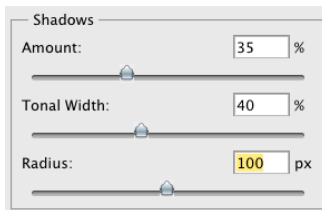
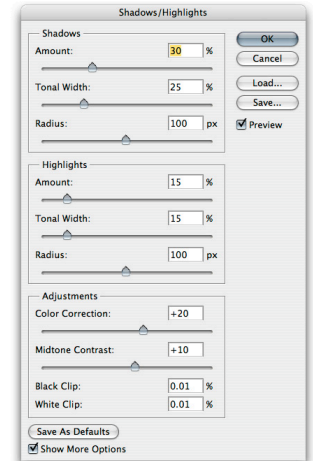


FIVE FAST FOTO FIXES

1. Image > Adjustments > Shadow Highlight

Photoshop CS introduced a great new easy way to lighten the shadow areas of a photo without ever having to make a selection. Go under the Image pulldown Menu and select **Adjustments**, and then select **Shadow/Highlight**. You need to click on the Show More Options button at the bottom of the dialog box to access the advanced controls that allow far greater control with this wonderful new tool.

The Default settings for the Shadow/Highlight controls are not a good choice for most images. You will get much better results if you increase the Radius value for both the Shadows and Highlights to a value of 100. Then try lightening the shadow areas of your image by setting the Amount and Tonal Width settings in the 20-40 range (the default settings of 50 and 50 are usually way too strong).



To Lighten Dark Areas of an Image

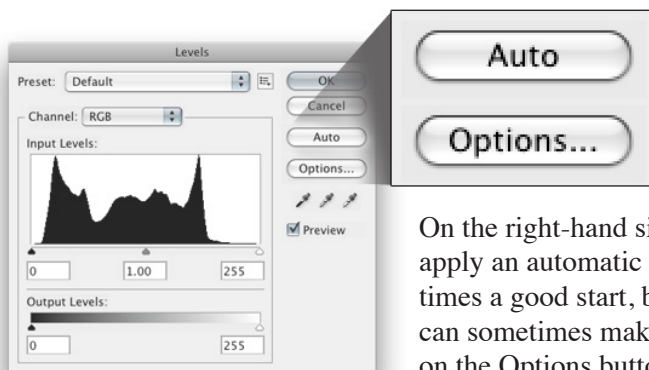
To lighten dark/shadow areas of an image use the top part of the Shadow/Highlight dialog box and move the Amount and Threshold sliders to the right to increase the lightening effect.



Before Shadows Adjustment



After Shadows Adjustment

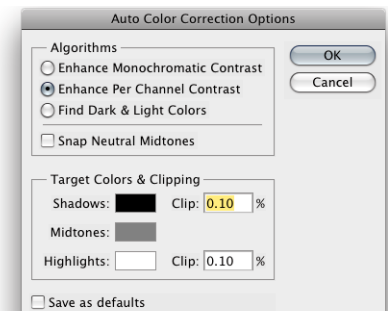


2. Auto.... And Options

Most “Auto” controls aren’t of much use but this is one that can sometimes fix color and brightness problems in one quick step. Start by opening the Levels dialog box (**Image > Adjustments > Levels**).

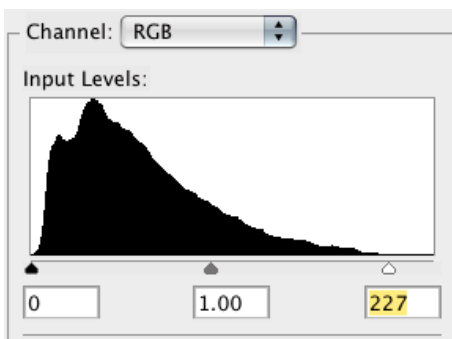
On the right-hand side of the Levels dialog box you can click the **Auto** button to apply an automatic correction that will enhance contrast and color. This is sometimes a good start, but there is an easy way that can sometimes make it even better. Try clicking on the Options button which will bring up the **Auto Color Correction Options** dialog box.

