

Photo ID Aesthetic Editing Guide

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Try to keep your edits as minimal as possible.
There is probably a reason they chose that
photo to submit!

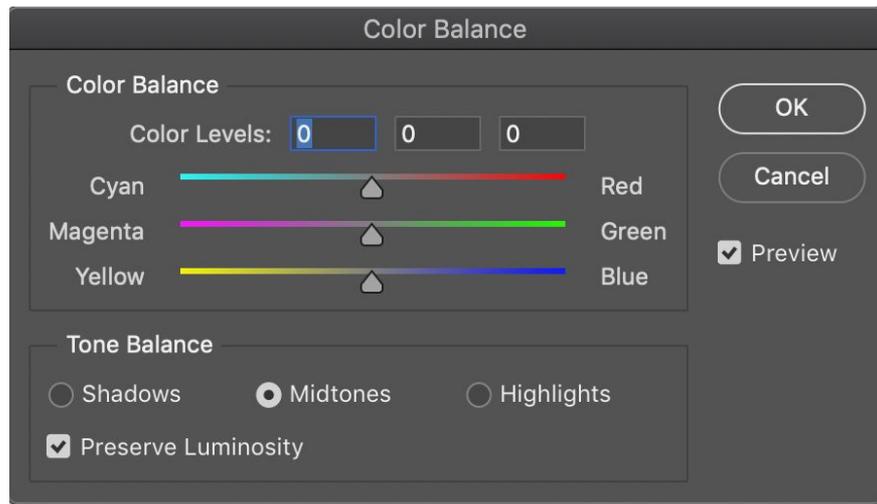


We do not want people
to look at their
uploaded photos and
feel this way :-/



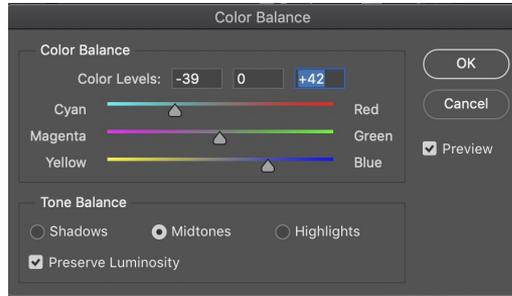
1. Color balance - Xtreme

This photo is way too yellow. We'll use color balance to fix it. (Command + B)



Adjust the Cyan-Red and Yellow-Blue sliders to the cool colors to get rid of the yellow and red tones.

1. Color balance - Xtreme



This was a much worse photo than usual, so we had to exaggerate the color balance. To take the yellow out, we moved the slider closer to blue.

Even though the color is more balanced, the photo is still dark. Adjust contrast and brightness.



Before



After



Color Balance (Lite)



Many photo IDs you will encounter may only need minor color correction, if any. It is important not to overdo it. Below is an example of a photo that is only a bit warm. Notice how the individual is only just a bit warm toned. (PS screenshots to come lol this computer doesn't have photoshop downloaded)

We don't want to completely flip these tones to be quite cool, but rather neutralize as much of the warm tones as possible while preserving the natural look of the original.



Before



After



Brightness

The most common edit photos require is brightening. Use the adjustment layer for brightness/contrast to do this.



Selective Brightness



Sometimes, you get a photo that only needs a part of it brightened. This photo, for example, only needs the face brighter.

To do this, use the quick selection tool  to select the parts you want to brighten, then brighten them using the normal brightening tool. Press command + D to escape quick selection.



Selective Brightness

Before

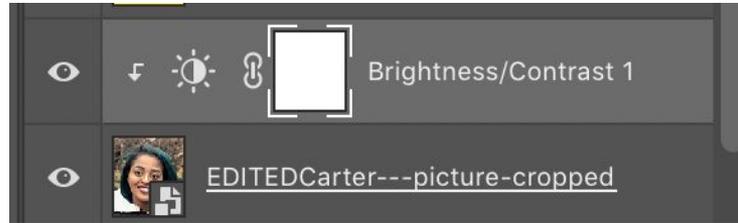


After



Brightness: A Note Regarding 80x90s

Sometimes, when uploaded to the site, due to their size 80x90s appear dimmer than they are. To counteract this, it's a good idea to raise the brightness ever so slightly just on the 80x90 crop.

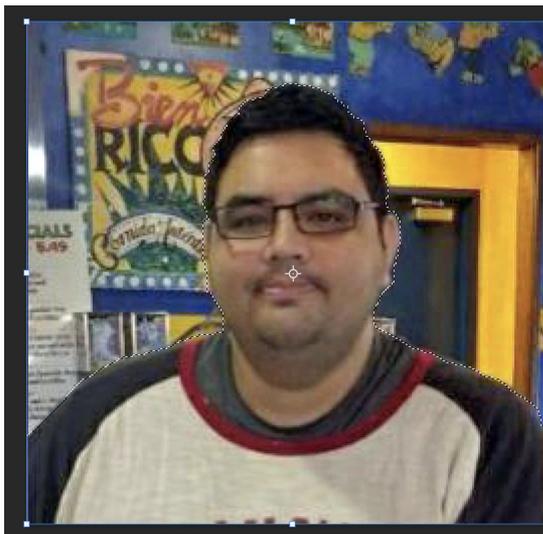


Selective Blur



Most photo ID submissions will have neutral backgrounds, like a blank wall, an office, nature, or a bookcase. This one, however, has a distracting background.

