

Photoshop for Photographers

Part 5 Channels – Supplement

Use Channels to improve contrast and color in a portrait.

1. Open image: **17-Lighting10-04123-Blacksmith-with-overcast-sky.tif**
2. Keyboard **<Ctrl>+J** to create a background copy layer.
3. Pull down the Channels palette and look for the channel with the least contrast. That should be the green channel. Do not select anything. Go back to the top RGB icon and click it .
4. In the main menu, go to **Image/Apply Image**, and when the **Apply Image** panel comes up select the **Green** channel in the pull down menu. Also be sure the **Blending** box displays **Normal** and **Opacity: 100%**. Click OK.
5. Notice that you full color background duplicate is now a green channel layer. This layer will be used to control the contrast.
6. At the top of the **Layers** palette, next to the word Normal, pull down the menu and go to the bottom and click on **Luminosity**. Notice that our color is back with more contrast.
7. If you get more contrast than you wanted, then simply use the opacity slider at the top of the layers palette.

Use Channels to blend high contrast landscapes.

1. Open a raw image that has a dark shadow area within a bright overall scene.
Try **33-Merlin-Lake_Banff-AB-Canada_MG_1925**
2. Run through the channels using the shortcuts (**Ctrl+1, Ctrl+2, Ctrl+3 & Ctrl+~**) to see which has the most contrast between ground and sky. (Probably the red.) Then go back to the **RGB** channel.
3. Use **Levels** to lighten the overall image, And save as “**A**”
4. Open the same file again and darken the new copy with **Levels**, until the sky looks good.
5. While holding down the **Shift key**, use the **Move** tool to drag image “**A**” into the Dark sky image. *Note: holding the Shift key plants the new image into perfect position--dot-for-dot.*
6. In the **Layers** panel, double click the blue area next to **Layer 1**.
7. At the bottom of the **Blending Options** palette are 2 slider scales in the **Blend If** box. Use its pull down menu to select your chosen channel. Probably the red.
8. Then use the right slider of the top (**This Layer**) scale to the left—until the sky appears in a pleasant tone. As soon as that happens, hold down the **Alt** key and continue sliding until there is a smooth blend.
Note: The slider has split, and you are now sliding only the left side of that slider.
9. When it looks good, click **OK**.

If you have questions, please call me at 407-658-4869 (Best times: Wednesday – Friday 7:30 – 9:30 PM)