

Directions for Quick Photoshop Fix for a Raw Image Missouri Nature and Environmental Photographers

By Jerry Miller, September 18, 2007

1. Open an image in Photoshop editor (by using **File>Open**) or by using Adobe Bridge (by selecting the folder with a magnifying glass icon at the top center of the screen).
2. Make sure the **Preview** box at the top of the image is checked.
3. Under the Adjust Tab: Adjust the **White Balance** by selecting the arrow and choosing whichever setting applies to your image. Scroll through them and try several different settings just to see how the images turn out. The **Temperature** of the image is a reflection of the setting you choose for White Balance. You can also move this slider instead of selecting a preset White Balance. If your image still has a color cast, move the **Tint** arrow to left or right until the color cast goes away.
4. Next adjust the slide on the **Exposure** control to brighten or darken the image always being mindful of the Histogram at the top of the box. See the **Histogram Basics** sheet on the Monep website for more information that might help you with this step.
5. The **Shadows** and **Highlights** Buttons perform a similar task to the **Contrast** button. By adjusting the Shadows button slightly to the right, you can add a little punch to your image. The highlight button can be used in a similar manner. Be aware that you are changing your Histogram again using any of these three buttons. Use all three buttons sparingly. **Note arrows at top which locate over and underexposed areas: two very handy tools.**
6. Next adjust the **Saturation** up by just a few points. Don't overdue the Saturation of your image. The end result will begin to look "fake" or "Photo-shopped".
7. We are now done with the Raw Adjustments. The next step is important to follow exactly unless you wish to permanently change your Raw image file. We will open a copy of the file we just adjusted. Do not hit the Open key. Instead, depress and hold down on the "Alt" button and you will notice that the Open key turns to Open Copy. While still holding on to the "Alt" key, select "**Open Copy**".
8. You are now back to the standard Photoshop window. You may go review the handout on Quick Fix for Jpegs and follow those instructions if you wish to do further adjustments. However, since you have already made most of those adjustments, you will probably just need to just sharpen your image.
9. Hold your cursor on the background layer and drag it to the symbol of the square within a square. This will create a new layer called Background Copy that we will use next. Be sure that this layer is highlighted so that you do not adjust another layer by mistake. Next select the following:
Filter> Sharpen > Unsharp Mask or
Filter>Sharpen>Smart Sharpen

For **Unsharp Mask**, (which is available in all Photoshop programs) when the box opens make sure the preview box is checked. Then from the bottom up, set your **Threshold** at 0, set the **Radius** at 1.1, and adjust the **Amount** from between 25% and 150%. Be sure not to over-sharpen your image. You can tell this by

how pixilated the image becomes. If you see the image becoming grainy, lower the number in the Amount box.

For **Smart Sharpen**, (only available in Photoshop CS and later) also check to make sure the preview box is checked. Smart Sharpen does not have a Threshold command. Instead, you may choose to correct one of three blur types: Gaussian, Lens or Motion. I usually leave it on **Gaussian Blur**, but feel free to try the other options. Set the **Radius** at 1.1 and adjust the **Amount** the same way you would if using the Unsharp Mask command.

To learn more about sharpening, see the instructions labeled **Sharpening Techniques** on the Monep website.

10. The last item is to size and save the image. Follow the instructions labeled **Resize an Image for Submission** on the Monep website for this step.