

# Adjusting Grayscale Images

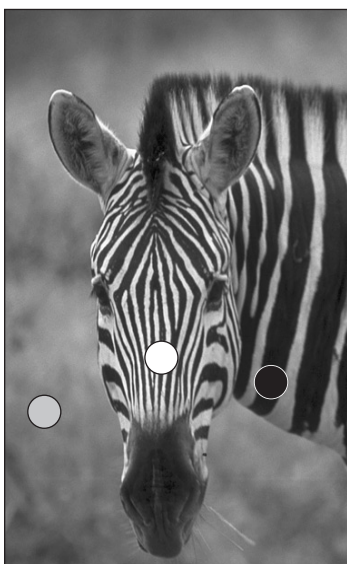


Info Pallet

*MAKE SURE THE INFO PALLET IS SHOWING BEFORE YOU BEGIN.*  
Under the Window menu select SHOW INFO (if not already showing).

*CHECK THE VALUES OF A PARTICULAR AREA USING THE CURSOR*

Move the cursor around the image and notice how the INFO window reports what values are being read. "K" represent black - use this value for adjusting a grayscale image.



90%

Shadow

48%

Mid-tone

15%

Highlight

*FIND THE THREE KEY ELEMENTS IN THE IMAGE*

Determine the lightest part of the image by reading this area using the eyedropper. Compare the value to other light areas of the image and confirm a true highlight and record the value. Do the same for Shadows and mid-tones. Shadows being the darkest part of the image and mid-tones being values that should reproduce somewhere between 40-55% black.

*If you use the eyedropper tool to measure values, you can shift-click to "record" the value in the info pallet. A maximum of 4 area can be recorded at one time. To remove a marker Option-Shift (Alt-Shift - Windows) and click on top of the marker.*

Three key elements defined by values found in the info. window.

*CORRECT THE GRAYSCALE IMAGE IF NEEDED*

If the values you have been reading and recording do not match the following numbers, using the levels dialog box and adjust the sliders as needed to achieve the correct values. Typically the darkest areas (shadows) of an image should be between 80-100%. Mid-tone and skin-tone areas that should print somewhere between 40-55% should be lightened to approximately 20-35%. Highlights that should read anywhere from 2-5%.



98%

Shadow

25%

Mid-tone

2%

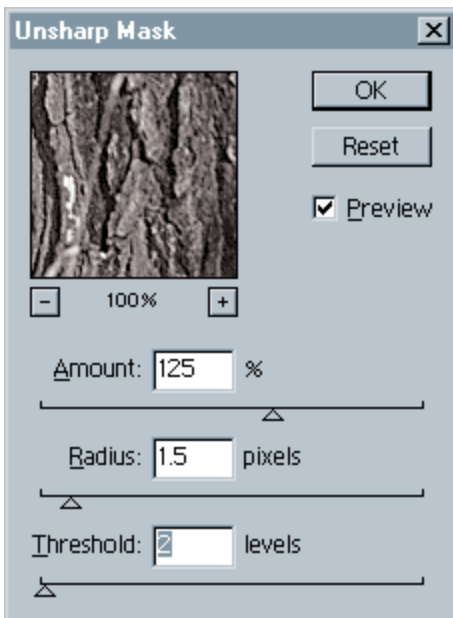
Highlight

*A DARK SHADOW AND A BRIGHT HIGHLIGHT WILL YIELD  
A HIGH-CONTRAST PHOTO*

If an image looks washed out or too gray overall - double check all three key elements. Often when a midtone adjustment is made, the shadow will also become lighter. If this is the case, the shadow will need to be made darker in the levels window. The same is true for the highlight area. If the highlight area is too dark, the image will not contain enough contrast and may appear dull.

Values after the adjustment is made.

# Adjusting Grayscale Images cont.



Unsharp Mask

## *UNSHARP MASK TO ENHANCE EDGE CONTRAST*

When the tonal adjustment is complete, the final step will be to perform the Unsharp Mask filter. Use the following numbers to achieve the desired sharpness:

**Amount:** between 125 - 150%

**Radius:** between 1.0 - 2.5 pixels

**Threshold:** between 2-7 levels

Use these numbers for base settings, sometimes the values will deviate from the above settings depending on the image. As a rule, the monitor is a satisfactory representation of how sharp the image will be, therefore an image should look slightly over sharpened to reproduce the unsharp mask filter when printed.



Original image



Tonal Adjustment Only



Tonal Adjustment and Unsharp Mask