To fix this, select the background using the quick selection tool.



Go to Filter > Blur > Gaussian Blur and adjust until you have the desired result. It should be blurred, but still slightly discernable. Hit OK. Press command + D.



Selective Blur

Before



After



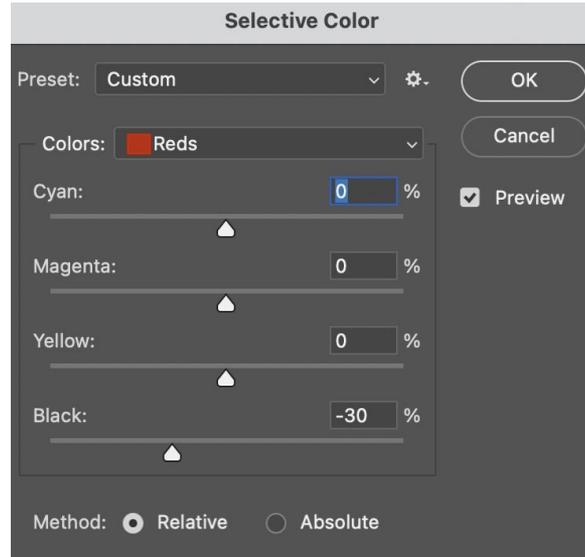
Selective Color Tool

Sometimes a small portion of an image might have a single off-putting color. For those cases you want to use the selective color tool. Go to Image > Adjustments > Selective Color, and you'll get the ability to resaturize that specific color in the image.

Before



After

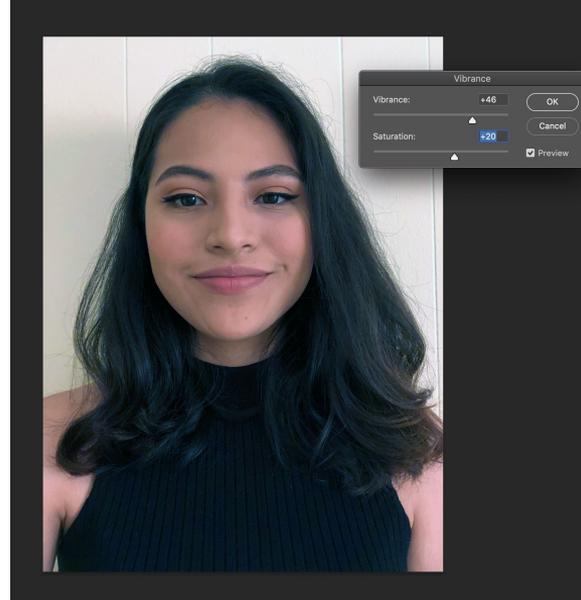


This example shows a subtle change making the left side of the person's face less red therefore better matching the right side. Reducing the "black" in reds acts as a way to reduce the brightness of the selected color.

Vibrance/Saturation

Some photos need a little more color. Usually, you'll need to increase vibrance and saturation after taking a yellowcast off of a photo using Auto Color or Color Balance.

After color balance, the photo was drained of its color. You can fix this by going to Image > Adjustments > Vibrance and adjusting. Vibrance is a relatively subtle edit, so you might need to increase it more than you think.



Vibrance/Saturation

BEFORE



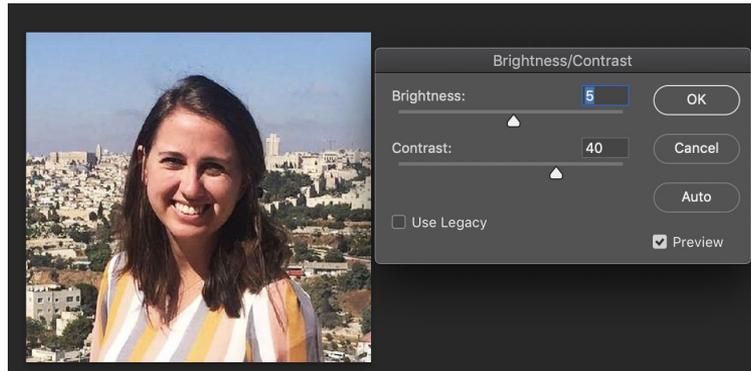
AFTER



Contrast

Increasing contrast helps with photos that seem to have a slight haze or lack of contrast between the colors.

To do this, go to
Image >
Adjustments >
Brightness/Contrast



Contrast

Before



After

