

Correcting and Enhancing Digital Photographs

Correcting and Enhancing Digital Photographs

Lesson overview

In this lesson, you'll learn how to do the following:

- Process a proprietary camera raw image and save it as an industry- standard digital negative.
- Make typical corrections to a digital photograph, including removing red eye and noise and bringing out shadow and highlights detail.
- Adjust the visual perspective of objects in an image using the vanishing Point filter.
- Apply optical lens correction to an image.
- Prepare a PDF presentation of your corrected images.

This lesson will take 1 ½ to 2 hours to complete. If needed, remove the previous lesson folder from your hard drive, and copy the Lessons/Lesson08 folder onto it. As you work on this lesson, you'll overwrite the start files. If you need to restore the start files, copy them again from the Adobe Photoshop CS2 Classroom in a Book CD.

Getting started

In this lesson, you will work with several images to learn about Photoshop's support for camera raw image processing and editing, as well as to explore many features that let you enhance and clean up your digital photographs. You will save each edited image in a Portfolio folder when you're finished, and at the end of the lesson, you will prepare a PDF slide show of your corrected images. You will start by viewing the before and after images in Adobe Bridge.

1. Start Photoshop and then immediately hold down Ctrl-Alt-Shift (Windows) or Command-Option-Shift (Mac OS) to restore the default preferences. (See "Restoring default preferences" on page 6.)
2. When prompted, click Yes to confirm that you want to reset preferences, and Close to close the Welcome Screen.
3. Click the Go to Bridge button on the tool options bar to open Adobe Bridge.
4. In the Favorites palette in the upper left corner of Bridge, click the Lessons favorite, and then double-click the Lesson08 folder in the preview area to see its contents.
5. Make sure your thumbnail previews are large enough for a good look at the images, and locate the 08A_Start.crw and 08A_End.psd files. The original photograph of a Spanish-style church is a camera raw file, so it doesn't have the usual .psd file extension you've worked with so far in this book. It was shot with a Canon Digital Rebel camera and has the Canon proprietary .crw raw file extension instead. You will process this proprietary camera raw image to make it brighter, sharper, and clearer, and then save it as an industry-standard DNG digital negative.
6. Locate the 08B_Start.Psd and 08B_End.psd files and study their thumbnail previews. You are going to make several corrections to this portrait of mother and son, including bringing out shadow and highlight detail, removing red eye, and sharpening the image.

Correcting and Enhancing Digital Photographs

7. Locate the 08C_Start.psd and 08C_end.psd files and study their thumbnail previews. You are going to edit the image of this red clapboard farm house to add a window and remove the seasonal wreath, preserving the vanishing-point perspective as you make corrections.
8. Locate the 08D_Start.psd and 08D_End.psd files and study their thumbnail previews. You are going to correct the lens barrel distortion in this image.

About camera raw

A camera raw file contains unprocessed picture data from a digital camera's image sensor. Many digital cameras can save images as camera raw format files. The advantage of camera raw files are that they give the photographer control over interpreting the image data, rather than letting the camera make the adjustments and conversions. Because the camera doesn't do any of the image processing, you can set the white balance, tonal range, contrast, color saturation, and sharpening in Photoshop. Think of camera raw files as your photo negative. You can go back and reprocess the file anytime you like to achieve the results you want.

To create camera raw files, you need to set your digital camera to save files in its own raw file format, which may be a proprietary format. When you download a camera raw file from the Camera, it will have a file extension such as .nef (from Nikon) or .crw (from Canon). In Bridge or Photoshop, you can process camera raw files from an extensive list of supported digital cameras from Canon, Kodak, Leica, Nikon, and other manufacturers—and can even process multiple images simultaneously. Then you can export the proprietary camera raw files to the Digital Negative (DNG) file format, Adobe's nonproprietary format for standardizing camera raw files, or to such other formats as JPEG, TIFF, and PSD.

Processing camera raw files

When you make adjustments to a camera raw image, such as straightening or cropping the image, Photoshop and Bridge preserve the original camera raw file data. This way, you can edit the image as you desire, export the edited image, and keep the original intact for future use or other adjustments.

