamic Range
- 5) Add a Curves Adjustment Layer to Modify Tonal Characteristics

6) Add a Color Balance Adjustment Layer to Correct Color

- **Color Component Sliders**
 - **Cyan...Red** color component
 - **Magenta...Green** color component
 - **Yellow...Blue** color component
- **Tone Balance:** modify a specific tonal region of the image
 - **Shadows:** adjust each channel from black to near midrange
 - **Midtones:** adjust each channel about the midrange
 - **Highlights:** adjust each channel from beyond midrange to white
- **Preserve Luminosity:** set with RGB images to maintain apparent image brightness while color is modified
 - a. Make color corrections using the Color Sliders
If available, use a gray image as a reference and use the Info palette to check for neutral tones.
 - b. For a slightly warmer color balance, slightly increase red, magenta, and/or yellow
 - c. To selectively modify color balance, add additional Color Balance Adj. Layers with Layer Masks

7) Add a Hue/Saturation Adjustment Layer to Modify Color

- **Edit**
 - **Master:** adjust all colors
 - **R, G, B, C, M, Y:** adjust individual color component and display the Adjustment sliders on the Lower Colorbar
- **Hue Slider:** adjust the basic color of all pixels
 $0^\circ = \text{Red}$, $60^\circ = \text{Yellow}$, $120^\circ = \text{Green}$, $180^\circ = \text{Cyan}$,
 $240^\circ = \text{Blue}$, $300^\circ = \text{Magenta}$, $360^\circ = 0^\circ = \text{Red}$
 - **Complementary Colors:** $\pm 180^\circ$
 - **Split Complementary Colors:** $\pm 150^\circ$
 - **Triad Colors:** $\pm 120^\circ$
- **Saturation Slider:** adjust the color purity of all pixels
- **Lightness Slider:** adjust the brightness of all pixels
- **Eyedropper:** set the center of the initial color range
- **+Eyedropper:** include the selected color range
- **-Eyedropper:** exclude the selected color range
- **Colorize:** apply a tint to a RGB image
- **Upper Colorbar:** original color wheel
- **Lower Colorbar:** modified color wheel – color on the lower bar is now the color that was directly above on the upper bar
- **Adjustment Slider (only when Edit = a color component, not Master):** restrict the color range affected by Hue/Saturation
 - a. Increase saturation from 5% to 15% for many digital camera images; **don't overdo**
 - b. For a grayscale image, decrease saturation to -100%, or almost -100% (other techniques may be better)
 - c. To colorize an image, check Colorize and move the sliders as desired
 - d. Use the individual Hue/Sat color channels to selectively modify image color

8) Additional tonal modification techniques

- a. To darken, either
 1. Duplicate layer and set to Multiply blend
 2. Add a Levels Adj Layer set to Multiply blend
- b. To lighten, either
 1. Duplicate layer and set to Screen blend
 2. Add a Levels Adj Layer set to Screen blend
- c. To selectively lighten and darken, add a new layer with Overlay blend and paint white to lighten, paint black to darken
- d. To photograph a very high contrast subject, take two pictures with one exposed for the highlights and the other for the shadows, and combine with a Layer Mask

9) Add a New Layer above the Image for Retouching

- a. Add a New Layer immediately above the background image layer and below the adjustment layers*
- b. Turn off the visibility of all upper layers*
- c. Clone Stamp tool, Healing Brush tool, Patch tool to remove dust and scratches and clean up the image*
- d. Restore the visibility of all layers*

10) Perform Final Cleanup

- a. Fine tune all adjustment layers*
- b. Perform any additional editing as needed*

11) Save the Master Image File

- a. File > File Info > Description: save any reference data including any unique editing and printing information*
- b. File > Save to save the Master Image File*
- c. Archive original and Master Image files*