

PTSLUG Digital Photography SIG
Editing in iPhoto
May 09

Editing Modes: in the Main Window, in a Separate Window, using Full Screen or in another application (such as Photoshop Elements). Full screen Edit only available in iPhoto 6 and later versions

In this workshop you will learn some basic editing techniques. Not all the features discussed in the workshop are available in iPhoto 5. All the computers in the WSU computer lab have iPhoto '08

Editing Features in iPhoto

Note: Features vary in iPhoto Versions '05, '06,'08 and '09

These notes are based on iPhoto '08

Features not discussed: split, hide and flag

Edit button accesses the following:

The Rotate Button (One Touch Button)

Crop

Straighten

Enhance (One Touch Button)

Red-Eye (One Touch Button)

Retouch (for Freckles, Scratches & Hairs) (One Touch Button)

Effects

The Adjust Panel

 Introduction to the Histogram

 Exposure (Work with Adjusting Levels)

 Adjusting Levels (Work with Exposure)

 Brightness and Contrast Sliders (Work with Color)

 Color Balance (Work with Brightness & Contrast)

 Straightening

 Sharpening

Reverting to the Original

Step-by-Step Editing Process

A Recommended Editing Process

- 1 Select Photo
- 2 Duplicate Photo
- 3 Select Both for Editing -Side by Side
- 4 Open Adjust Panel
- 5 Look at Histogram
- 6 Adjust Exposure Slider
- 7 Adjust Levels Sider
- 8 Adjust Brightness and Contrast, if needed

- 9 Next Steps as Needed: Temperature, Tint, Saturation
- 10 Final Step: Sharpness & Straighten

Alternate Faster Fix

- 1 Do Steps 1 & 2
- 2 Zoom In & Find a Mid-Gray Area
- 3 Command-Click on the Gray Spot
- 4 If OK press Done/If Not Command-Z and Repeat Step 2
- 5 Do Steps 8-10 if needed

Important iPhoto Editing Keys

Control + Click on Photo- To Get Edit View Options

Control -Before & After View

Backing Out -  - Z

Zooming -0, 1, 2

In Zoom View -Space+Drag Mouse to Move

Rotate -  - R

Editing Using Effects

1. The One-click Effects

- a The Rotate Button. You can change direction in preferences (perm), Option Click for temporary, one-time change.
- b Red-Eye Zoom first Click inside red eye
- c Retouching Freckles, Scratches and Hairs. Small changes. Zoom in. select retouch brush. Click on cross-hair. Edit-->Undo or Cmd-Z
- d Enhance.

2. The Effects Palette

Offers conversion to Black & White, Sepia, Antique, Fade Colorb Boost Color, Matte, Vignette and Edge Blue

3. The Adjust Panel

a Introduction to the Histogram

-Three channels: Red, Green, Blue. This is the heart of the adjust panel. A self-updating visual picture of the dark and light tones. The darker shades on the left of the graph, lighter on the right. Normal photo there will be one or more mountains toward the center. In a very dark photo the mountain peaks are on the left. In a snow scene the mountains are on the right. Peaks represent really dark or light spots. Mountains are fine as long as there is some info in other parts of the histogram. In a bad photo(severely under or over exposed) the mountains are bunched at one end. To

rescue the photo you want to spread the mountains across the entire spectrum, if possible.

In adjusting Brightness values the RGB all move together, while in the Temperature slider the individual RGB channels move in different directions.

Where to start? Note: The workshop will deal with JPEG only not RAW files as they act differently.

b Exposure and Adjusting Levels.

With JPEG the Exposure Slider primarily affects the middle tones (similar to the Gamma controls in PHotoshop)

Watch histogram data move with Exposure Slider adjustment. Don't move the mountain peaks beyond the edges of the Histogram box. You will lose detail on printing.