Opening camera raw images

Both Adobe Bridge and Photoshop CS2 let you open and process multiple camera raw images simultaneously. They feature an identical Camera Raw dialog box, which provides extensive controls for adjusting white balance, exposure, contrast, sharpness, tone curves, and much more. If you have multiple exposures of the same shot, you can use the Camera Raw dialog box to process one of the images, and then apply the settings to all of their other shots. You will do that in this exercise.

1. In Bridge, navigate to the Lessons/Lesson08/Mission folder, which contains three shots of the Spanish church you previewed in the previous exercise.
2. Press Shift and click to select all of the images-Mission01.crw, Mission02.crw, and Mission03.crw, and then choose File>Open in Camera Raw. The Camera Raw dialog box displays a large preview of the first raw image, and a filmstrip down the left of the dialog box of all the open camera raw images. The histogram

Correcting and Enhancing Digital Photographs

at right shows the tonal range of the first image, and the workflow options at the bottom of the dialog box show the first image's color space, bit-depth, size, and resolution. An array of tools at the top of the dialog box let you zoom and pan the image, select colors, crop, rotate, and more. Tabbed palettes along the right side of the dialog box allow you to adjust the image's white balance, color, tone, and detail. You will explore these controls now, editing the first image file.

3. Click the forward arrow button under the main preview area- or scroll down the filmstrip and select each thumbnail in turn-to cycle through the images, and return to Mission01.crw.
4. Make sure the Preview box is checked at the top of the dialog box so that you can interactively see the adjustments you're about to make. For now, leave the Shadows and Highlights boxes unchecked.

Adjusting white balance and exposure

An image's white balance reflects the lighting conditions under which the photo was captured. A digital camera records the white balance at the time of exposure, and this is what initially appears on the Camera Raw dialog box image preview.

White balance comprises two components. The first is temperature, which is measured in kelvins and determines the level of "coolness" or "warmness" of the image-that is, it compensates for magenta or green color casts in the image.

A camera's white balance usually comes close to being optimal, but you can adjust it if it's not quite right. Adjusting an image's white balance is a good way to start your corrections.

1. Click the Adjust tab to bring that palette forward (if it's not already open) and choose Cloudy from the White Balance pop-up menu. The Cloudy White Balance temperature is a little warmer than the Daylight setting and nicely suits this image, which was taken on a cloudy day.
2. Change the other sliders in the Adjustment palette as follows:
 - Set the Exposure to +1.20.
 - Set Shadows to 0.
 - Set Brightness to 50.
 - Set Contrast to +29.
 - Set Saturation to -5.

These settings help pump up the midtones of this image and make this image look bolder and more dimensional without being oversaturated.

Applying sharpening

Next, you will sharpen the image to bring out more detail.

1. Click the Detail tab to bring that palette forward, and zooming in to the top of the mission tower so that you can see the detail (to at least 100%).
2. Drag the Sharpness slider to about 35. The higher sharpness value gives stronger definition to the details and edges in this mission image.

Correcting and Enhancing Digital Photographs

Synchronizing settings across images

Now that you've made this one mission image look stunning, you can automatically apply these camera raw settings to the other two mission images, which were shot at the same time under the same lighting conditions. You do this using the Synchronize command.

1. In the upper left corner of the Camera Raw dialog box, click the Select All button to select all of the thumbnails in the filmstrip.
2. Click the Synchronize button.

The Synchronize dialog box that appears lets you choose which settings you want to synchronize across the selected images. By default, all options (except Crop) are checked. That's OK for our project, even though we didn't change all of the settings.

3. Click OK. When you synchronize the settings across all of the selected camera raw images, the thumbnails update to reflect the changes you made. If you'd like, you can click the navigational arrows to cycle through a large preview of each image to see the adjustments.

Note: If you'd like, check the Highlights and Shadows boxes at the top of the dialog box now. Portions of the images that are in danger of being clipped because they are either too light or too dark will appear red or blue, respectively, in the image preview. It's important to try to minimize the risk of clipping by adjusting an image's tonal levels, but these images don't have a significant amount of blown-out highlights or shadows to adjust.

