

Image Enhancement with Levels

Welcome to the *Image Enhancement with Levels tutorial*. This tutorial was designed to teach you how important it is to keep your images from looking washed out. If you need help with it, or find it confusing, don't hesitate to e-mail me, the information is at the bottom of the page.



1 Image enhancement is a tricky subject, sometimes people spend hours enhancing photos. Luckily there are tons of different methods for pulling it off. Image enhancement can be done with Brightness/Contrast adjustments, Curves adjustments, blending modes, lighting effects, etc. You name the function, and there's probably some way to enhance images by using it. One of the best tools in Photoshop for enhancement however, is the Levels adjustment tool. It allows you to adjust the input and output levels of the image's channels as a whole, or individually. Follow along, click on the picture to the left, and save the bigger version to disk, and see just how easy it is! You might be thinking, "Why in the world would we want to adjust a beautiful picture like that?", well if you look at it closely, you'll notice that it looks washed out in areas, notice the light upon her face, it looks dull, let's brighten up the room, and make it evident that it's a really nice day out.



2 Once you have your image opened, take a look at what you want to enhance, this doesn't have a time limit, you can find a lot of things if you stare long enough, after all when enhancing things, have the job is staring at it!

Open the the Level adjustment dialog by clicking **Image>Adjust>Levels** from the main menu. You can mess around with the sliders, or use my settings;

RGB: 0 - 0.87 - 228

Red: 0 - 0.93 - 253

Green: 0 - 0.84 - 239

Blue: 0 - 0.86 - 238



3 After you've entered those settings, you should notice that the image **A)** has a lot more contrast **B)** has a lot more brightness **C)** looks a lot more alive! Take a look behind Josie (the girl) and look at the lobby area in the image before, and then after. Doesn't it look a lot brighter back there? Same with the rest of the image, now you can feel that it's a nice bright day there. Have a look at Josie's clothes, you can see the detail on her pants more, could you tell before that they have vertical stripes on them? Probably not. Look at her skin, it looks a lot more alive, a lot more healthy, not washed out like the image above. Enhancing images can make your final projects look a lot more vibrant, if you've ever scanned in photos of yourself or pictures you've taken, sometimes they look a little distorted or washed out. In the future, just consult the Levels adjustment features in Photoshop for the answer.

Discussion

I hope you understood this tutorial, and followed along with ease. Maybe this will make you think twice before you release those pictures of you on your site, I hope it makes you say, "Hey, I should enhance these photos!". If you have any questions, or there are any steps that I can further elaborate on, don't hesitate to e-mail me using the information below. Due to the amount of e-mail I get, you'll get a quicker response if you use the discussion forum. Post your question in the tutorials forum. Click [here](#) to go to the discussion forum.

Examples



Before



After



Before



After

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