

Photoshop Tip: 'Level' Your Photos

Refine the way you correct color in your digital pics.

By Alex Lindsay

Perfecting your digital photos is a fine art. Most people utilize color correction crudely, using brightness and contrast to adjust images. Today I'll show you the refined method of color correction using the Levels command.

First you need to understand how levels work. We have a short demonstration at [dvGarage](#). Click the Levels.mov file to watch the QuickTime movie. Now download the [Levels.psd](#) Photoshop file so you can follow along with the show.

1. Play with the levels on the gradient (Command or Ctrl + L). Notice how the gradient changes as you move the white, black, and gray (gamma) sliders. Here's an example.
2. Turn on the Shona Sculpture layer and try matching the levels in the picture. Notice how this dark, dull picture comes to life!
3. Now turn on the Great Zimbabwe layer and match the levels in this photo. Notice how much richer it looks!
4. Finally, try it on your own photos!