Saving camera raw changes

Saving your changes so far involves two tasks: first, saving the synchronized changes to all three images and then saving one image, Mission01, for the PDF portfolio you will create later in this lesson.

1. Make sure all three images are still selected in the Camera Raw filmstrip, and then click the Save 3 Images button.
2. In the Save Options dialog box that appears, do the following:
 - Choose the same location (the Lessons/Lesson08/Mission folder).
 - Under File Naming, leave Document Name in the first blank field.
 - Choose Format>JPEG at the bottom of the dialog box.
 - Click Save.

This will save your corrected images as downsampled 72-dpi JPEGs, which can be shared with colleagues and viewed on the Web. Your files will be named Mission01.jpg, Mission 02.jpg, and Mission 03.jpg.

Note: Before sharing these images on the Web, you would probably want to open them in Photoshop and resize them to 640X480 pixels. They are currently much larger, and the full size images would not be visible on most monitors without requiring the view to scroll.

Bridge returns you to the Camera Raw dialog box and indicates how many images have been processed until all images are saved. The .crw thumbnails still appear in the Camera Raw dialog box—you now have JPG versions as well as the original, unedited .crw image files, which you can continue to edit or leave for another time.

Now, you will save a copy of the Mission 01 image to the Portfolio folder, where all of your portfolio images will be saved.

Correcting and Enhancing Digital Photographs

3. With only Mission01.crw selected in the filmstrip in the Camera Raw dialog box, click the Open 1 Image button to open the (edited) raw image in the Photoshop.
4. Choose File>Save As. In the Save As dialog box, choose Photoshop as your Format, and save this image with the name mission_file.psd in the Lesson08/Portfolio folder, Then close it.

Now that you know how to process a camera raw image, you will learn how to make some common corrections to a different digital photograph.

Correcting digital photographs

Photoshop contains a number of features that let you easily improve the quality of digital photographs. These include the ability to automatically bring out details in shadow and highlight areas of an image, easily remove red eye, reduce unwanted noise in an image, and sharpen an image. To explore these capabilities, you will edit a different digital image now: a portrait of a mother and a child.

Making shadow /highlight adjustments

The Shadow/Highlight command is suitable for correcting 8- or 16-bit RGB, CMYK, or Lab photos whose subjects are silhouetted against strong backlighting or are washed out from being too close to the camera flash. The adjustment is also useful for brightening areas of shadow in an otherwise well-lit image.

1. Click the Go to Bridge button. In Bridge, click the Lessons folder favorite (if it is not already selected), and then double-click the Lesson08 folder. Locate the 08B_Start.psd image, and double-click to open it in Photoshop.
2. Choose Image>Adjustments>Shadow/Highlight. Photoshop automatically applies default settings to the image, lightening the background, but you will customize them next to bring out more detail in both the shadows and the highlights, and enhance the red sunset in the sky. (Make sure the Preview box in the Shadow/Highlight dialog box is checked so that you can see the effect in the image window.)
3. In the Shadow/Highlight dialog box, check the Show More Options box, and do the following:
 - In the Shadows area, set Amount to 80% and Tonal Width to 65%. Leave Radius at 30 pixels.
 - In the Headlights area, set Amount to 5%. Leave Tonal Width at 50% and Radius at 30 pixels.
 - In the Adjustments area, drag the Color Correction slider to +45.
4. Click OK to accept your changes.
5. Choose File>Save to save your work so far.

Correcting red eye

Red eye occurs when the retinas of a subject's eyes are reflected by the camera flash. It commonly occurs in photographs of a subject in a darkened room, because the subject's irises are wide open. Red eye is easy to fix in Photoshop. Next, you will remove the red eye from the boy's eyes in the portrait.

