PHOTOSHOP FOR PHOTOGRAPHERS

Part 5 Channels

Using Channels to color correct in one color only

1. Open image: **11-Arizona-0004-Canyon-DeChelly_running-horses.jpg.**
2. Right click on the top of the blue frame around the image.
3. Click on **Duplicate.**
4. Close original image.
5. Open **Channels** palette and select the color that needs work. In this case try the **Red.**
6. Keyboard **<Ctrl+L>** and work the sliders sparingly (a little goes a long way here).
7. Click on **RGB** in **Channels** palette to view and evaluate results. Not perfect? Go to the next step. DO NOT CLOSE IMAGE.

Using Channel Mixer to add punch to a flat-looking image (simulates CMYK printing)

8. Go to **Image/Mode/CMYK Color**.
9. Click on **Black** channel.
10. Keyboard **<Ctrl+L>** and move left slider to the right until it reaches the graph. Move the middle slider to the right until you see a pleasing display of detail. Click **OK**.
11. Click on the **CMYK** channel to see results.

Sharpening in one color channel

1. Open image: **17-Lighting10-04123-Blacksmith-with-overcast-sky.tif.**
2. In this case open **Green** channel and select **Filter/Sharpen/Smart Sharpen** (use **Unsharp Mask** with Photoshop 8 or earlier).
3. Try **Amount:** 150%, **Radius:** 1.5, **Remove:** Lens Blur.
4. If necessary, in some portraits, work the **Blur** tool (from **Toolbox**) at 50% or less on **Green** and/or **Blue** channels on flesh-tone areas only.
5. Click on **RGB** in **Channels** palette to view and evaluate results.

Using Channels to Hand Stitch a Panorama

POINTS TO REMEMBER WHEN PHOTOGRAPHING A PANORAMA

• Solid, level tripod
• Level camera
• Smooth horizontal panning
• 25% overlap starting left to right
• Set exposure for the most important part of the panorama and shoot *all* frames in the *manual* exposure mode.

Note: There are several "stitching" programs (including CS2 and CS3) that will render satisfactory panoramas. However, if you want perfectly controllable and predictable work, then use the method described on the next page. You will also gain a better understanding of levels and channels.

Take three Images of a scene in tandem sequence. Use a 70mm lens or longer to avoid barrel distortion at the left and right sides. The tripod and camera should be absolutely level, and each frame should overlap the previous one by at least 25%. Set your exposure to the most important part of the panorama and shoot in the *manual* exposure mode.

1. Open the first frame in Photoshop (assuming it was the left third of the scene).
2. Go to **Image/Resize/Canvas Size**. Make the canvas three times the length of the first image.(se Fig. 5-1Save As [new name].
3. Open the second image of the scene (the center image)
4. Tap "V" on the keyboard to turn on the move tool, and drag the second image into the main canvas.
5. Open **Windows/Layers**. In the upper-right corner, adjust opacity to 50%.
   This makes it easier to see the overlapping areas for alignment.

6. Align the subject matter as close as possible with **Move** tool. Then enlarge a critical area and use the keyboard arrows to align accurately.

Fig. 5-1

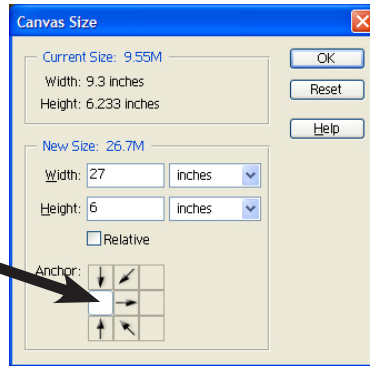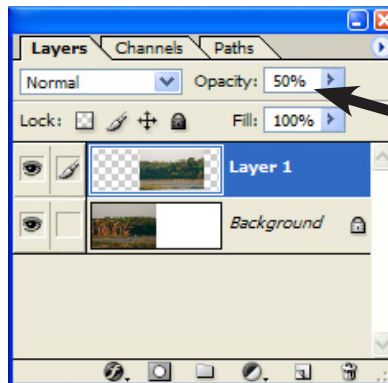*Note that the frame square is moved to the left-centeredposition.*

Fig. 5-2

Reduce opacity to 50%

7. Use a layer mask and paint brush tool with a small, soft-edged brush, paint out the hard edge of the second frame. Other parts of the seam may be less than a perfect match.

8. Adjust color and density **<Crtl+L>** of the new addition to the previous frame so that the two match perfectly within the major parts of the seam.
   If you are using CS or CS2, you may work in RGB Channels for better results.

9. Go through the above steps with the third frame. If you find it necessary to make further adjustments to any of the previous sections, go to **Window/ Layers** and select the layer to work on in the **Layers** Palate.

10. Go to **Layers/Flatten Image.** If there are any double images left behind within the seams, touch them up with the **Rubber Stamp** (clone) tool.

11. **Save.**

   As always, if you have any problems working with these lessons, please call me at 407-658-4869. Best times are Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday between 7:30 and 9:30 PM.