Tinting Black & White

Welcome to the *Tinting Black & White tutorial* . This tutorial was designed to teach you how to rise above the inconvenience of black and white images. Sometimes you come across a great photo which would go absolutely perfect with your designs...if it only had color. Read on to find out how to add color to your images and get the best out of your photos!

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.
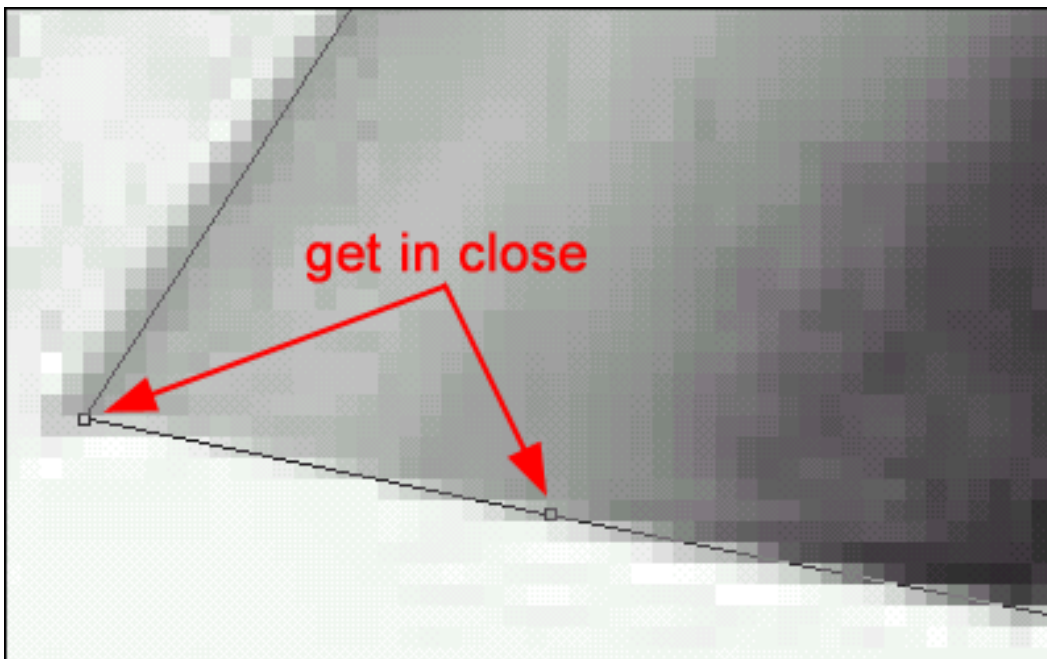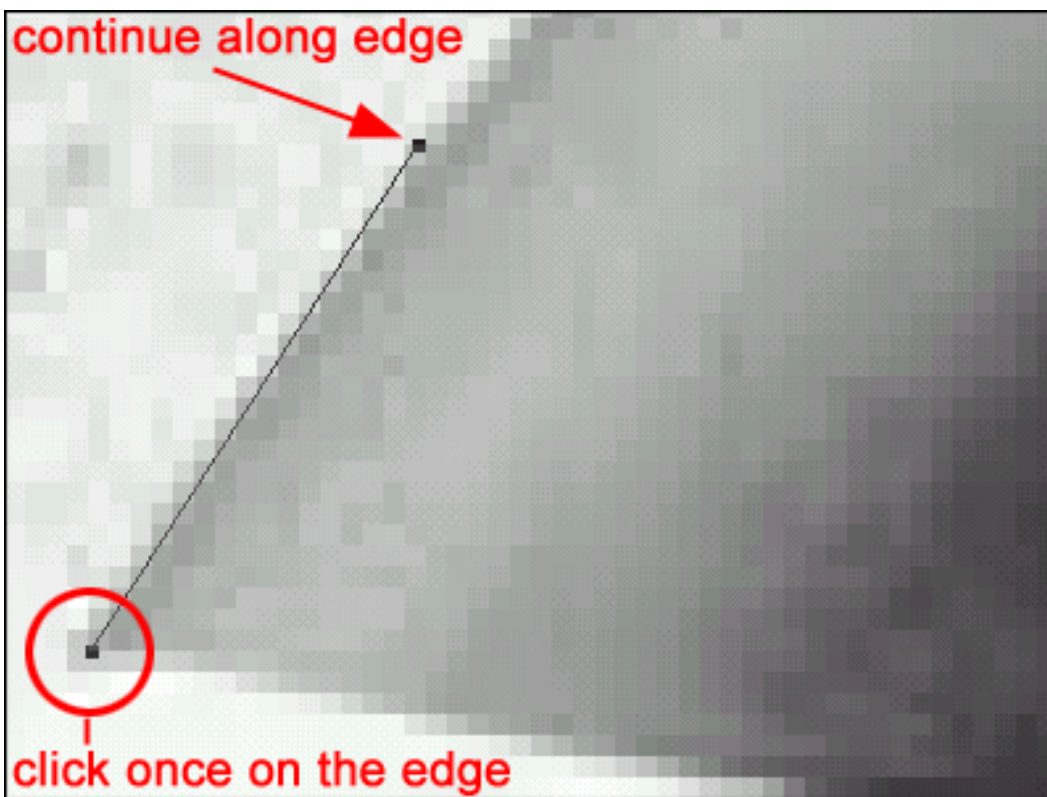
1 If you have a couple images in black and white and are curious as to what they would look like in color, then now's the time to grab them. Otherwise you can use the image to the left.