Correcting and Enhancing Digital Photographs

1. Using the Zoom tool, drag a marquee around the boy's eyes to zoom into them.
2. Select the Red Eye tool, hidden under the Spot Healing Brush tool.
3. On the tool options bar, leave Pupil Size set to 50%, but change Darken Amount to 10%. Darken specifies how dark the pupil should be. Because this child's eyes are blue, we want the Darken Amount setting to be lighter than the default.
4. Click on the red area in the boy's left eye, then click the wide area in his right eye. The red retinal reflection disappears.
5. Zoom back out to 100% by pressing Alt (Windows) or Option (Mac OS) and clicking on the image window with the Zoom tool.
6. Choose File>Save to save your work so far.

Reducing noise

The next correction to make on this image is to reduce the amount of noise that it contains. Image noise is random, extraneous pixels that aren't part of the image detail. Noise can result from using a high ISO setting on a digital camera, from underexposure, or from shooting in darkness with a long shutter speed. Scanned images may contain noise that results from the scanning sensor, or from a grain pattern from the scanned film. There are two types of image noise: luminance noise, which is grayscale data that makes an image look grainy or patchy, and color noise, which is usually visible as colored artifacts in the image. Photoshop's Reduce Noise filter can be addressed both types of noise in individual color channels while preserving edge detail, as well as correct JPEG compression artifacts.

You will start by zooming in to the sky to get a good look at the noise in this image.

1. Using the Zoom tool, click in the center of the Sky above the woman's head and zoom in to about 300%. The noise in this image appears as speckled and rough with uneven graininess in the sky. Using the Reduce Noise filter, we can soften and smooth out this area and give the sky more depth.
2. Choose Filter>Noise>Reduce Noise.
3. In the Reduce Noise dialog box, do the following:
 - Decrease Strength to 5. (The Strength option controls the amount of the luminance noise.)
 - Increase Preserve Details to 70%.
 - Leave the Reduce Color Noise slider at 45%.
 - Increase Sharpen Details to 35%.

You don't need to check the Remove JPEG Artifact box, because this image is not a JPEG and has not JPEG artifacts.

Note: To correct noise in individual channels of the image, you can click the Advanced button and adjust these same settings in each channel.

4. To clearly see the results of your changes, click the plus button at the bottom of the dialog box to zoom in to about 300%, and then drag to position the sky in the preview area. Click and hold the mouse button down in the preview area to see the "before" image, and release the mouse button to see the corrected result. Or,

Correcting and Enhancing Digital Photographs

make sure the Preview box is checked and watch the results in the main image window.

5. Click OK to apply your changes and to close the Reduce Noise dialog box, and then double-click the Zoom tool to return the image to 100%.
6. Choose File>Save to save your work so far.

Sharpening edges

Reducing noise can soften an image, so, as a final correction to this photograph, you will sharpen it to improve its clarity.

Photoshop has several Sharpen filters, including Sharpen, Unsharp Mask, Sharpen Edges, and Smart Sharpen. All of them focus blurry images by increasing the contrast of adjacent pixels, but some are better than others, depending on, among other things, whether all or part of an image needs to be sharpened. Smart Sharpen Sharpens an image while also reducing noise and lets you specify whether the filter is applied to the overall image, to its shadows, or to its highlights.

1. Choose Filter>Sharpen>Smart Sharpen.
2. In the Smart Sharpen dialog box, do the following:
 - Reduce the Amount to 40%.
 - Set the Radius to 5 pixels.
 - Choose Remove>Lens Blur.

The Remove option determines the algorithm used to sharpen the image. The Unsharp Mask filter uses Gaussian Blur. Lens Blur detects the edges and detail in an image and provides finer detail sharpening and results in fewer sharpening “halos.”

Choosing More Accurate Yields more accurate sharpening, but takes longer to process.

3. To examine the results of Smart Sharpen, click and hold the mouse button in the preview area, then release. Or, toggle the Preview check box and watch the results in the main image window.
4. Click OK to apply your changes and close the Smart Sharpen dialog box.
5. Choose File>Save As. In the Save As dialog box, name the file portrait_final.psd, navigate to the Lesson08/Portfolio folder, and save the file. Then, close the image window.

Congratulations. You have made several typical corrections to a digital photograph. Next, you will try something a little more unusual—editing an image while preserving its perspective.