STEP ONE, EXPOSURE SLIDER. Middle Tones.,drag the Exposure slider until the middle tones look acceptable

STEP TWO, LEVELS SLIDER. Work on the end points of the histogram representing the lightest and darkest areas. If the graph comes up short on either the right or left slide the histogram; drag the LEVELS inward either from the left or right. (Note you can also just click the slider track itself at the outer base of the mountain. It's faster and gives you better control. Sometimes have a slightly blueish or greenish tinge, producing dull colors

c Exposure/Adjust Versus Brightness and Contrast Sliders

Brightness slider makes the entire photo lighter or darker. Slider moves the Histogram right or left w/o changing its shape. (Remember that Exposure and Levels affects the mid tones, highlights and shadows independently. So if the contrast is already right but the whole photo needs darkening or lightening use Brightness.

Contrast-Slider DOES change the shape of the Histogram. If you increase contrast you "stretch out" the shape of the histogram, creating darker blacks and brighter whites, Decreasing contrast you move the shape of the Histogram inward, shortening the distance between dark and light endpoints. You might call this effect "flat" or "muddy".

d Color Balance - Manual versus Automatic

Manual Color Correction

Digital cameras & scanners don't capture color very accurately. Digital photos sometimes have a slightly blueish or greenish tinge, producing dull colors, lower contrasts and sickly looking skin tones.

Tint & Temperature sliders govern the white balance of the photo. Different kinds of light (florescent lighting, overcast skies, lend different color casts to photos. White

balance is a setting that eliminates or adjusts the color cast according to lighting.

Tint Adjusts overall tint along the red-green spectrum. Right = green, left = red. Helpful for correcting skin tones and compensating for different lighting situations, such as fluorescent.

Temperature This slider adjusts the blue-orange spectrum, making a photo “cooler” or slightly blueish or right to warmer tones more orange. Good when subject have been bleached with a flash. Many photographers just use Exposure and Temperature.

Saturation You can increase or decrease the intensity of the color tones with this slider. Note iPhoto Enhancement button automatically adjusts saturation but gives you no control over the degree of adjustment.

Automatic Color Correction

The secret automatic adjustment. The *gray balance adjuster*. Look for an area in the photo that should appear medium gray. You can adjust the color balance so that this spot appears the correct shade of gray then iPhoto takes over from there and it can adjust the other colors accordingly, shifting temperature, tint and saturation all with a single click.

BEFORE doing this be sure you have already adjusted overall EXPOSURE of the photo.

Once you have found the gray spot Command-Click it. The rest is automatic. You can watch this process on the histogram if you open the Adjust Window.

Check an area of the photo that should be white. If it is clean -no green or magenta tint you are ok. Otherwise undo the gray balance adjustment and try another spot on the photo.

A trick for the portrait photographer for correcting skin tones. Put a gray card somewhere in the photo where you can later crop it out. Be sure that the card receives about the same amount of lights as the subject

e Straightening

A particular problem in scanning. What iPhoto does in straightening a photos is slightly enlarge it and crop out tiny triangles at the corners. You do get straighter photo but you lower the resolution-i.e. the picture quality. This is not a substitute for careful composition with your camera.

f Sharpening iPhoto subtly increases the contrast among pixels, which appears to enhance the crispness. Sharpening can also ruin a photo if done excessively. Move the slider in small increments.

4 Reverting to the Original Photo. Whenever you make a change, however, sight, e.g. rotating a photo, iPhoto makes a duplicate of it. The original photos is stored in your Originals Folder and the changed photos in the Modified Folder To revert to the original select the thumbnail go to Photos-->revert to original or Control-Click (or right click a photo and select from the shortcut menu.

Don't edit behind iPhoto's back. If you edit outside iPhoto e.g. in Photoshop Elements, or drag the thumbnail to the icon of the other program or Control Click to use the shortcut menu. If you edit outside iPhoto it will not make a safety copy of the original, so you will not be able to Revert to Original. Best to make a tiny change, even rotate all the way around to store the original.