

## PROCEDURE FOR CONVERTING/ADJUSTING – MONOCHROME IMAGES – PHOTOSHOP CS3-4 ETC

- 1] Photos can be scanned from negs/slides or from digital cameras
- 2] Open photo in photoshop. It is best to continue from here **using adjustment layers.**
- 3] Layer > New Adjustment Layer > B&W or Channel Mixer – Try Channel Mix first.
- 4] Channel Mix- check the monochrome box > move the GREEN slider to 0 and then adjust the RED and BLUE sliders to get an acceptable contrast {try RED 80 and BLUE 20} Some say not to go beyond 100% but the important thing is not to ‘blow’ the highlights.
- 5] Layer>New Adjustment Layer>Levels and adjust accordingly – ie if the histogram is flat at any end pull the slider in or near to where the histogram starts to peak – again watch the highlights {right side slider}
- 6] The next move is to assess where you may want to do any ‘localised’ contrast/tonal adjustments using selected areas and levels and using the dodge/burn tools What we are talking about is darkening or lightening areas of the photo. What you do is very much a personal thing of course.
- 7] To work on a selected area with levels use the POLYGONAL LASSOO TOOL. Click and anchor outside the image area and then continue to select the area you want, ending back at the beginning. If you create a mess of ‘chewing gum’ just press the delete key to reverse your anchor points! You do not have to start outside the image area however, simply select the area you want to work on. Next feather or soften the selected edge.
- 8] Two ways to do this – {a} select>modify>feather and choose an appropriate feather radius {about 20 to 60 perhaps} {b} click quick mask mode {bottom of tools}>filter>blur/gaussian blur and move the slider until you see the extent of softening on the selected edge. The amount will depend on the image and area selected. I use {b} most of the time. Exit quick mask mode.
- 9] Layer>New Adjustment Layer>Levels and adjust accordingly. If you are unhappy with your selection/softening/adjustment, simply delete the adjustment layer and start again.
- 10] Using the DODGE or BURN tools to lighten or darken more specific areas. Firstly create a background layer – layer>duplicate layer {I rename it D&B}>OK. This layer is now the one on which you use the D&B tools, as if you are unhappy it can be deleted and you can start again!
- 11] The DODGE tool LIGHTENS and the BURN tool DARKENS. To lighten an area select the DODGE tool and then go to the top bar and initially select MID TONES and a low % Exposure { about 10%} and a brush hardness of 0%. Size the brush appropriately using the bracket keys on the key board – now paint the brush over the area to be lightened. Use the BURN tool to darken in the same way. Experiment with SHADOWS or HIGHLIGHTS and higher or lower percentages. Also, build up the lightening/darkening slowly {low percentage!} If unhappy with the effect you can bin the layer and start again
- 12] Finish with an adjustment CURVES layer to create a shallow ‘S’ curve – this should give a nice final contrast to the image.
- 13] Remember that ADJUSTMENT LAYERS can allow re-adjustment or even deletion and start again. Also, work on a copy of your original image – if you mess up at any stage you can make another copy from the original and ‘start all over again’ --- !