Editing images with a vanishing-point perspective

The Vanishing Point filter lets you define the perspective planes in an image and then paint, clone, and transform images according to that perspective. You can even create multiple planes that are related to each other by tearing off perpendicular planes from the plane you define. Then you can paint, clone, and transform across the different planes, and Photoshop will automatically scale and orient your edits in the proper perspective throughout the image.

Correcting and Enhancing Digital Photographs

The Vanishing Point Filter works with 8-bit-per-channel images, but not with vector data. To use it, you first create a grind that defines your perspective; then you edit your image normally. Vanishing Point adjusts your editing to the defined perspective.

Defining a grid

In this exercise, you'll work with an image of a snow-covered house. You will use the Vanishing Point filter to add a window to the wall and to remove the seasonal holiday wreath, all while maintaining perspective.

1. Click the Go to Bridge button. In Bridge, click the Lessons folder favorite (if it is not already selected), and then double-click on the Lesson 08 folder. Locate the 08C_Start.psd image, and double-click it to open it in Photoshop. You will start by defining the perspective grind. Then you will create a fourth window and remove the seasonal wreath.
2. Choose Filter>Vanishing Point. An image preview appears in the Vanishing Point dialog box, which provides a variety of tools and options for creating a perspective grid.
3. Using the Create Plane tool, define the size and shape of the perspective plane by successively clicking each of the four corner points of the main wall of the house. A blue outline appears as you click. Try to click the four corners where the red siding meets the white trim, clicking over the plant in the lower right corner. When you finish, Photoshop displays a blue grid over the plane that you just defined.

Note: If you make a mistake—for example, if a red border appears and the perspective grid doesn't—either press Delete and try again, or drag the handles to adjust the grid.

4. If necessary, drag a corner or a side handle to adjust the grid.

1. To slightly blur the edge of the selection you're about to make, set the Feather option to 3 at the top of the dialog box. Leave Opacity set at 100 and Heal set to Off.. Move Mode, which is set to Destination, should be dimmed.

Note: The Heal option determines how the selection, cloning, or paint stroke blends with the color, lighting, and shading of the surrounding pixels. Off doesn't blend the selection or stroke with the color, lighting and shading of the surrounding pixels. Move Mode determines the behavior when moving a selection. Destination lets you move the selection Marquee anywhere in the image. For more on these options, see Photoshop Help.

2. Drag a selection marquee around an a little larger than the center window. Then, press Alt (Windows) or Option (Mac OS) and drag the selected area to the right. Release the mouse when the copied window is positioned between the right window and the far end of the wall. As you drag, Photoshop scales the selection according to the perspective of the wall.
3. To prepare to remove the wreath from the wall, select the Zoom tool and Drag it over the three left-most windows to get a closer view of them.
4. Switch back to the Marquee tool and drag to select the empty wall between the two left windows.

Correcting and Enhancing Digital Photographs

5. Once again, hold down Alt (Windows) or Option (Mac OS) and drag the wall selection between the center and right windows, on top of the wreath.
6. Once again, hold down Alt (Windows) or Option (Mac OS) and drag the wall selection between the center and right windows, on top of the wreath. Although the copied selection keeps perspective in its new location, it doesn't cover the whole wreath. Some of the wreath still shows in the image. You will fix this next.
7. Select the Transform tool. Notice that Photoshop now displays handles on the selection.
8. Drag the transform handles to expand the selection and cover the wreath. If necessary, use the up, down, right, and left arrow keys to nudge the selection and align the cloned clapboards.
9. Deselect the Show Edges box and zoom back out to see the results of your work. Then, then click OK to apply the vanishing point filter effect.
10. Choose File>Save As. In the Save As dialog box, name the file farmhouse_final.psd and save it in the Lesson08/Portfolio folder. Then, close the image window.

Note: Images with the Vanishing Point filter applied must be saved as PSD, TIFF, or JPEG in order for the perspective plane information in the image to be preserved.

Next, you will correct an image that contains camera lens distortion.