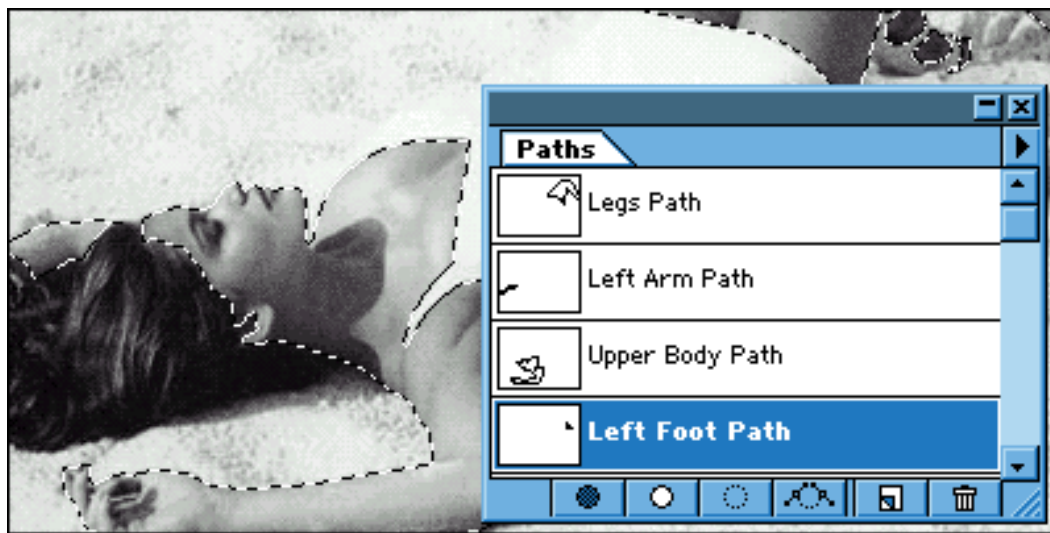To download the image to the left, right click on it and choose **Save As** .

As you can see, we have a great photo...A great **black and white** photo. Let's fix it up, shall we?

2 Start by selecting the Pen Tool from the toolbar (✍). We'll be selecting the skin first, click on the edge and continue clicking points around the edge of the legs until you join to where you started. If you need more help with the Pen Tool, I suggest you check out [DBMs Pen Tool tutorial](#) before continuing.
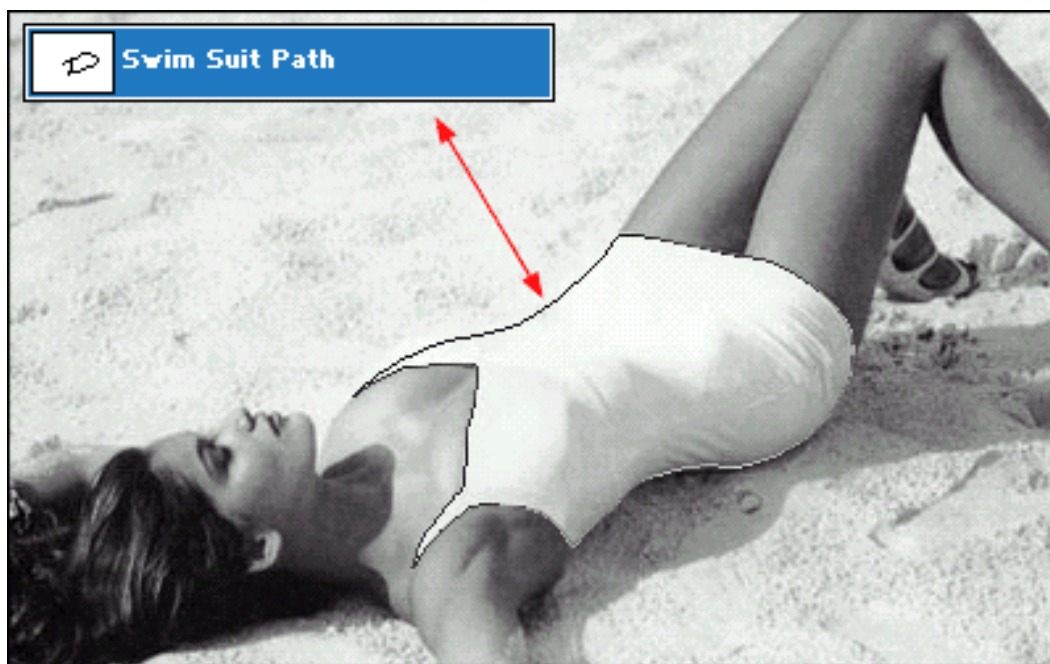
continue along edge

