

Reveal Colour in a Monochrome Image.

Load the file Bride.jpg

Right-click on layer called Background and choose option Duplicate layer...

Accept the name Background copy

This new layer will now be the 'selected layer'

From the top menu, click on Enhance and choose option Convert to Black and White..

Choose Portraits style and click [OK]

Select the lower Background layer by clicking it.

Now create an adjustment layer by

- Clicking the icon (black/white circle at top of layers panel)

- Choose Levels

- Don't make any adjustments to this levels layer

- Click [OK] on the levels panel

The mask on this levels layer can be used as a mask on the layer above as follows:

- Hold down the [Alt] key and hover the mouse pointer at the interface between the levels layer and the monochrome layer above it.

- When the pointer changes from a 'hand' to a 'double circle' click the left mouse button and note that the thumbnail on the Background copy layer has moved to the right. Then release [Alt].

The dummy mask should still be selected and if you now paint on your image with a Black Brush, it will reveal the layer underneath.

If you expose too much of the bottom layer, change from Black to White by tapping the [X] key and paint away your mistakes.

TIPS

You can change the size of the brush by using the square bracket keys [smaller] bigger.

You should enlarge the image on-screen to see the fine details – use either the scroll wheel on your mouse or hit key [Z] for the zoom tool. When using the zoom tool, hold the [Alt] key down to reduce the size.

At any time, holding down the space bar converts any tool into the 'hand' which allows you to move the image.

Window Light

Load the file Lyme Park.jpg

Add an Adjustment Layer, Levels

Adjust the levels to give satisfactory shadow detail

Suggest 0 units (black end) 2.0 Gamma 200 units (white end)

May be different for your screen

The light area at bottom right will now be too bright - ignore

Inspect the levels panel and confirm that the levels MASK is selected.

In the bottom left of your workspace, confirm that you have white foreground and black background. If not, press [D] on the keyboard.

Now select the Gradient Tool [G]

The Gradient you need is the Linear Gradient, the left-most of the choices on the Options Bar.

Remember that White Reveals and Black Conceals

Starting top left of your image, draw (with left mouse button held down) to bottom right and release mouse button.

The top left of the mask should be white **allowing** the levels effect, and the bottom right should be black, **disallowing** the levels effect.

Repeat the gradient as many times as you like with different angles and different line lengths. Sometimes it's necessary to reduce the size of the image so that you can start and finish the gradient line outside the image boundary.

If you are looking for very small changes, then you can use white and grey.

Here's some shortcut keys worth remembering.

[B] selects Brush

[[left square bracket reduces brush size

] right square bracket increases brush size

Above keys used in combination with [Shift] make the brush softer or harder

[D] sets the foreground/background colours to default Black/White

[X] swaps the default from black/white to white/black and reverse.

[W] selects Magic Wand

[G] select Gradient Tool

Selective Sharpening using Layer Masks

Load the file Model.jpg

Right-click the layer and choose Duplicate from the context menu and accept the layer name.

This new layer will be automatically selected.

Select the lower original layer by clicking it in the layers panel, and turn the new layer off by clicking the 'eye'

You will now be looking at the original (bottom) layer on-screen.

On the top menu, choose Enhance, then Unsharp Mask

Adjust the parameters looking ONLY at the parts of the image you want to sharpen (eyes, teeth, lips, jewellery, dress) and **ignoring** the effect on those parts that will finally remain un-sharpened (eg skin). Try 150, 1.5 and 2.

By turning the top layer on/off you can now see the effect.

Leave the top layer switched ON – the sharpening does not show.

If you have Elements 9 or Photoshop you can simply add a mask to the top layer. If you have Elements 8 or below, you will have to use a workaround.

Select the bottom layer (if it isn't already selected)

Add an Adjustment Layer (levels) **but make no adjustments**. Just click [OK]

The Adjustment Layer should be in between the two image layers.

The mask on the adjustment layer needs to be clipped to the top, unsharpened layer. Here's how;

Hold down the [Alt] key and hover the mouse pointer on the dividing line between the middle and top layers on the layers panel, until the pointer changes from a hand into a double-circle. Then click the left mouse button. Then release the [Alt] key. **The icon on the top layer should move to the right**, and the layers panel should look like this.

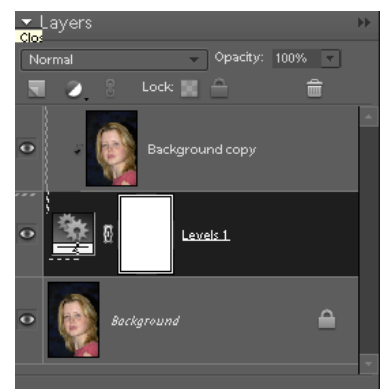
Note that the mask is selected.

By painting on this mask with a black brush you can reveal the sharp areas beneath.

First, ensure that the foreground colour is black by checking the small icon bottom left of your workspace. If it isn't, hit key [D] to make it Default white/black and then key [X] to swap the colours over.

Now take a medium soft brush and paint on the screen over the parts that you want to be sharp. What you are actually doing is painting holes in the mask allowing the bottom layer to show through. You will see the black areas on the mask in the layers panel.

If you make a mistake you can hit key [X] to change to white and paint a correction.



Replacement Sky

Open Horseman.jpg

Open Sky1.jpg

Note that by double-clicking either image in the bin, you can bring it on-screen.

Make sure that horseman.jpg is on-screen.

Press [Ctrl] [A] to select the on-screen image

Press [Ctrl] [C] to copy it to the clip-board.

Double click Sky1.jpg in the bin to bring it on-screen

Press [Ctrl] [V] to copy horseman.jpg on top of it. It will appear as Layer 1

You should now see 2 layers in the layers panel, Background and Layer 1

Next job is to remove existing sky.

Click on Layer 1 to select it.

Use the Magic Wand to select the sky.

Settings
Tolerance 8
Contiguous OFF

Magnify to about 400%
Refine Edges (so that ants are just inside the line of the horse)
Smooth 1
Feather 1
Contract/expand 40
Double-click the Hand tool to bring fully on-screen

Now the mask.

Select the Background (Sky) layer – ants are still marching!
Click Add a Mask icon, choose Levels, and click [OK] without adjustment.

With the mask still selected, hold down the [Ctrl] key and click [I] to Invert it.

Finally, group the mask layer to Layer 1 by holding down the [Alt] key and hovering the mouse pointer at the interface between the two layers in the layers panel until it changes to a double-circle. Then click the left mouse button. Then release [Alt].

Done.