Correcting image distortion

The Lens Correction filter fixes common camera lens flaws, such as barrel and pincushion distortion, vignetting, and chromatic aberration. Barrel distortion is a lens defect that causes straight lines to bow out toward the edges of the image. Pincushion distortion is the opposite effect, where straight lines bend inward. Vignetting occurs when the edges of an image, especially the corners, are darker than the center. Finally chromatic aberration appears as a color fringe along the edges of the image objects.

Some lenses exhibit these defects depending on the focal length or the f-stop used. You can have the Lens Correction filter use settings based on the camera, lens, and focal length used to make the image. You can also use the filter to rotate an image or fix image perspective caused by vertical or horizontal camera tilt. The filter's image grid makes these adjustments easier and more accurate than using the Transform command.

In this exercise, you will adjust the lens distortion in an image of a Greek temple.

1. Click the Go to Bridge button. In Bridge, click the Lessons folder favorite (if it is not already selected), then double-click on the Lesson08 folder. Locate the 08D_Start.psd image, and double-click to open it in Photoshop. Notice how the columns bend toward the camera and appear warped. This distortion was caused because the photo was shot at too close range with wide-angle lens.
2. Choose Filter>Distort>Lens Correction. The image appears in the Lens Correction dialog box with a large interactive preview, an alignment grid overlay, and options at right for removing distortion, correcting chromatic aberration, removing vignettes, and transforming perspective.
3. In the Lens Correction dialog box, do the following:

Correcting and Enhancing Digital Photographs

- Drag the Remove Distortion slider to about +52.00 to remove the barrel distortion in the image. Or, select the Remove Distortion tool and drag the image preview area to accomplish this, watching the Remove Distortion slider to see when you reach +52.00.
 - Choose Edge>Transparency if it is not already chosen.
 - Drag the Scale slider to 146%.
4. Click OK to apply your changes and close the Lens correction dialog box. The curving distortion caused by the wide-angle lens and low shooting angle are eliminated.
 5. (Optional) To see the effect of your change in the main image window, press Ctrl-Z (Windows) or Command-Z (Mac OS) twice to undo the redo the filter.

Now you'll save the image for your PDF portfolio.

6. Choose File>Save As. In the Save As dialog box, name the file columns_final.psd and save it in the Lesson08/Portfolio folder. Then, close the image window.

Creating a PDF portfolio

You can create an Adobe PDF slide show or a multipage PDF document from a set of Photoshop files by applying the PDF Presentation command in Photoshop or Bridge and setting the options you want. You can select which files within a folder you want to include, or simply select a folder to include all the files stored inside it. Now that you've created a portfolio images (in the Portfolio folder), you can easily turn it into a PDF slide show to share with clients and colleagues.

1. Click the Go to Bridge button. In Bridge, click the Lessons folder favorite (if it is no already selected from the previous exercise), and navigate to the Lesson 08/Portfolio folder. The Portfolio folder should contain the following image files: mission_file.psd, portrait_final.psd, farm house_final.psd, and columns_final.psd.
2. Choose Tools>Photosop>PDF Presentation.

The Photoshop PDF Presentation dialog box opens. Notice that the four files from the Portfolio folder already appear in the Source Files area.

3. In the PDF Presentation dialog box, do the following:
 - Under Output Options, select Presentation.
 - Under Presentation Options, check the Advance Every box, and accept the default to advance every 5 seconds.
 - Check the Loop after Last Page box.
 - Choose Wipe Right from the Transition pop-up menu.
 - Click Save.
4. In the Save dialog box that appears, type Photography_portfolio.pdf as the filename, and specify the location as the Lesson08 folder. (Do not select the Portfolio folder.) Then click Save.
5. In the Save Adobe PDF dialog box, do the following:
 - Choose Adobe PDF Preset>Smallest File Size to create a PDF document that is suitable for onscreen display.
 - Under Options, check View PDF After Saving.
 - Click Save PDF.

Correcting and Enhancing Digital Photographs

If you have a version of Adobe Acrobat or Reader installed on your computer, it launches automatically and starts the PDF slide-show presentation.

6. When the slide show finishes, press Esc to return to the standard Acrobat window. Then quit your Acrobat application and return to Photoshop.