click once on the edge

get in close

3 Make sure you move those Anchor Points nice and close to the edge, you don't want any stray pixels.

Making sure everything is nice and snug is important in the early stages of your images. I like to think of it as "crossing the Ts and dotting the Is beforehand". If you refrain from effort in the beginning you'll pay for it when the tinting comes along.

4 Once you've finished creating a path for the legs, create one for the rest of the areas of the body that bear skin. You'll need to create them on separate layers as shown to the left. Create a new path layer by clicking on the **Create New Layer** button at the bottom of the Paths palette.(⊡).

5 Now that you've created a path for all the skin areas, you'll need to make one for the bathing suit as well. Using the same methods described earlier, create a path around the swim suit.
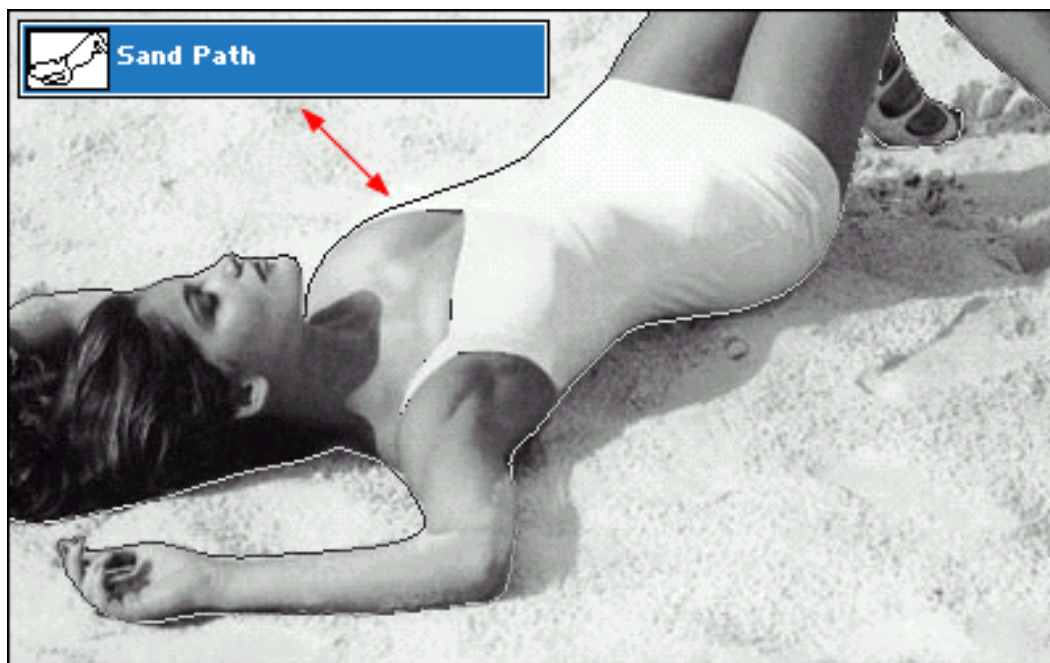
Make sure you create a new path layer and name it accordingly. As seen to the left, I named the path "Swim Suit Path"