Simply click each of the buttons at the top of the dialog box to try out each of the other correction Algorithms to see which method makes your image look better. This correction method can help to correct color problems and some overall brightness problems but you will probably also want to use the three sliders under the histogram in the Levels dialog box to help correct your image.



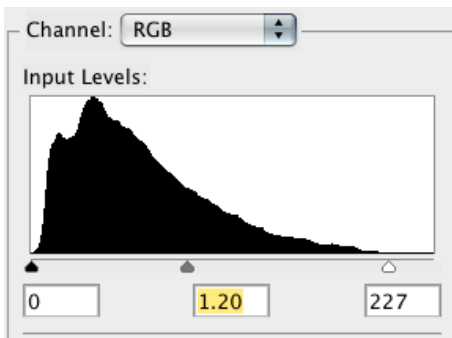
3. Learning to Love Levels

One of the great things about using the Levels dialog box to correct images is that it helps to show you what is wrong with your image, and how much to correct it. The Histogram that is displayed in the levels dialog box shows you how many pixels there are at each brightness level in the image. The sliders (the 3 triangles below the Histogram) allow you to improve your image by remapping the brightest areas of your image.



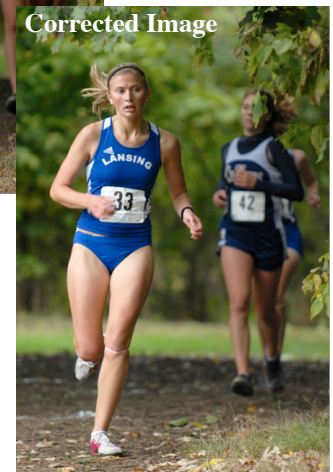
Step 1: Move the Highlight Slider (white triangle) to where the pixels are.

In this example the Highlight Slider (white Triangle) has been moved from the right side over to where the pixels end at around value 227. This makes the lightest pixels in the image closer to white and lightens the overall image.



Step2: Move the Gamma Slider (gray triangle) to the left (higher numbers) lighten the midtones.

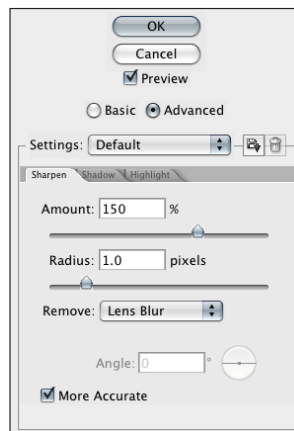
The second part of the correction is to move the Gamma Slider (gray triangle) to the left to lighten the midtone areas of the image. In this example the Gamma slider started at 1.00 and ended up at 1.20.



4. Smart Sharpen

Do you want all of your images to look better and sharper? (Of course you do: Silly Question) Then apply the **Smart Sharpen** filter to all of your images and see the improvement. You'll find the Smart Sharpen filter under the **Filters Menu > Sharpen** submenu. Images that will appear in the newspaper need to be slightly oversharpened to make up for the loss of sharpness that occurs when images are printed on newspaper.

Start out with the conservative numbers of **Amount 100** and **Radius 1.0** using the **Remove Lens Blur** option.



5. Dodge 'Em

Photoshop's dodging tool allows you to lighten areas of an image without making a selection. This is the perfect tool when you need to lighten up a face or a small area of an image. When the Dodge tool is selected the Tool Options Bar at the top of the screen shows you the available options for the Dodge tool. The options for the Dodge tool allow you to select which area of the image you want to effect (Shadows, Midtones, or Highlights) and change the brush size and feather value. You can also set the **Exposure** level to control the intensity of the effect. It is very easy to overdo dodging (and burning) effects so try using a low exposure of 20% or less to achieve natural looking effects. Build up the effect by dodging or burning the area several times. To Dodge a face try dodging midtones. Dodging the shadows usually makes your image gray and muddy.