

# ▪ 10 Photoshop Tips ▪ Save Time & Frustration

## 1. Know Your Preferences

Do you know the printing parameters of your press? How do they relate to the Photoshop settings? Are all preferences on all computers set to the same values?

## 2. Document The Workflow

Reflective Scans or Negative Scans  
Digital Camera

What processes do you want to use for different types of images?

## 3. Use your Densitometer

The densitometer is the key tool for evaluating and producing quality scans.

## 4. Levels/Curves

Never use the brightness/contrast control. Any adjustment can be made in Levels or Curves.

## 5. Color Correct

Don't use Color Balance to adjust color. Use the Color Picker to "clean color" Use Selective Color to "tweak color." Always try to achieve gray balance.

## 6. Layers

Adjustment Layers  
Dodge & Burn on Soft Light  
Double Scans / Acquire  
Double Acquire

## 7. Special Effects

History Brush (Photoshop's powerful undo tool)  
Gradations (Like edge-burning a darkroom print)  
Filter Fade • RAW Acquires • Photo Filter  
• Highlight Shadow Adjustment • Auto Color • Using Custom Proof Viewing

## 8. Color Space

Always correct images in the largest color space. LAB color space is Photoshop's native color space.

RGB vs. LAB

Try using LAB to correct marginal images. LAB works great with digital images, toning images, unsharp mask, gradation, & the History Brush. Do not color correct in CMYK unless you are in charge of making separations for print.

## 9. Grayscale Conversions

Mode/Grayscale  
Calculations  
Lab Color w/channels  
Channel Mixer

Find the best grayscale conversion for your style of scanning & printing.

## 10. Automated Features

Save Time:

Actions • Batch • Automate

Standardize Quality:

Automated Separations

Binuscan • Agfa Intellitune

Standardize Software:

What do you use and when?

### Training:

Make sure your staff has a Photoshop expert and schedule training time for your staff. Start a reference library and share tips with your staff.

Document everything about your workflow. Write down your settings.