

DIG PRESENTATION – Chick Gerston

This presentation consists of a series of simple Photoshop tips that will enable you to enhance your pictures quickly and easily. Best of all, most of the tips will be easy to remember. I've included the pictures that I used for the original presentation in case you wanted to practice on them. The pictures can be found separate from this document.

1. Shadow/Highlights

a)



I included Shadows/Highlights because the sliders are not global and allow you to make adjustments in either the shadows or highlights. It is a particularly useful tool if you have very dark and very bright areas in the same picture.

Put Shadows/Highlights on separate layer. You can do this by duplicating the Background layer by dragging the Background layer on the 2nd from the right icon on the bottom of the Layers panel. Select Image>Adjustment>Shadow/Highlight. The controls I use are Shadows Amount, Highlight Amount, Shadows Tonal Width and a little contrast. Make the necessary adjustments. Show improvement by turning layer on and off. When satisfied, select OK. Afterwards, you can still use any Layer adjustment controls that you like to use to gain further improvement. Flatten image and save as a JPG. The result is shown below.



b)



Duplicate the Background layer. Select Image>Adjustment>Shadow/Highlight. Make adjustments as in a). Show improvement by turning Preview on and off. Click OK. Use Levels in the adjustment layer for further improvement. The result is shown below.



c)



Before



After

Duplicate the Background layer. Select Image>Adjustment>Shadow/Highlight. Make adjustments as in a). Use magic wand set to about 40 to select the background. Click on the Adjustment icon on the bottom of the Layers palette. It's the circle half dark and half light. Select Solid Color. Set the RGB to (243,146,201) and color fill background. Select Levels and make final adjustments. The result is shown above right.

2. Soften background



Before

In this example we soften the background by blurring it.

Duplicate the background. Select Filter>Blur>Gaussian blur. Set Gaussian blur to about 20. Add a layer mask to copied background. To do this make sure the "Background Copy" is highlighted and click on the

mask icon on the bottom of the Layers palette. The mask icon is the square box with enclosed little white circle. Use a black brush set to 100% opacity to bring back the primary subject. A soft brush will probably work better than a hard brush. Flatten image and save as a JPG. The result is shown in IMG6249b.



After

3. Soft Focus

In this example we mimic soft focus. (Doris Day filter.)



Before



After

Duplicate the background layer. Blur the portrait using Gaussian blur (about 8). (Filter>Blur>Gaussian blur.) Add a layer mask to copied background. To do this make sure the "Background Copy" is highlighted and click on the mask icon on the bottom of the Layers palette. The mask icon is the square box with enclosed little white circle. Then bring back the eyes, nose and mouth, earrings, etc., using the mask and a black brush set to 100% opacity. You can enhance some of the facial lines with with a 50% black brush. Enlarge the picture and look at the areas below the eyes. If you've smoothed out that area too much, set the brush to 50% white and bring back some of the skin tones.. When you're done, try setting the blending mode to Lighten to make the highlights stand out. Notice how smooth the skin

appears. If you're not satisfied, repeat using a larger number for Gaussian blur. The result is shown above right.

4. Sunset Effect

a)



I used two pictures. The top image is a glowing sunset. The other is of a girl against water.

With the non sunset photo selected (girl), make a copy of the background. Use

Image>adjustments>shadow/highlights to improve picture.

Then use image>adjustments> match color.

Select the sunset image to be the source image. Adjust Luminance, Color Intensity and Fade sliders and click Preview on and off. Click OK when satisfied.

The result is shown on the next page.



b)
Open two pictures. One with and one without a sunset



Use IMG2150a



CRW7011

Start with the image that does not have a sunset (img2150a) and make a copy of the background.

Use image>adjustments>match color. In the Match Color dialog box, select source image to be your sunset image (crw7011). Adjust sliders if necessary and click Preview on and off. Click OK.

Select background using in selection method you like. Click on Edit>Fill and fill with black. The result is shown below.



5. Vignetting

Select an image. Make a blank layer by clicking on the 2nd from the right icon on the bottom of the Layers palette. Fill it with black. Reduce the opacity of the layer so you can see through the black mask. Use the elliptical marquee tool to select most of the picture. Adjust using select>transform to tweak the selection. Double click it. Click Select>Feather set to 30. Hit Delete to remove selected area of Layer1. Adjust opacity as desired. Click Select>deselect to get rid of the dotted line. Flatten and save. Before and After are shown below.



6. Vignette with Fade



Before



After

Select area around face and shoulders using the elliptical marquee tool. Adjust selection position by moving if necessary. Use Select>transform selection if necessary to further adjust the elliptical marquee. Add a blank layer above the background layer. Add a layer mask. Use Image>adjustments>invert to invert the mask. Select the thumbnail to the left of the mask. Fill with white. Use Filter>Blur>Gaussian blur. Set Gaussian blur to about 30. The result is shown above on the right.

7. Gradient Background

a)



Duplicate Background layer. Select background using magic wand set to a Tolerance of 10. Use Quick Mask if necessary. Fill with 50% gray. Set small background/foreground boxes in the tool box to black

and white. Hold down ALT and use adjustment tools to select Gradient. In Mode box select Overlay. Click OK. Check *Reverse* and *Dither*. Adjust up and down for best results. Under Style try *Linear* and try *Radial*. Adjust *Scale* for final adjustment. Click OK. The result is shown above right.

b)



Before

After

Duplicate background layer. As above select background using magic wand set to a Tolerance of 10 and quick mask for final adjustment. Using adjustment tools select Solid Color for background (suggest 121,125,176). Holding down Ctrl, click on the mask in Color Fill 1 to recreate the mask on the picture. If you have trouble with that, just select the background again using the magic wand. Hold down ALT and use adjustment tools to select Gradient. In Mode box select Overlay. Click OK. Select *Reverse* if desired and ALWAYS select *Dither*. Try Linear and try Radial. Drag background up or down if desired. Select OK. Flatten and save. The result is shown above right.

8. Combining Pictures



1st Image 2665b



2nd image 2668

Using the above images as reference, Drag 2665b onto 2668b using the Move tool. Enlarge Layer 1 with 2668b to 50%. Select the bird using any selection tools you like. Add a layer mask to Layer 1 by clicking on the mask icon on the bottom of the Layers palette. The bird appears in 2668b. Select the Move tool and move the bird into the desired position. We have added a 2nd bird into the picture. The result is shown below.



9. Merging Parts of the Same Picture

Using a RAW file, process it twice in the Raw Converter.

In the reference image shown below, I converted once adjusting for the mountains. I converted a second time to adjust for the sky. You will end up with two images.



Drag one image on top of the other, holding the shift key as you drag so they align perfectly. In my case, I dragged the darker mountains on top of the light mountains. Click on Layer Mask so that a layer mask appears in Layer 1. Use the Brush Tool set to 100% black and brush in the mountains. If the sky doesn't match exactly, adjust the opacity of the sky layer. Use Levels for any additional adjustments. The result is shown below.



Just for another approach, go back in History to where we dragged the copy of 3439.CR2 onto the first 3439.CR2 while holding down the Shift key. Now, hold down ALT while clicking on Layer Mask so that a black mask appears in Layer 1. Use the Brush Tool set to 100% white and brush in the sky. Use Levels for any additional adjustments. Readjust Levels if necessary.