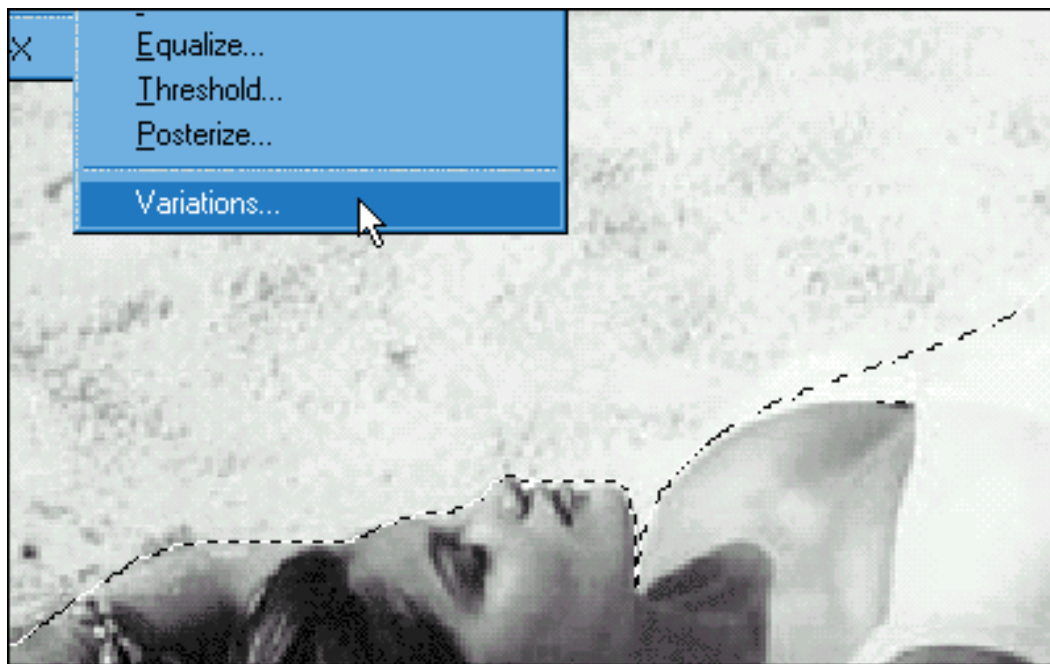Keep the anchor points nice and close, as seen in the image to the left.

Hair

Sand Path

Don't go thinking you'll fix the path up in a minute or two, it takes time, the path above took about 10 minutes to fix up. I had to add points by choosing the **Add Anchor Point Tool** (pen icon) from the **Pen Tool's** fly-out menu in the toolbar. I also had to move existing anchor points around to fit the edge a bit closer, I did this with the **Direct Selection Tool** (arrow icon), which can also be found in the **Pen Tool's** fly-out menu.

6 Now it's time to select the last part of the body, the hair. Hair is normally one of the hardest things to select, but since she's lying down, the hair is all in one place, which will make our task a bit easier.

Again, make sure the anchor points fit nice and snug.

7 Since the sand is the last thing that needs to be selected, it will be a really easy task. All we have to to is **Ctrl + Click** one of the paths, and **Shift + Ctrl + Click** on the others in the Paths palette. This will give us the entire selection of the girl, now inverse the selection by choosing, **Select>Inverse** from the main menu. With the inverted selection, click on the **Makes Work Path From Selection** (icon) button at the bottom of the Paths palette, this will turn your selection into a path. Of course the path won't turn out exactly as you want it, you'll have to go in close and add anchor points to compensate for the subtle errors performed by Photoshop. Once you're done you should get a path similar to the one in the image to the left. Name the path "Sand Path".

8 Well, I'll bet your glad to hear that you've finished the selecting part of the process, now it's all tinting!

Tinting will be done by selecting the areas by **Ctrl** + **Clicking** on the paths in Paths palette, and choosing **Image>Adjust>Variations** from the main menu. A preview of what we'll be doing on page 3 is shown to the left.

9 Create a new layer, click on the **Create New Layer** button at the bottom of the Layers palette. (▣). Now **Ctrl + Click** on the Sand Path layer to activate the selection. Choose **Image>Adjust>Variations** from the main menu. Click the squares to adjust the tones in the sand until you get a color similar to the one in the image to the left. **VAR.** You can also download my Sand settings by clicking on the the icon to the left!

10 **Ctrl + Click** on one of the skin paths. Now **Ctrl + Shift + Click** on the rest of the skin paths. Choose **Image>Adjust Variations** and adjust the settings to your liking.

You can also download my Skin settings by clicking on the the icon to the left!

11 **Ctrl + Click** on the Swim Suit, and repeat step 10 to bring up the Variations dialog box. Once in, adjust the settings to your liking.

You can also download my Swim Suit settings by clicking on the the icon to the left!

12 Now repeat the steps for the hair. I have a few other pictures of this girl (400+), so I know approximately what color her hair would be according to the atmosphere.

You can also download my Hair settings by clicking on the the icon to the left!

Now your image is colored, follow along to the last step which will enhance the photo a bit.

13 The first thing you'll need to do is flatten the layers, choose **Image>Duplicate** and choose **Merge Layers Only** .

Create a new layer by clicking on the **Create New Layer** (⬚) button at the bottom of the Layers palette. Choose " **Soft Light** " as the blending mode and set the opacity to **85%** . Now use the Dodge and Burn tools to lighten and darken areas of the image. You can also use the **Blur Tool** (⬚) to loose the grainy look on the her skin.

Discussion

This a great effect, a lot of people use this as well as different methods for adding color to their photos. It's also a slow effect, meaning it isn't easy and quick, you have to be prepared to spend about an hour on a single photo. If there is any other steps you think I could add or elaborate on a bit more, make sure you tell me. You can 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.

Result

Before   **After**

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