



# Retouching


In this lesson, you'll retouch a scanned photograph, making typical corrections needed for a digitized image. Adobe Photoshop contains retouching tools that let you burn, dodge, saturate, and even clone areas, as well as adjust the color balance and color levels in an image.



**1.** Open the Retouch1.psd file located in the Artfiles folder of the Photoshop\_Lessons folder.

This photo is crooked, slightly blurred, and has a reddish cast. In addition to fixing these problems, you'll remove the small boat in the center of the image, adjust the tonal range and color balance of the image, and even replace the current sky with another one.


The first thing you'll do is crop and straighten the image.


**2.** Select the crop tool (  ) in the toolbox. Then drag to select the part of the image you want to crop.

**3.** Move the pointer outside a selection handle to where you get the angle arrows; then drag to rotate the crop rectangle until it is parallel with the image. Drag the selection handles if you need to adjust the size of the crop rectangle. Press Return (Mac) or Enter (Windows). The image is now cropped and squared.



Next you'll eliminate the small boat near the center of the image by painting over it with a copy of the water.

**4.** Select the zoom tool (  ); then click the small boat to magnify that part of the image.

**5.** Choose the rubber stamp tool (  ) in the toolbox. Then click the Brushes tab in the properties bar and select a medium-size, feathered brush. (We chose 17.)



## Beyond the Basics

**6.** Center the rubber stamp tool over the water between the large gondola and the post to its right; then hold down Option (Macintosh) or Alt (Windows) and click to sample that part of the image.



**7.** Drag the rubber stamp tool over the boat to paint over it with a copy of the area you just sampled.

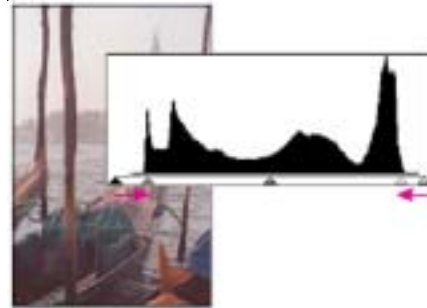


**8.** Double-click the zoom tool to return to 100% magnification.

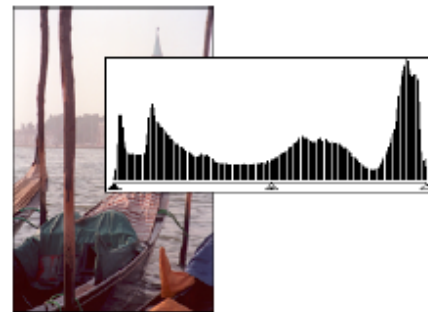
Next, you'll expand the tonal range of the image so that the colors extend through the full range of dark to light.

**9.** Choose Enhance > Brightness/Contrast > Levels and select the Preview option. Notice the histogram in the dialog box: if your image had colors across the entire brightness range, the graph would extend across the full width of the histogram. Instead, the graph is clumped toward the center, indicating there are no very dark or light colors.

**10.** Drag the left and right sliders inward to where the histogram indicates the darkest and lightest colors begin. Click OK



**11.** Choose Enhance > Brightness/Contrast > Levels again to view the new histogram. The tonal range now extends throughout the entire range of the his-togram. Click Cancel.



Notice that the image has a color cast; it's too red. To further refine color correction in the image, you'll now adjust the color balance. The Levels dialog box lets you adjust the color values in the image.


**12.** Again choose Enhance > Brightness/Contrast > Levels. Make sure the Preview option is selected. To adjust the red, in the Channel box at the top choose Red and then on the slider at the bottom drag the right arrow toward the left until the value in the box above it changes to something around 240. Next choose the green channel and drag the left arrow right to around 12. Click OK.



## Beyond the Basics

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Now, you'll saturate the color of the gondolas in the foreground using the sponge tool.


**13.** Select the Sponge tool (  ). Select a medium-size, feathered brush from the Brushes properties bar. (We selected 21.)

**14.** In mode on the properties bar choose Saturate from the pop-up menu, and drag the Pressure slider to 40% to set the intensity of the saturation effect.

**15.** Drag the sponge back and forth over the gondolas to saturate their color.




Next you'll lighten the highlights along the gondola's hull to sharpen the reflection of the water there.

**16.** Select the Dodge tool (  ). Then choose Highlights from the menu in the properties bar. Select a medium feathered brush. (We used 21 again.) Set the Exposure to 50%.

**17.** Drag the dodge tool back and forth over the gondola's hull.



The sky is fairly drab and overcast, so you'll replace it with a more interesting one from another file. You'll begin by selecting the current sky.


**18.** Select the Magic Wand tool (  ). Set the tolerance in the properties bar to 30. Click to select part of the sky. Hold down the Shift key and click the rest of the sky to select it.

**19.** Open the Clouds.psd file located in the Photoshop\_Lessons/Artfiles folder.

**20.** Choose Select > All; then choose Edit> Copy. Close the Clouds.psd file.



## Beyond the Basics

**21.** Choose Edit> Paste Into to paste the clouds into the current selection. Select the move tool (  ) and drag the clouds into the position you want.



**23.** If your picture contains more than one layer choose Layer> Flatten Image to flatten it into a single layer.

Now that the image is a single layer, as your final step, you'll sharpen the entire image.

**24.** Choose Filter > Sharpen > Unsharp Mask. Select the Preview option to view the effect before you apply it. Then drag the Threshold value to 2, the Radius value to 2 and move the Amount slider until the image is as sharp as you want (We used 120%). Click OK, save your work, and you are now finished this lesson.



*This tutorial is a modification for Adobe Phtoshop Elements of an Adobe Photoshop version 4.0 self-teaching lesson.*