

A Few Photoshop Secrets by Joel Pattison

Camera Raw

Camera Raw is a Photoshop plug-in originally created for editing RAW images. Beginning with CS3, Camera Raw could also open JPEG images.

Opening in Camera Raw

To open a file with Camera Raw, choose File>Open. Select the JPEG image and change the Format pop-up menu to “Camera Raw.”

Using Camera Raw – the Highpoints

Tip: Camera Raw’s author intended it to be used in a linear fashion – top to bottom, left to right - (but you don’t have to).

Recovery: darkens the brightest areas of your photo.

Fill Light: lightens the darkest parts of your photo – increasing shadow detail. It should be used carefully; too much Fill Light leads to noise and color distortion.

Blacks: Often used with fill light to restore washed out colors.

Clarity: increases contrasts in the midtones – essentially sharpening images.

Vibrance: increases color saturation except skin tones. It also focuses saturation on the colors that need it most.

Blend Modes

Blend modes change the way layers interact with one another.

Gradient Blue Sky

This technique will make the sky and clouds “pop” out of a photo.

1. Create a new layer and make a black to transparent gradient through the sky.
2. Switch the layer blend mode to “soft light.” You may need to lower the opacity of the gradient layer.

Adding Texture to a Photo

1. Open the photo and the texture in separate windows
2. Drag the texture over the photo
3. Select the “Move” tool and then press “Shift +” repeatedly to cycle through the blend modes. Stop when you achieve the desired affect.

Clipping a Photo inside another object (ie: inside a piece of paper or frame)

1. Place the layer to be clipped on top.
2. Option-click between the layers in the layer palette
3. Change the blend mode to achieve the desired result

Other Useful Tips

- Non-destructive editing (that is, never making changes that can't be undone) is always the goal.
- Instead of "Flatten Image" use "Command, option, shift E" (or Control, alt shift, E on Windows)
- To generate a selection from a layer, use "Load selection" from the "Select" menu.
- The key combination for "free transform" to resize/reshape layers is command (or control on Windows) T. Right clicking on a layer in free transform mode provides additional options.
- Adjusting the tracking, leading and kerning of text can be accomplished by holding down option and the top, down, left or right arrows. Place the cursor where you want the spacing corrected.
- To hide an unwanted white layer background, double click on the layer in the layers palette. Option click on the white triangle under "Blend if Gray, This Layer." The triangular sliders will break into two, and you can adjust to the desired effect.
- To create a panorama from different photos launch Adobe Bridge. Select the photos you want to merge and from the "Tools" menu select Photoshop>Photomerge.

More Resources

These guys have helped me a lot:

<http://www.planetphotoshop.com/> by Corey Barker (Free!)

<http://www.jkost.com/> Digital Image Evangelist for Adobe (Free!)

<http://www.jkost.com/downloads/BWRingAround.psd.zip> Black & white previews

National Association of Photoshop Professionals (\$)

<http://www.kelbytraining.com> (\$)

Questions, thoughts, or ideas? Please send me an email: jwpattison@wm.edu