

DIG Tutorials From 2 June 2009 Howard Wood  
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Background Information For Using lab. Color In Photoshop:

<http://www.5min.com/Video/How-to-Work-With-Lab-Color-Mode-in-Adobe-Photoshop-CS3-86624909>

<http://www.lynda.com/home/DisplayCourse.aspx?lpk2=616>

### Tutorial #1 LAB Color Mode Photo Enhancement

Ref: "Photoshop User Magazine" , Sept. 08, Oct-Nov 08, Dec, Deke McClelland

Covers: Hue/Saturation  
Sharpening  
Lens Correction

Example: Example, RGB Color Image

Enhance Hue Saturation:

1. Open Image: (Use 16 bit) In Photoshop
2. Choose>Image>Mode>LAB Color
3. Open New Levels Adjustment Layer
4. Select "a" Channel, Shift End point Sliders Uniformly (Shift, up and down arrows, desired units)
5. Repeat For "b" Channel. This will add color saturation. Adjust lightness sliders for image luminosity. Moving midpoint slider to correct color cast.
6. Play with sliders with. When Happy Click "O.K"
7. Option: Fine Tune Color with "blend if" dialog window. (Double Click On Layer To Bring Up Window)
8. Additional color boost can be achieved using New Adjustment Layer>Brighten/Contrast
9. Move Sliders To Punch Up the Colors

Non-Destructive Sharpening To Increase Quality Of Edges

10. Select Background layer And Convert To Smart Object (Filter>Convert For Smart Filter)
11. Go To Filter>Smart Sharpen (Select>Remove lens Blur Option, More Accurate

- Unchecked)
12. Give it A Healthy Blur, Amt=200, Radius=2.0
  13. Click On Filter Mask And Drag To Trash
  14. Sharpen Only The Lightness Channel, Double Click On The Icon To The Right Of "Smart Sharpen". This Brings Up Blending Options. Select>Mode>luminosity, Click "O.K."
  15. Add Some More Punch By Applying Edge Based Contrast, Better Known As "Clarity" in ACR and Lightroom. Tool For This Is "High Pass"
  16. Select Photo Layer, Go To Filter>Other>High Pass, Set R=15, Click "O.K."
  17. To Adjust Amount Of High Pass, Double Click On Icon To the Right Of "High Pass" and Change Blend Mode To Soft Light and Reduce Opacity If Necessary
  - 18.

#### Correct Chromatic Aberrations (Optional)

19. Examine Image Edges For possible Aberrations. These Can Be Fixed In Photoshop, But tools Won't Work in LAB Mode.
20. Go To Layers, Double Click On Smart Object Thumbnail To Bring Up A New Independent Smart Object Layer (Window will Be the Original Drab Image With A "psb" Tag
21. Go To Filter> Convert For Smart Filter"
22. Go To Filter>distort>Lens Correction. You Can Now Correct any Aberrations, Perspective, Etc. Click "O.K." When Done
23. Choose File>Save To Hand Off Changes To LAB Image.
24. Go to Window>Baseline.tif Image To Make Sure that changes have been applied to the lab image.
25. To Save Your Work, Go To Save As, And Choose psd format.
26. To Complete, Go To Mode>RGB, Click On Rasterize and Merge. Save As tiff or jpg.
27. You're Done!

#### Demo #2: Another Quick Way To PunchUp Color With LAB Mode

Ref: Scott Kelby's book, "Photoshop CS4 For photographers"

1. Open Image, Choose Image>Mode>LAB Color
2. Choose Image>Apply Image>Set Blending Mode To Overlay
3. Apply Image Will Blend Channels
4. We Can Blend "a", "b". "lightness", "full LAB" on top of background.
5. Control effect with blending mode and opacity.

#### Demo # 3: Convert IR Image To Optimum Faux Color Using LAB... Then Convert To Black And White

Note: I experimented with lab color to bring out color in IR images. IR images from the camera will generally appear with a red/pink/purple cast. This can be neutralized by correcting white balance in post capture or by shooting with a custom white balance. My workflow is to set custom WB in camera, shot in RAW and convert in Nikon Capture NX2. I then open as tiff in CS3 for either conversion to a B/W image or by exploring the residual color in the images. This color is not real (faux) and results from visual color information that leaks by the internal IR filter. This color can be punched up with Hue/Saturation and other means available in Photoshop to increase saturation but there are limitations...over saturation can result in excessive noise. By luck and experimentation I decide to investigate how punching up saturation in lab mode would work. The following tutorial is an example of this. I have never seen this technique in the literature. It worked quite well.

