

Adobe Photoshop Elements

Color correcting a scanned image

Scanned images are notorious for having odd colors. Using Adobe® Photoshop® Elements makes color corrections a breeze. You may need to fix other basic problems in a scanned image, such as misalignment or ragged edges, or you may want to resize a scanned image for a project. Follow along to quickly mend these problems.



1. Straighten and crop your image.

Open your scanned image in Photoshop Elements. If your image needs to be straightened and cropped, choose Image > Rotate > Straighten and Crop Image. Photoshop Elements will do the work for you in one step. If you simply need to crop the image, use the crop tool to select the area you want to keep.

We used the Straighten and Crop Image command to fix our image. Next we'll work on improving the color in the image.



2. Correct color casts.

To remove any color tints that may have been introduced by scanning your image, choose Enhance > Color > Color Cast. The eyedropper tool is automatically selected for you. Click an area in the image that should be gray, white, or black. If you aren't happy with the results, click the Reset button and try again. When you are satisfied with the result, click OK.

For our image, we clicked on the woman's black hair. Now that the color cast is repaired, we are ready to fine-tune the color balance.



3. Adjust colors in your image.

Choose Enhance > Variations to use pre-set color adjustments to fine-tune the colors in your image. Choose Shadows, Midtones, or Highlights to change the colors in an area of your image. Click a variation to preview the adjustment in the Current Pick thumbnail. Click OK when the colors look good.

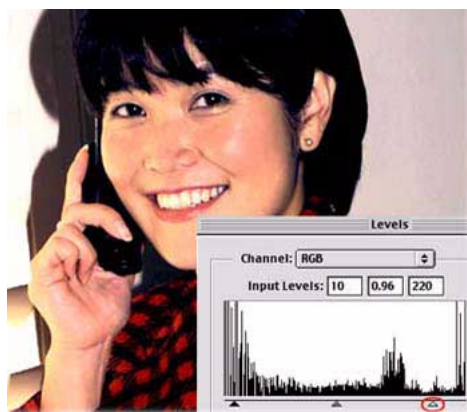
Our image has a touch of red, so we chose the More Green thumbnail to correct the colors.



4. Correct tonality.

Choose Enhance > Brightness/Contrast > Levels, and then drag the sliders under the histogram to change the tones in your image. To adjust the shadows (dark tones) drag the black slider to the right to position it under the starting point of the pixels. To work on the highlights (light tones) drag the white slider to the left to position it under the ending pixels. Drag the gray slider to the left or right as needed.

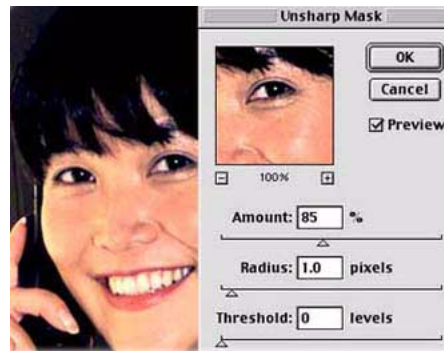
Now that we've fixed color and tone problems, it's time to sharpen up the image.



5. Sharpen the photo.

The last step in improving the overall appearance of the photo is to sharpen the entire image. Choose Filter > Sharpen > Unsharp Mask. Then drag the Amount slider until the image is as sharp as you want. Pay attention to detailed areas, such as hair, eyes, and foliage to see the dramatic benefits. Be careful not to add a grainy texture to smooth areas such as skin tones or blue skies.

We paid special attention to the area around the woman's eyes while we sharpened the image.



6. Save the file.

Choose File > Save As, rename the file, and save it in Photoshop format. If you decide that more color correction is necessary, return to Step 3 and use Variations, then use Levels to perfect your image.

With Photoshop Elements, your color problems are in the past!