#### Black And White Conversion Of Colored IR Image:

We know that better black and white images are possible if we shoot in color and use one of the amazing conversion techniques (Photoshop b/w adjustment Layer, Adobe acr, Silver Effects Pro. Etc) to enhance tonal values and contrast. This capability isn't available if the camera is set to black and white in advance. Since IR images are almost monochromatic, the same is true. But what if we use these conversion techniques on the faux color image? The tonal control is now available and it should be easier to achieve an optimized black and white image.



Image: 1 IR Capture From Capture NX2



Image 2: Processed in lab mode



Image 3: Image 2, Converted to Black and White

1. Open Image 1: This Image Has Been Processed Through Nikon Capture NX For RAW Conversion, Pre Sharpening, White And Black Point And White Balance.
2. Add Faux Color Via Channel Swapping Red and Blue Channels In Channel Mixer (IR Action)
3. Go To Image>Adjust Hue Saturation. This Method Can Often Give Good Results, But LAB Is Much More Powerful

4. Undo Step 3!
5. Go To Image>Mode>LAB Color To Convert Image to LAB Color
6. Choose New Levels Adjustment Layer
7. Choose “a” channel and Move Sliders To 113, 142
8. Choose “b” Channel and Set Sliders To 100, 141, Gamma 0,65
9. Go To Image> Mode>RGB
10. Go To filter. NIK>Color Effects Pro, Add Glamour Glow, Click “OK.
11. Stamp (Merge Visible, Option/ Merge Visible)
12. Go To filter>NIK>Silver Effects Pro, Normal
13. Stamp (Merge Visible) see step 12
14. Go To Layer>New>Fill With 50 % Gray, Blend Mode>Overlay
15. Dodge and Burn As Desired By Painting On Layer With Black and White.
16. Image 3: Is finished black and white version.

Demo #4 Clever ACR And Black And White Tonal – Ref: Russell Brown Show, CS4 Tutorials:

[http://av.adobe.com/russellbrown/MadduxRAWTwo\\_SM.mov](http://av.adobe.com/russellbrown/MadduxRAWTwo_SM.mov)

Tools: ACR

B/W Adjustment Layer

Smart Objects

Objective: Create A Unique Image With Black And White Tonal Adjustment To Modify Color image

1. Open Color Image From Previous Demo, Image 2, in RGB mode.
2. Go To New Adjustment Layer> Black And White
3. Click On Color image And Make New Independent Smart Object Layer (Layer>Smart Object> New Smart object Via Copy)
4. Move New layer To Top of Stack
5. Change Blend Mode To Color
6. Double Click On Black And White layer Thumbnail and With Pointer Drag across Image To Adjust Tones. Using Black And White tonal Adjustment to change Color tonality... This Is Unique In This Tutorial
7. Adjust Opacity As Desired
8. Optional Step. Add Layer Mask Filled With Black (Option/alt Click Mask Icon
9. Paint On Mask To Achieve Reduced Color.

Demo #5 More Color With LAB



IR Image From Capture NX plus Channel swap



Color Image Using lab Technique

1. Open IR Image -Cactus
2. Convert To LAB Color (Image>Mode>LAB Color
3. Make New Adjustment Layer>Levels

4. Set end point sliders to:
  - (a) Channel 114, 141
  - (b) Channel 105,141
5. Convert To RGB, Save as tiff
6. Dupe Layer
7. Filter>Other High Pass, R=6
8. Stamp (Merge Visible, option/alt, merge visible)
9. Filter>NIK>Color Effects Pro>Glamour Glow
10. Reduce Opacity>70%

## Demo #6 Metallic Look

<http://tutorialbucket.googlepages.com/pssharpmetallitone.html>

1. Open color image from Demo 5 cactus
2. Duplicate layer, convert for smart object
3. Filter>other>high pass, R=6
4. Change blend mode to overlay
5. Adjustment layer >Gradient Map
6. Click on Gradient to bring up adjust window
7. Slide black and white sliders to darken blacks and lighten whites as desired to achieve a rough look
8. Optional: Stamp and run another high pass filter to really sharpen
9. Add solid color adjustment layer, R=116, G=106, B=87
10. Change Blend Mode to color
11. Stamp
12. Add Glamour Glow and Adjust opacity as desired

